



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

We are well into the session and the classes have settled into the routine of an academic year.

The work done over the summer break to improve the acoustics in P4 and P7 has made a big difference. Fingers crossed, P5 and P6 will have this work done during the October break.

Parent/Carers' meetings take place before the October break. This is a time for the two-way sharing of information. We look forward to meeting you.



OCTOBER HOLIDAY

The school will close at the usual time on Friday 13th October and re-open for pupils, as normal, on Tuesday 24th.



PARENT COUNCIL

VACANCY - CLERK TO THE PARENT COUNCIL



We are looking for an experienced Administrator who can provide first class support to the Chair of our Parent Council.

You will be highly organised, proficient in using Microsoft, and an experienced minute taker.

The Parent Council meets around 5 times per year normally on a Wednesday evening from 7 to 9pm. This is a casual appointment and the rate of pay is £43 per meeting. If you would like further

information about this post please contact Val McIntyre on vmcintyre@eastlothian.gov.uk 01620 827228.

The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 8th November.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend



FRIDAY CLUBS



We will be starting a new round of Friday Clubs on the 3rd of November and would be delighted to receive any offers of help. This session's clubs are:

Animation; Art; Board Games; Card Games; Chess; Coding Club; Comic Club; Film Club; German; Mindfulness; Nature Detectives; Paper Craft; Science; Singing; and Table Tennis. For our first block of clubs, you would only need to make a commitment to 6 x 60 minute sessions or you could just come along when you can. A room is available for parents to meet, have a coffee and a chat before or after Friday Clubs.



BOOK FAIR WEEK



Our annual Book Fair will take place from Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November. All classes will be allocated a viewing time for choosing books and a purchasing time later in the week.

Parents/carers **should not feel obliged** to make purchases but any money raised will be used to buy books to top up our sets of group novels.

[ySchoolFluVaccination/Documents/PrimarySchoolFluProgrammeParentFAQs.pdf](http://www.schoolflu.com/SchoolFluVaccination/Documents/PrimarySchoolFluProgrammeParentFAQs.pdf)



BIKES AND SCOOTERS



Children who bring bikes or scooters to school do so at their own risk. We would encourage children to secure them to the bike shelter with a padlock and make sure that they take them home at the end of the day.



SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION - RICE RELAY CHALLENGE



King's Meadow raised a fantastic £1,160 for Scottish Love in Action (www.sla-india.org). A big thank you to all of you for taking part in the Rice Relay Challenge in June of last year and for raising such an amazing amount of money!



HEAD LICE



We would like to ask all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week. Parental vigilance plays a vital role in keeping the spread of this problem under control.



FLU IMMUNISATION



A reminder that for King's Meadow, this will take place on **Tuesday 31st October**.

The following link provides answers to frequently asked questions:

<http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/HealthInformation/Primar>

DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 6th: P7B Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Monday 9th: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Wednesday 11th: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Friday 13th: Special Assembly - invited parents only.
- 16th to 23rd inclusive: HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 31st October: Whole school flu immunisation
- Friday 3rd November: Friday Club (1 of 6)
- Friday 10th: Friday Club (2 of 6)
- Friday 17th: Friday Club (3 of 6)
- Friday 24th: P7C Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am. Friday Club (4 of 6)

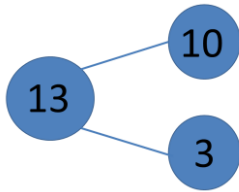


AROUND THE CLASSES

P4A are thoroughly enjoying swimming lessons with Mrs Anderson on a Wednesday morning at the Aubigny Centre. The children have been fantastic at remembering their kit, getting into school promptly and walking very briskly to be ready for their lessons! We have been working on front crawl and back crawl and whilst we are mainly swimming widths of the pool almost everyone has had the chance to complete a full length beginning in the deep end. Mrs Anderson has noticed excellent listening from the majority of the class and is delighted with our progress. In numeracy, we have been building confidence working with the 100 square and also the 2 and 4 times tables. Our aim is to recall these tables quickly and accurately so challenges at home as well as in the class are very helpful.

Looking to the future, our next topic will have a social studies focus as we select and discuss a significant individual from the past and consider the influence of

their actions then and since. In maths, we will continue to explore how we handle information. We will also begin to examine stories from Christianity and world religions and go on to describe how key features of these religions are connected to the stories.



P4B are settling well and getting used to the routines and expectations at Kings Meadow.

In Numeracy, we have been looking at place value and rounding. We use mental maths at the start of lessons to warm up our maths brains and to consolidate our knowledge of number bonds. In Maths, we have been learning about data handling. The children now all have their log on details for Mathletics, which they can use to practise numeracy and maths at home.

In Literacy, we have been doing functional writing linked to our Electricity topic. We have also been working on grammar, handwriting and spelling. It is important that the children do their spelling homework each week to help them reinforce the spelling rules, and this will help them to achieve well in their weekly spelling test. We also encourage the children to read for at least 20 minutes a day, which will help with so many aspects of literacy - not only fluency in reading, but also comprehension and vocabulary. The children are now able to bring home their school library books as well as their group reading books, so this should help them to read regularly.

The children are really enjoying their swimming lessons and we have seen some great progress in confidence and ability. Well done, swimmers!

We encourage the children to bring a water bottle - with their name on it - to school each day, and to take it home so that it can be washed ready to refill the next day. All children should have a PE kit available in school at all times, and all children should have indoor shoes to wear inside the school - this is particularly important as we move into Autumn and Winter, as we do not want mud from outdoor shoes brought into the classroom.

Keep up the hard work, P4B!



P4C have been busy with their science topic. So far, they have conducted a series of experiments to generate static electricity. This involved rubbing balloons against man-made materials and attempting to answer three questions: 1) Can a balloon bend water? ; 2) Can a balloon make hair stand up? ; and

3) Can foil strips float up and stick to a surface? The class then wrote up their findings in a science report. They have identified the difference between batteries and mains electricity and discussed electrical safety. In addition, they have investigated the forces of pull and push in the environment and used magnets to pull and push small objects with the intention of making some sort of game. They have predicted what might be magnetic and then carried out a test on a variety of materials.

In PE, the class has been focussing on Basic Moves and developing skills through hockey and rugby. In addition, they have had a series of rugby lessons organised by the Development Officer which will eventually include a rugby festival morning.

We have started to develop Higher Order Thinking Skills through the story of The Snail and The Whale. So far we have used White Thinking Hat skills to gather information and facts and Red Thinking Hat skills to discuss the emotions and feelings of the main characters of the book.

We have started Accelerated Reading and the class is very keen to work through their novels and take a quiz. Well done 4C, keep up the good work.



P4D have impressed me greatly with how quickly they have settled into new surroundings and routines - it has been a real pleasure to get to know the individuals in my care. It is also heartening to see the

fantastic efforts being made across spelling and maths homework. Thank you to all involved in the support you are giving us. Your child should be reading with you at home on a regular basis to support and further their reading development.

Our new topic will be based on a significant time in history yet to be confirmed by the class. It will be

approached as a literacy based project inspiring creative writing, reading, talking and listening tasks. As well as investigating life in a chosen period of history we will also research a significant person from that era.

Through R.M.E, we will explore stories from both Christian and Other World Religions. We will explore morals, responsibilities and respect shown by the characters in the stories, how positivity is promoted and what relevance, if any, these lessons have in relation to our everyday lives.

In numeracy, we are about to jump head first into a super addition and subtraction topic. We will be firming our knowledge and speeding up recall of number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 - solving problems using formal written and mental calculations.

We have been busily designing and completing fundraising Christmas cards. Every card is of very high quality and will be a "must have" on your shopping list for Christmas, I'm sure!

We have just completed Demon Dentist, written by David Walliams, as our class novel. This was a very popular story and I look forward to sharing the next novel the class chooses.



P5A are coming to the end of their Solar System topic now. We have covered a great deal in the past few weeks. We have produced fact files on all the planets and other aspects of

the Solar System like black holes, meteors, asteroids and stars to name a few. We are currently writing newspaper reports about the first moon landings. The class now knows how Buzz Lightyear got his name! We will shortly be moving on to learn more about the development of space travel and, hopefully, designing our own rockets during Challenge Week.

The next topic that we will be covering (which we will revisit at different parts of the year) is John Muir. As part of the P5 curriculum, each class undertakes a "discover, explore and conserve" project as part of the John Muir Award. I have arranged a drama workshop, dance workshop, ranger visit and an excursion to John Muir's birthplace over the coming year. We are hoping to partner up with Friends of the Tyne to undertake a project to help

repopulate the Tyne with trout. This entails the class raising fish in a tank in the classroom and then releasing into the Tyne. The ranger will take us pond dipping and we are hoping that Outdoor Learning will take us canoeing so that we can discover and learn more about our local river. Initially, we will start with planning for outdoor journeys, learning the Countryside Code and other aspects of keeping ourselves safe when we are out and about. There is so much to learn under the banner of John Muir and it touches a great many areas of the curriculum including Literacy, Numeracy and Maths, Health and Wellbeing as well as Social Studies and Science. Lots of opportunities to also use our Higher Order Thinking Skills as well as we learn and extend our knowledge in lots of different contexts.

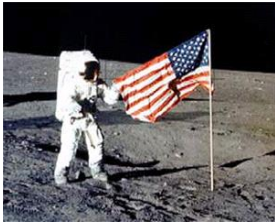
In Numeracy and Maths, we are now learning about Addition and Subtraction. Initially we will revisit vertical addition and subtraction to remind the children about grouping and regrouping to ensure that they are comfortable within 1000. In class maths, the children are continuing with 2D and 3D shapes with Mrs Davidson.

In Literacy, we have covered the use of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. The class can make sentences very interesting now and they should now be transferring this into their extended writing. In the coming weeks we will be focussing on commas, questions marks and apostrophes as we learn more about the use of punctuation and how it changes the meaning of text. We will continue with our cooperative learning listening and talking tasks. The class is getting very competitive during these lessons and working hard together to achieve the group goal and win against the other teams.

In French, we are extending our number knowledge to 30 and we have been playing lots of French number games to familiarise ourselves with this new vocabulary. Bingo is a firm favourite with the class and we hear lots of excited shouts of "maison" instead of house.

We have new Table Teams since coming back from the September break and the new groups are beginning to work together well during cooperative learning tasks. Mrs Arnold continues to support the class in PE and Mr Connell in Art.

We are updating our website blog weekly with photos and information. Please have a look and give us some feedback about our learning and work.



P5B are quickly coming to the end of our solar system topic. As you may already know, the children will be creating a junk model rocket - this will tie together our keen interest in space, and

our focus on shape in maths. We have spent a great deal of time working on writing newspaper articles including ones about the first Moon landing and Tim Peake. We are moving on to write biographies. In numeracy we are finishing off addition and subtraction, and moving on to multiplication and division. Practice of basic facts at home is always appreciated.

Our next topic will be about John Muir and will focus on the woodlands. We will be completing an outdoor journey with a walk to Lennoxlove. We will spend time working on our mapping skills including reading maps and creating some of our own.

Homework is sent home on a Monday and should be returned to school on a Thursday. This will consist of reading and spelling each week (look, cover, write, check, and an additional task), numeracy homework (set by numeracy teacher), and can include topic work. Homework will be stuck into your child's diary on a Monday, so please remember to check.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 14th November - John Muir drama workshop.

Thursday 2nd, 9th and 16th November - Rugby taster sessions

Wednesday the 22nd - Rugby Festival, Neilson Park.

On these days please send your child with an outdoor P.E kit

If you require any further information, do not hesitate to write a note in your child's diary, or send a letter to school.



P5C have been thoroughly enjoying our Solar System topic and have been sharing lots of interesting information with myself and the rest of the class. In our cooperative learning groups the children researched, created a poster and presented their information about one of the planets in our Solar System. We then created a 3 dimensional model of each planet using papier mâché. Before the October

holiday we are planning to research and make model rockets. Please remember to collect as much junk as possible and bring it into school by Friday 6th October. Our next topic after the holiday will be Outdoor Journeys, which links to our John Muir award and work with the Ranger Service.

In Numeracy groups, the children are currently developing their knowledge of different strategies for mental and written addition and subtraction. Class Maths is continuing to focus on 2 and 3 dimensional shape. The children are using their shape knowledge to identify and draw shapes with vertical and horizontal lines of symmetry.

Throughout the first term 5C have had art specialist time with Mr Connell and have created Cauliflower Christmas cards and some space themed artwork. After the October holiday the class will swap and have a term of Music with Mrs Roberts.

Diary Dates:

Monday 30th October - John Muir Drama Workshop

Thursday 2nd, 9th and 16th November - Rugby taster sessions

Wednesday 22nd November - Rugby Festival, Neilson Park.



P6A have had two drama sessions exploring the Highland Clearances and are beginning to get a sense of what it would be like to be forcibly moved from your homeland to a strange, unknown landscape. We

have been writing some imagined personal accounts and here are two examples:

Personal Account - Coming to Glasgow

Dear Aunt Lilly,

I'm really excited to reach Glasgow, but I do really miss Lewis. We've been travelling for 10 days now and we've only just got on the train! I really wish you were here with us but you have to look after great grandpa John. By the way how is he doing? Anyway, I think we will find a great home and earn lots of money with amazing jobs that are quite easy to find. But Glasgow will never beat the highlands for the animals and fresh air.

Right now we are passing loads and loads of fields. We don't have a map, neither does the train cabin we are in, so we don't know if it's near Glasgow or not (I hope it is!).

We are now approaching the train station and I can see the platform. The fields completely vanished 2 hours ago so I'm not sure if there are fields inside Glasgow.

We are now in Glasgow; it is really not what I expected. It smells of smoke, it's dark, it's dirty and very unpleasant. It is not like the highlands at all. I hope the house is not as bad as this!

Kaye

Diary Entry

I'm really excited about going to Glasgow, sure I'll miss my friend Davie but maybe I'll make new friends. The ship I'm on has a weird smell but my dad says we are not far away. I can't stop thinking about the highlands though, the fresh air, the flowing rivers and all the nice scenery. I'm excited about going to Glasgow but I'll always miss the highlands.

We've now arrived in Glasgow it's not like I expected. It's damp, disgusting and it has millions of towering buildings. My dad told us all to stick together. My sister Kirstie was really scared but my mum Katie helped her get over her fear. Later that night my dad found a nice landlord that let us rent a tenement for three shillings. The tenement was like a tower. We were at the top floor the room had a small fire with a few cracks in the chimney so there were some smoke in the room, there was a box bed in the corner and a mattress next to it so we took out our blankets and slept on the mattress. I'm not sure how we will get on in Glasgow.

Logan

Exploring 3D shape in math has given us the opportunity to design and create skeletal houses. So far none have collapsed!

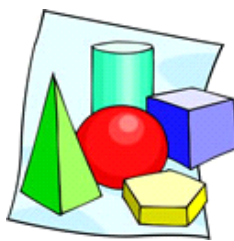
We were given a class reading target in AR and we have achieved this by becoming the class with the highest word count in P6. Our next target is to have the highest word count in the whole school. Well done everyone!



P6B have been working very hard on their Highland Clearances topic. We enjoyed completing some mapping activities to learn about the Highlands and areas affected

by the clearances and produced some excellent drawings and descriptions of Black Houses. We have been listening to our class novel 'The Desperate Journey' which has provided us with some insight into what life would have been like for many Highlanders. We have enjoyed discussing how life then compares with our lives today.

After the October holidays, we will be learning about energy and sustainability, as well as exploring body systems in science. We will focus on developing our non-fiction reading skills as we read to find out information linked to our topic. In numeracy, we will be focussing on addition and subtraction whilst in maths we will look at Information Handling and Expressions and Equations. We plan to look at imaginative writing and develop our use of vocabulary in written tasks. We will also now receive art from Mr Connell, our art specialist, and work with Mrs Arnold in P.E on a Wednesday and Thursday. Please remember to bring a P.E kit suitable for indoor and outdoor use.



P6C have been enjoying finding out about the Highland Clearances and what life was like for people in Scotland at this time. We started by looking at chronological order and placing historical events in order of time. We have researched clan life and created our own clan crests and tartans. We looked at the homes people lived in and how these would have been made.

As part of our learning, we have started listening to the novel "Fir for Luck" which tells the story of the Clearances through the eyes of a brave young girl. We have reached the part where a writ was served telling the township that they were being evicted within 48 hours! We will be discussing what this would feel like and use this to help us in our writing tasks. This week and next we will be bringing our learning to life as we take part in our drama workshops with the drama specialist, Shonagh Davidson.

In RME, we have been finding out about Christianity and, in particular, looking at some of the stories in the Bible. Recently, we have been discussing more familiar stories and retelling them in different ways to show our understanding. We are moving on to look at less familiar stories which Christians believe have a message or an important meaning.

In class maths, we have been revising the names and properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We have also been identifying 2D and 3D shapes in the environment. We are revising our times-tables too. Keep practising!!

In P.E., we have looking at sports education through hockey. We have been working in teams and each team has been running its own training sessions and players have been taking turns at being the team captain and the team coach. We have also had a class tournament and each team has had a go at refereeing a match. We are now ready for the P6 tournament which will be taking place before the October break. Good luck to all the 6C teams!!



P7A deserve a huge WELL DONE for performing their class assembly. The entire assembly was conceived and written by the children and their passion for performing their own work was evident. Everybody brought their own particular skills, talents and ideas as well their hard work and a willingness to push themselves out of their comfort zone. This growth mindset approach is what made it such a success. I would also like to thank all the family and carers who came along to support the class; I hope you enjoyed our assembly as much as the class did performing it.

As you have seen, we are working our way through our WWII topic. The children have written letters imagining themselves to be evacuees, describing the journey and their new life in the countryside. The standard of these was extremely high and I have been impressed with the effort and thought that the class put into their letters. We will be moving on to look at rationing, the role of women during the war, D-day and the holocaust.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support with the WWII homework. There has been a very high standard of homework brought into school and I have been amazed at the different ways the children have gone about constructing their Anderson shelters. I will be putting photos of these, along with their architects, on the class web page soon.

The class has made a running start to AR with our first millionaire achieved before the September

weekend. I would encourage every child in 7A to read as often as possible to see if we can hit our overall class target of 20 million words by the end of P7.

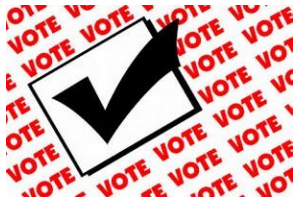
In class maths, we will be finishing coordinates and moving on to data handling. Every child should be able to tell you about 'along the corridor and up the stairs'. In group maths, we will be finishing place value and rounding and estimation and moving onto the four operations



P7B have had a really quick August and September with lots of good learning occurring. The class have really gotten stuck into their World War Two topic,

producing some fantastic pieces of written and art work. I have been particularly impressed with the high quality of the WWII themed homework that has been handed in; again a great range of work from poems to posters to faithfully recreated Anderson shelters to 1940's style home cooking. The variety of cooking coming in has proved to be a real highlight for the children especially as they have been enjoying sampling the wares on offer! As a class we have been continuing to work on our spelling using active spelling strategies to help us secure understanding. A big thankyou to those children who are continuing to do the spelling work set for home as well. Alongside our class novel 'Cirque du Freak', we have started to read - and look closely at - John Boyne's novel The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas. This links in with our WWII work and gives the children a different spin on the topic. In numeracy, we have been consolidating our knowledge and understanding of place value whilst in maths we have been learning about Cartesian coordinates which we will then use to help us with some map work later on in the term. Looking forward, the children have not as yet chosen their next topic for study so watch this space! In numeracy, we will be working with the four operations (add, subtract, multiply and divide) and will be working both mentally and with formal written methods with a focus on solving real world problems. There will also be a continued focus on developing and improving our rapid recall of the times tables so practise at home or in the car or whilst out walking is always helpful! Once

again, well done P7B on a strong and mature start to the year - Keep it up!



P7C have had a busy start to the session. The children have really enjoyed learning about WW2 and I would like to say thank you to the children and parents for the fantastic standard of homework we have had for this topic. We had some very emotive acrostic poems, fantastic Anderson shelters and delicious baking. The standard of art work on the children's propaganda posters was also excellent. We have done some lovely class work related to the topic including letters from evacuees, imaginative accounts of an air raid during the Blitz, labelled diagrams showing how people prepared their homes for war and information posters about some WW2 leaders. To end the topic, we will be visiting the John Gray Centre to take part in a WW2 spy workshop.

Next term, we will be studying the features of a democratic society by looking at the work of the Scottish Parliament and MSPs. The class will be working in groups to form the different political parties and will run their own election campaign from the very start, looking at party policies and writing manifestoes, to the end, where we will run a mock election and elect a winning party. As part of this, the children will be having a visit to the Scottish Parliament and, hopefully, speaking to some MSPs and people who work there.

In maths, we will be moving on to look at compass points and direction and the children will be doing some mapwork to accompany this. We will then move onto Information Handling, with a view to the children presenting the results of their mock election through drawing bar graph and pie charts.

Next term's numeracy will focus on the 4 operations, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The children will work on this in their numeracy groups.

King's Meadow P.T.A. Update for



Last Minute Reminders



PUPILS' CHRISTMAS CARDS

Please ensure completed order forms and payment are returned to school by **FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER**



Pre-loved Sale
Saturday 30th September, 10am – 12:30pm @ King's Meadow

Come along and support this event and grab a bargain in the process! We have lots of King's Meadow pupils who will be selling their pre-loved, good-quality toys, games, books, DVD's etc. for some extra pocket money, whilst also helping to raise some money for the P.T.A. Anyone interested in selling should contact kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates for your Diary

**Next P.T.A. Meeting: Tuesday 3rd October 2017,
6:30pm in the Music Room**

Come along and find out more about your P.T.A. You don't have to commit to every meeting or every event. Any support you can give is very much appreciated. Alternatively, please contact us at kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com if you can't make the meeting but are keen to get involved.



Parents and carers can request to join our Facebook group by visiting **King's Meadow P.T.A.**

P4 Hallowe'en Disco
Evening of Tuesday 7th November



This promises to be the social event of the year for our P4s – fancy-dress, lots of games and dancing galore! Look out for flyers in school bags soon.

To make this event possible we need help with preparations beforehand, as well as the set-up and running of the disco on the night. Anyone able to help should e-mail kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com Many thanks!

easyfundraising

Do you shop online? Do it through easyfundraising.org.uk and raise a free donation for Kings Meadow P.T.A. every time you shop! It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is:

1. **Register@**

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kingsmeadowps/>

2. **Sign up for free**

3. **Get shopping** – your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to King's Meadow. It couldn't be easier!

Many thanks in advance for your support!