



SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

COMMUNICATION

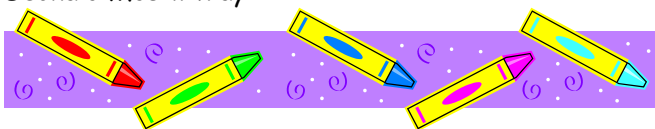
Dear Parents/Carers,

I am absolutely delighted to be writing to you as the Head Teacher of King's Meadow Primary School. I have been given a very warm welcome and already have a very positive impression of the school.

On my visits around the school, I have emphasised the importance of teamwork and by this I mean between pupils, staff and parents/carers. Together we can work towards providing a very high quality experience for everyone within our school community. If you can think of ways in which to improve the service we provide please either contact me or a member of the Parent Council. We would be delighted to hear the views of parents and carers and to benefit from any expertise you may have.

My aim is to ensure that King's Meadow continues to flourish and to make certain that all members of the school community are provided with the best opportunities to develop their skills and talents. I am sure that I can look forward to your support in this.

Seonaid McGillivray



PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL

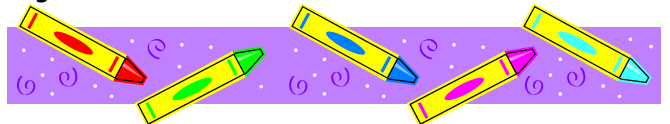


All payments made to the school should be brought in by pupils in an envelope, with their name and class and the reason for payment clearly marked on the front, to be handed to the class teacher. Payments **will not** be accepted at the reception desk as this increases the chances of money going missing or being misplaced. Please ensure that all monies are correct as we do not return change for any payments made to the school. Cheques should be made payable to East Lothian Council. Payments for the PTA should be made payable to King's Meadow PTA.



In order to ensure that you receive information as timeously as possible, as well as to reduce the school's carbon footprint, we will be making more use of electronic communication.

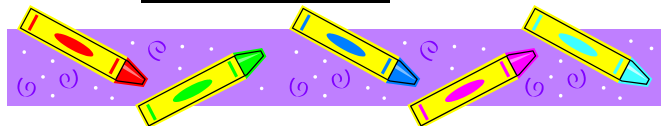
In future, this means that if we hold an email address for you we will, where possible, use this to pass on information. We are also introducing text messaging. It would be most helpful if you could keep us informed of any changes to either your email address or your mobile telephone number. The school website will be updated with a view to providing a one-stop shop for a range of useful information.



PARENT COUNCIL



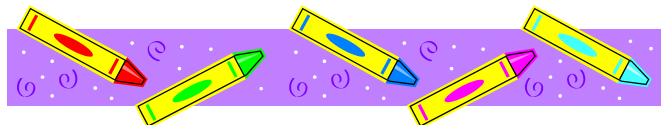
The AGM of the Parent Council takes place in the Staff Room at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 10th September. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



HOLIDAY

The school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 13th September. It will re-open as normal on Tuesday 19th September.

See our website for this session's holiday dates.

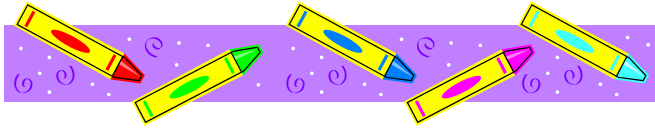


CHILDREN'S ABSENCE

Should your child be off sick please inform the school office by telephone, preferably between **8.30am** and **9.15am**. Failure to inform us of your child's absence will initiate a text/phone



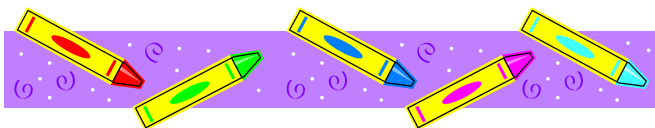
call to you so that we can check on your child's safety. If we are unable to contact you the absence will then be passed to ELC's Integration Team. Planned absence eg holidays, should be requested as far in advance as possible, preferably two weeks before.



LIBRARY BOOKS



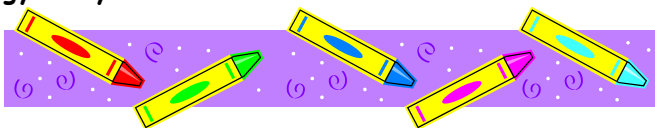
We are very fortunate to have a fairly well-stocked and up-to-date library. We would like to be able to continue to offer a variety to all pupils however this depends upon all borrowed books being returned. Children who do not return books on time will not be allowed to take out another and a letter will be sent home. Parents/carers will be charged for books that are not returned after a month of being missing. If neither the book nor the payment is received the child will not be able to take a book home. In order to continue to provide a valuable service, we would really appreciate your cooperation with this.



PE EQUIPMENT



Please ensure that your child has a full kit, including gym shoes/indoor trainers, shorts and a t-shirt (this should cover your child's midriff), with them at all times. Please note: In the interests of health and safety **no jewellery should be worn on gym days.**



LUNCHES

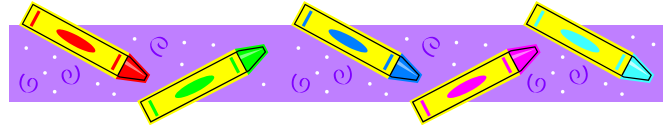


Please note that, school lunches cost £1.90 per day. If you would like your child to have a school lunch you should make sure that they have the correct money with them every day. You will find copies of the menu on our website.

PARENT HELPERS



If you have any time that you could spare to help in class or with school outings, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact your child's teacher or the school office.



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A have settled in really well and have adapted quickly to their new surroundings and daily routines. We have enjoyed getting to know each other better and had fun creating self-portraits and 'All about me' fact files. The children have all been enthusiastic about their learning so far and have all been working hard.

We have been thinking about our Golden Rules and how rewarding it is for every one when they are followed. It was nice that we were all able to get outside for our first Golden Time and have fun together playing games. We have been discussing the idea of having a 'Star of the Week', chosen on a Friday. The children have been discussing what would make a pupil 'a Star' and have been keen to think of the privileges this honour should come with!

We have started our first piece of writing, 'My Special Person'. The children have been working hard to use interesting vocabulary and detailed descriptions in their planning. They are keen to share ideas with each other and use this to add to their individual work.

The class have started their swimming lessons at the Sports Centre with Mrs Anderson. This seemed to go well, with everyone having fun. Lessons will continue every Wednesday until the 20th November.

We have been talking about our School Parliament and have started our campaign to find our class MP. Lots of the class were keen to stand for election and those who didn't want to were supportive in sharing ideas. The class are looking forward to hearing the election speeches and voting for their preferred candidate. As part of the parliament, 4a will have an eco-focus and the children will be involved in finding ways to make the school more Eco friendly. They will also be encouraged to look after their local community and be looking at the importance of recycling.

This term, we will be exploring Haddington and our local community as part of a local study. The children will be working with maps of the local area to develop their mapping skills and identify how land use has changed over time. By looking at what Haddington has to offer, the children will identify what the needs of the community are and how local organisations meet these. We will also be encouraging the children to care for their immediate environment and find ways to look after the school and local community. We hope to also arrange visits to the library/John Grey Centre and have the Community police officers in to talk to the children about the role they play in the town.

The class are also looking forward to starting our new reading approach, Accelerated Reader. This will allow the children to have an independent book of their choice, at the appropriate level for them, to read both in and out of school. They will be encouraged to read daily and will set themselves pages to read as homework. The children will also have a group novel that they will read and work on in class.

Please continue to support your children in bringing their Journal in daily and discussing with them their target for the week.

We look forward to a busy term ahead :-)



P4B have had a very busy start to the term. We started off by getting to know each other and have spent a lot of time familiarising the children with the rules and routines of a new school. They have done exceptionally well and all seem very happy and settled. The children have also had to get to know some new teachers including specialist teachers Mr Connell (Art) and Mrs Arnold (P.E.). We have been encouraging the children to become class representatives in the school parliament and on Friday we will hold our elections to select our class rep.

We will shortly be starting our local study. This will focus on the area of Haddington and will look at how the children can be more aware of the environmental issues affecting the town and how we can all help to minimise damage to the environment. We have also made a super start to our first piece of writing entitled 'My Special Person'. Alongside this, we are learning about how we can use adjectives to make our writing more interesting.

[http://edubuzz.org/blogs/King's Meadow](http://edubuzz.org/blogs/King's_Meadow)

I would like to say a big well done to all of the children in 4B for settling in so quickly and a big thank you to them for making my first couple of weeks of term so enjoyable.



P4C have been learning 'all about me' and each other. We have created 'All about Me' booklets. These booklets share lots of information about our favourite things and facts about us. To make our booklets more attractive, we all did a self-portrait to stick on the front of them. Everyone's portrait is very realistic and we were able to identify our class members by looking at the portraits! We have also been revising the months of the year and as a class, we have collected information from everyone to put together a class birthday bar graph. We decided to use tally marks to collect the information. Once the information was collected, we were able to create our own class birthday bar graphs. We discovered that December is the busiest month for birthdays in P4C! We have also enjoyed a trip to the school ICT suite. We opened up a Word document and got to explore the different features available. We wrote our names and changed the size, font and colour to make them stand out, some people even added pictures!

Next week, we will be starting our topic and doing some planning and writing about a person who is special to us. Our topic this term is a local study. We will be learning about Haddington and East Lothian. Along with the local study, this year we have decided to give the topic an eco-focus - 'Reduce, reuse & recycle'. So there will be lots of new things to learn about our local area and whether it is eco-friendly!



P4D had a very busy first week in Primary 4. The pupils and I completed an All About Me booklet. We then identified who each person was by only using our personal information. Some were harder than others but we all got to know something new about each other. In Maths, the pupils produced a whole class bar graph on the data they collected about their birthdays. They then transferred the information into individual tables and bar graphs. The pupils have started planning for their first piece of writing - My Special Person. The class worked together in pairs to gather ideas about what makes a special person and why they are important to us. All the pupils are settling well into the class and finding

new routines with ease. Next week the pupils will start their local study topic. We will be focusing on caring for our environment and whether Haddington is Eco friendly.



P5A will be learning all about Electricity. The children will be generating static electricity and will be making circuits to light bulbs and run buzzers. In addition, they will be experimenting with magnetic and non-magnetic materials and finding out what makes a good insulator or conductor. During the experiments, notes will be taken which will then be used to write up science reports. This is a great practical science project which the children should really enjoy. The class will be taking part in First Club Golf and would appreciate help from willing parents/carers. Further details will follow.

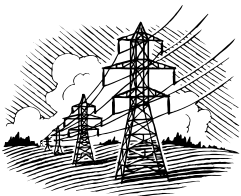


P5B have settled-in well to their new stage. We have been getting to know each other through fun activities such as creating a '5B jigsaw' and Circle Time.

Our topic this term is Electricity. We will be starting off by finding out what electricity is and conducting some experiments involving static electricity and magnets. We will then move on to creating basic circuits. Our writing will also be based on electricity. We will be learning how to write-up scientific experiments. We are also planning to do some 'electrifying art'!

In P.E., the children are looking at understanding games. We also hope to start Club Golf in September.

We look forward to meeting all the parents at the October parents' evenings.



P5C have been an absolute pleasure to get to know! We have been very busy since the beginning of term, establishing routines and getting back into the swing of studying! We're excited to learn all about Electricity. We have talked about safety around electricity, how electricity is made and what we use mains electricity and batteries for. We plan to improve our ability to write-up electricity experiments into informative scientific reports. We are using non-fiction texts to gather information

[http://edubuzz.org/blogs/King's Meadow](http://edubuzz.org/blogs/King's_Meadow)

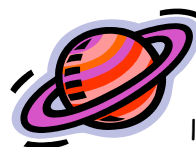
about our topic. We are going to be experimenting with the use of perspective when drawing our electricity pylon landscapes with Mr Connell. We recently started ICT with Miss Gillan and we are currently enjoying P.E with Mrs Arnold twice a week. We are reading in class every day, working towards our Accelerated Reader tests. What a busy bunch we are in 5C. Well done everybody, keep up the hard work!



P6A have settled well into the new term. Our first topic is Roald Dahl and we are learning about the man and his work. On 12th September we will have a Roald Dahl Day - more information to follow. The children will then be learning about The Structure of the Earth - this will include the layers of the Earth and also natural disasters such as volcanoes and earthquakes. We hope to arrange a trip to Dynamic Earth. Primary 6 are leading the Harvest Assembly which is on the 9th October at 9.30am, so we will be learning songs and rehearsing hard. We will also begin to use our new Accelerated Reader programme.



P6B will be studying "The Structure of the Earth" this term. As part of this we will be finding out about our solar system; with the children working in groups to create an information text about one of the planets, excluding our own. The class will also be working with our Art Specialist, Mr Connell, to produce a watercolour of Mount Fuji. They will later use this to make a print. We will also be working with our Music Specialist, Mrs Roberts, to learn the songs for our assembly, which takes place on October 9th at 9.30. This is called "Tuishi Pamoja - A Friendship Under African Skies."



P6C have had a great start to Primary 6. They did a great job of all of the back to school activities and learned lots of new things about each other. We have been looking at Roald Dahl and the books he has written in the lead up to Roald Dahl Day next month. The children are enjoying hearing some of his stories in class and completing work based on his writing. We are hoping to celebrate a little bit early, because of the holiday weekend, by taking part

in fun activities on the afternoon of Thursday 12th of September.

Our new topic will be Structure of the Earth. The children will be looking at our Solar System before focusing on planet Earth. There will be lots to learn and lots of fun activities coming up in the next few weeks. We are hoping to go to Dynamic Earth at the end of term, which is definitely something to look forward to.

We will be starting rehearsals very soon for our Harvest Assembly. We won't give away too much just now but there will be lots of singing and dancing and fun to be had.

Primary 6 is going to be a very busy place for the next few weeks.



P7A have started finding out about WW2. At the moment we are discovering why it began and which countries were involved. Some of us have relatives who were alive during

the war and they may be able to share some of their memories with us. It is interesting to look at old photos of Haddington and see buildings that were bombed. Our topic looks at WW2 from the 'Home Front' and it would be super to see any photos that your family may have.

We are listening to a story called 'Mavis' Shoe' by Sue Read Sexton. It tells us all about Lenny and what happened when she lost her sister Mavis during the Clydebank Blitz. After we have completed our introduction to Accelerated Reader we will be choosing our own stories to read about WW2. Next week we will also have our topic homework tasks.

In ICT, we have discovered 'tagxedo'. We had to create a list of words which link to our interests and personalities. Once we typed them in, we could create a word shape.

Everyone has been busy preparing Hobby Talks. We listened to our first talks this week. Robin taught us how to make an origami box - we were all delighted with our creations! Well done Robin for volunteering to talk first. We are going to be hearing about many different hobbies including hockey, art and looking after animals.



P7B have started the very exciting topic of WW2. We have been learning about all the key events and the key leaders, we have learned about the many families affected in the war and also created our

own war timelines. Last week we were doing some all about me activities and we also looked into citizenship and looked at what attributes make good citizens and what attributes make a bad citizen. During last week each table group created their own team names and designed their own team banks. Every week teams are challenging for monopoly money for their banks. Monopoly money will be rewarded for kindness, politeness, good behaviour, effort and trying hard during tasks. At the end of the week the winning table will win a prize from the treasure chest. Over the next few weeks we will be participating in weekly rugby sessions with a local coach. We will also be working hard to create our own war museum with the other P7 classes which will be open for parents and carers to view in November. We all look forward to a great month in P7B.



P7C agree that success starts with your attitude and have got off to a flying start with the creation of superheroes and matching "can-do" attitudes. Robert hopes that his superhero attitude to learning will enable him to "enjoy everything P7 puts in front of him and to overcome it". We have also been reminding ourselves of the qualities of a good team member and co-operating within our tables to complete group challenges. Over the next 8 weeks, P7C will be using various sources to research World War II. We will be learning about the key figures and countries involved before moving on to investigating The Home Front. We plan to use the WWII context to base most of our writing, art, drama and reading lessons around and we have decided to showcase all our learning to you through a classroom museum...watch this space for opening times!

We are off to a great start with Accelerated Reader and beginning to take quizzes on the books we are reading. We are keen to see who can become a member of the 100% club and if P7C can produce some word count millionaires! In September, P7C will also be participating in weekly rugby sessions on Wednesdays with our local HRFC Development Officer, Scott Marnoch.