



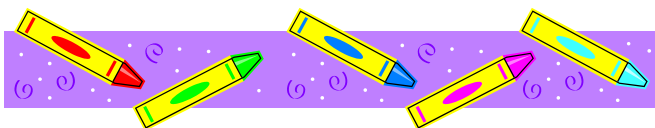
SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all children, parents and staff, both old and new, to another school session. Despite the very poor weather over the holiday, the children seem to have come back rested, refreshed and raring to go. There is already a positive buzz around the school and we are looking forward to an enjoyable and productive session.

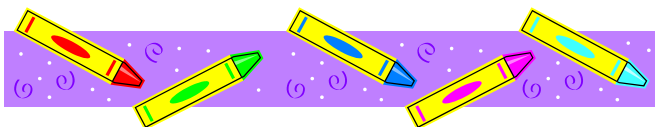
There have been some staff changes since the June newsletter - Mrs McVitie has joined P5B and Mrs Davidson P5C. Welcome back to Mrs Higgins (P7C) and Mrs Murphy (P7B) who have both returned following maternity leave.



ONLINE PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL



As you may be aware, we are now able to take online payments. All other payments made to the school should be **brought in by pupils in an envelope**, with their name, class and reason for payment clearly marked on the front, to be handed to the **class teacher**. (NB: Permission slips for trips etc should not be placed in these envelopes.) 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 give 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.



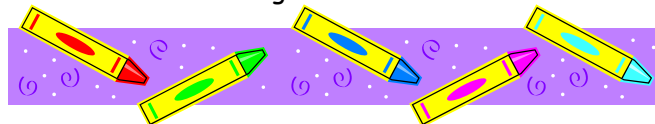
COMMUNICATION



If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher you should, in the first instance, contact the school office.

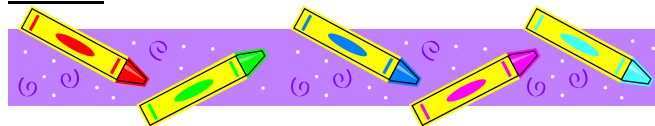
We will continue to use text messaging and email as our preferred means of communication. It is essential that you keep us informed of any changes to either your email address or mobile telephone number.

Our website is also a good source of information.



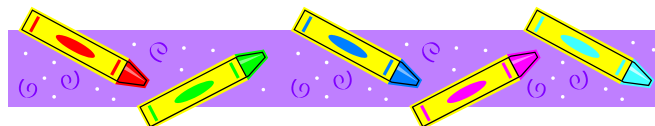
PARENT COUNCIL

The AGM of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 9th September. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



HOLIDAY

The school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 18th September. It will re-open as normal on Tuesday 22nd September. See our website for this session's holiday dates.



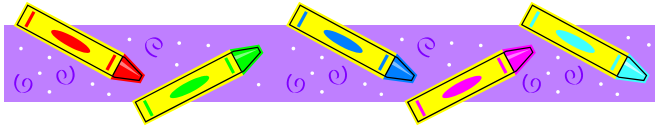
CHILDREN'S ABSENCE



If your child is unable to attend school 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 may be passed to ELC's Children's Wellbeing Team. On return, your child should bring a letter confirming the reason for their absence.

Planned absence eg holidays, should be requested as far in advance as possible, preferably two weeks before.

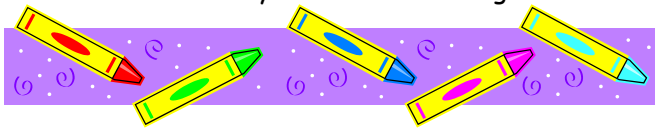


PAYMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL VISITS



Please note that children, whose parents/carers have not paid for educational visits, will not take part in the event. They will be provided with a suitable activity to do in another class.

In the unfortunate event that you have paid for your child/ren to take part in an activity and they are absent on the day no refund will be given.

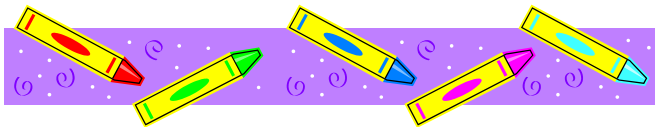


START OF DAY



Please remember that there is no supervision in the playground at the start of the day. Parents/Carers are responsible for their children until the bell rings.

Now that we are moving into a time of year when the weather can be dark and wet, we would request that children are not sent to school before 8.30 am.



PARENT/CARERS' MEETINGS



Following discussion with the Parent Council, we have planned two additional opportunities for you to discuss your child/ren's progress with their class teacher. As a result, the end of session written report will be more concise.

One-to-one consultations will take place on:

- Tuesday 6th October 4-7 pm
- Wednesday 7th October 4-7 pm

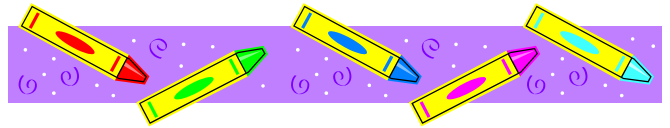
<http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

- Tuesday 26th January 4-7 pm
- Wednesday 27th January 4-7 pm

A child-led evening will take place between 4 and 7pm on Wednesday 23rd March.

There will also be the opportunity, if required, to discuss your child/ren's end of session report between 4 and 7 pm on Tuesday 14th June. This will take the form of a drop-in session.

If at any point in the session you wish to discuss your child/ren's progress, or other matters, we will do our best to accommodate your request.



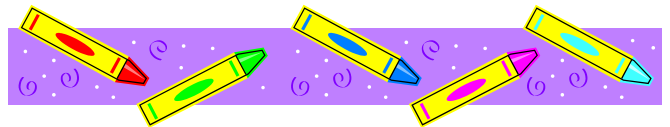
ASSEMBLIES

Parent/carers are welcome to come along to their child/ren's class assembly. Parents/Carers of children who will be recognised at one of our termly Special Assemblies will be invited by text.

All assemblies take place at 9.00 am on Friday mornings as follows:

- 25th September - P7A
- 2nd October - P7B
- 9th October - Special Assembly
- 13th November - P7C
- 27th November - P6A
- 18th December - Special Assembly
- 22nd January - P6B
- 5th February - P6C
- 12th February - P6D
- 26th February - P5A
- 4th March - P5B
- 11th March - P5C
- 18th March - Special Assembly
- 13th May - P4A
- 27th May - P4B
- 10th June - P4C
- 17th June - Special Assembly

P7 will hold a leavers' event on the week beginning 27th June.



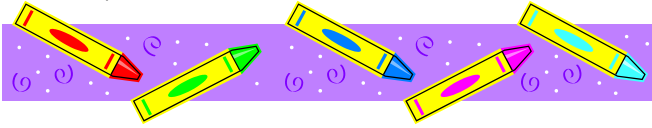
FRIDAY CLUBS



Following the October break, we will once again be running mixed year group clubs that focus on the development of skills eg cooking,

computing, music, gardening, cycling etc. We would be very keen to hear from any parents who would like to help with these. Indeed, if you have a skill you would be willing to share with our children we would be happy to support you.

Along with the above, 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.

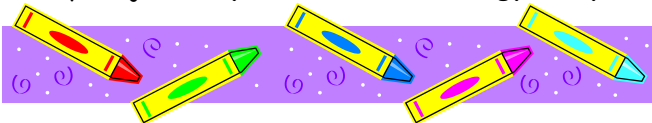


PE EQUIPMENT



In accordance with Scottish Government guidance, all children in King's Meadow receive two hours of PE. In a school of this size, it is not always possible, or desirable, to hold this inside. As a result, there may be occasions when your child will be taking part in PE outdoors when the weather may be cold, wet or windy. For outdoor activities pupils should wear a tracksuit or jogging bottoms and sweatshirt, extra socks and outdoor trainers. Rain jackets, hats and gloves should be worn when appropriate. It is important that pupils are ready to take part and also that they have a change of clothes and a bag to put wet gear in, so that they are comfortable for the rest of the day. We would appreciate your support with this.

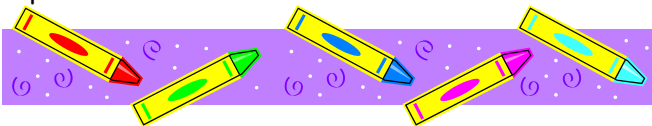
Please ensure that your child has a full kit, including gym shoes/indoor trainers, shorts and a t-shirt (this should cover your child's midriff), with them at all times. Please note: In the interests of health and safety **no jewellery should be worn on gym days.**



LUNCHES



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.

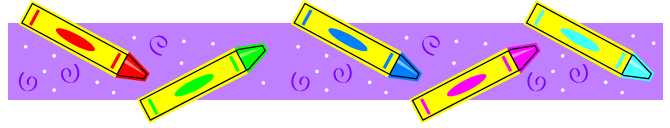


<http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

WATER



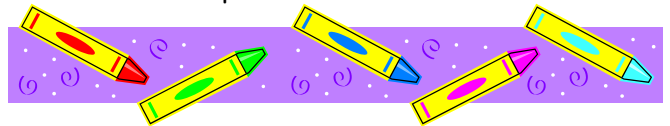
We would ask parents to ensure that children are sent to school each morning with a filled, named water bottle. This can be refilled, if required, during the day. **Please note** - only water should be provided as sipping fruit juice, fresh or diluting, can lead to tooth decay.



MOBILE PHONES

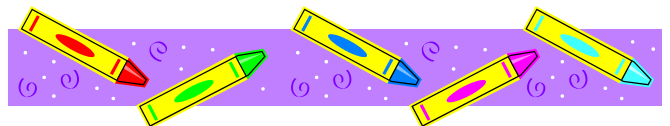


There is no need for children to have mobile phones in their possession during school hours. Children who require a phone for use outwith school hours should hand their mobile in to the office at the start of the day. Any child who is found to have a phone during school hours will have it removed. The school takes no responsibility for children's mobile phones.



ACTIVE SCHOOLS

After school clubs for the Haddington cluster can now be booked online using the following link: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/ActiveSchoolsHaddington
Total Adventure spaces can be booked at: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/ActiveSchoolsTotalAdventure



FLU IMMUNISATION



Once again, all school children in Scotland are being given the opportunity to be immunised against the flu virus.

For King's Meadow, this will take place on **Wednesday 11th November**. Consent letters have already been sent home and should be returned as soon as possible.

The following link provides answers to frequently asked questions:

<http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/HealthInformation/PrimarySchoolFluVaccination/Documents/PrimarySchoolFluProgrammeParentFAQs.pdf>

AVIVA TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE



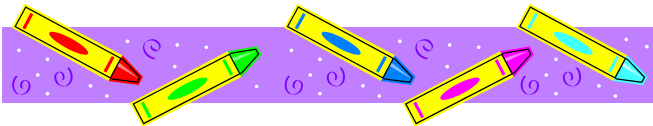
The Aviva Tour of Britain is British Cycling's premier road cycling event and the country's largest annual free-to-spectate sporting event, giving cycling

fans the chance to see the world's best riders racing on their doorstep every September.

The race attracts some of the best cyclists from some of the top cycling teams including Team Sky, Garmin Sharp, Movistar and Omega Pharma Quick Step, with well-known riders such as Mark Cavendish and Bradley Wiggins. The event is televised daily live with a highlights programme each night on ITV4.

In 2015 the Tour will be coming to East Lothian, stage 4 Edinburgh to Blyth, Wednesday 9th September. The Tour will start in Edinburgh and will come out through Musselburgh along the coast via Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton to Longniddry, up via Boggs Holding, Pencaitland, East Saltoun and Gifford and the over the Lammermuirs to Duns and on into Northumberland. This is a great opportunity to watch the biggest cycling race in the UK on our own doorstep, with the world media watching and to see some of the best cyclists coming through the East Lothian towns and villages.

<http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage4/index.php#.VdslrWfbLcs>



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A have enjoyed settling into their new class and getting back into school life. We had great fun sharing our holiday news and produced some interesting writing all about ourselves.

Our topic is based around a superhero theme and we have all shared our existing knowledge and planned what we would like to learn. We have decided to learn about both real-life and fictional superheroes. In particular, we are hoping to learn about the life of some of the local heroes in our community such as the police, fire and ambulance service. We are planning to carry our topic across the curriculum and have already started creating some wonderful superhero comics in our writing. We have begun the

term looking at the importance of a digit, its place and its value and we plan to continue developing our number knowledge this term. We would like to share our learning with you on our class webpage so please keep an eye this to see our learning in class.



P4B have had a busy first week settling into our new school and class. We have been working hard to learn and follow the new routines both in

class and in the playground. The class has also been enjoying getting to know each other through a variety of circle time games and short writing activities. As a class we have looked at the King's Meadow Golden Rules and the children have been organised into the four houses. House points are given regularly as a reward for super behaviour and hard work.

The class have worked together to share their prior knowledge and plan our first topic, which will be based on real life and imaginary superheroes. We will be exploring the role of the emergency services and the valuable contributions they make in our community. Through drama, we will consider how to react in an emergency situation and to get the appropriate help. We will also be finding out about the uniforms and vehicles used by the emergency services and hope to arrange a class visit.

In writing, we will be researching the features of a comic and creating our own superhero comic strips. Our first extended piece of writing will be about our special person/hero and what they mean to us.

We had our first visit to the computer suite on Tuesday afternoon and spent some time talking about the QWERTY keyboard. Over the next few weeks we will be working to develop our touch typing skills through BBC Dance Mat Typing and a number of other typing games. By the end of the topic we hope to increase the speed and accuracy of our typing.

In P.E. with Mrs Arnold, P4B will be using a basic moves approach to explore invasion games, with a particular emphasis on hockey. Please ensure that your child has appropriate kit for indoor and outdoor P.E. lessons on a Monday and Thursday.

hundreds tens units
 5 6 7

P4C have joined us healthy and happy after the summer break. Thank you so much for the very kind flowers I received, what a lovely way

to start our first day! The children are full of enthusiasm and are raring to go, which is great as we have a full and exciting term planned!

We are basing this term's studies on the topic of "Real Life Superheroes". This exciting opportunity has fuelled the concept for our cross curricular learning:

Literacy - We will investigate, plan and write our own superhero cartoon strip, involving plot, character and setting.

Social Studies - We will explore a variety of emergency services and essential groups present in our local community who help us in times of need.

Expressive Arts - Creating portrait investigations of different emergency personnel.

Health and Wellbeing - We will experiment with ways to cope in emergency situations through role play and develop skills and strategies to keep ourselves safe.

In numeracy, our focus will be digits and their place value; we will play games, use materials and watch learning clips. We will discuss mental strategies and complete written work. All activities will be focused on developing the understanding of the value of a digit depending on its place. Some of you may remember your studies of hundreds, tens and units - we hope to reach for thousands and beyond!

Children in class who take a school meal have adapted well to their independent choice of lunch. Please continue to discuss lunch options with your child before they come to school as this greatly increases their confidence when making their choices.

I have been very impressed with the fantastic first efforts of all members of our class. Well done, **P4C**!



P5A have had a great start to Primary 5. It's been lovely getting to know them better. The children had fun creating aliens and using them to tell me more about themselves. They have all settled

in well to their new class and have been supporting each other in the various tasks I have set them since coming back.

We have started our new orienteering topic. The class are looking forward to learning all about it and getting outside to complete orienteering courses. We have come up with the questions we want answered and planned how we are going to learn through the topic. As we will be outdoors a lot over the course of the year, the children need to be prepared with suitable clothing and footwear.

In literacy we will be studying 'James and the Giant Peach' by Roald Dahl, with a view to celebrating Roald Dahl Day later in the month. We will be using the book to help us with our reading skills, to inspire our writing and to create a context for our drama work.

Mrs Arnold will be taking the children for PE, Mr Connell will be teaching Art, Miss Gillan will be taking ICT and spelling on Mondays and Mr Smith will be taking the class to the library, so they have a wealth of knowledge at their fingertips this term!

In addition to all of this work in class, the children were also keen to do the 'Daily Mile'. We decided to do it 3 days a week to start with, so they will be out on Monday, Wednesday and Friday trying to complete 8 and a half laps of the school pitch. I have been very impressed with their fitness so far, and they have settled back down to work brilliantly afterwards without looking tired out in the slightest!



P5B pupils have been busy establishing class rules and routines. We enjoyed hearing about everyone's summer holidays and created an iPhone

photograph of a favourite moment from the summer. These are proudly displayed in the classroom alongside pupil's photographs. We discussed 'How am I Clever?' and investigated our strengths and created goals to work towards for Primary 5.

Within P.E, we have started working on invasion games, demonstrating our understanding of rules, working with others and responsibilities of different positions - attacking and defending. We have also started running a mile three times a week. This involves running around the school pitch 8 and half times, eventually we will be working towards beating our own personal time.

Our class orienteering topic is under way, looking and discussing birds eye views of maps and drawings.

This will be linked to our maths exploring coordinates, grid references and compass work.



P5C children have settled in well and are becoming familiar with the daily routines and expectations of the class. They have been issued with their diaries and these should be coming home for you to see.

This term, we are going to begin with an orienteering topic where we will be learning about the creation of maps and then using maps to help us navigate and follow routes. This work will include aspects of different curricular areas ie Maths, Art and Health & Wellbeing. Our numeracy work will focus on the fundamentals of place value, addition and subtraction initially. For reading, the children have begun a study of James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl.

Accelerated Reader will be a focus again this year, and the children have already been using their ZPD to help them make good book choices. The children know that books from the school library can be taken home to read and they are, of course, welcome to bring in their own books from home.

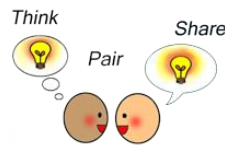
Homework will soon begin to appear too. There will be a jotter to complete work in and the tasks, along with due dates, will be recorded in the school diary. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch.



P6A children have settled down quickly to their new class and routine. At the moment, they have chosen where they sit within the class but I will be reorganising this next week, now that I know them better!

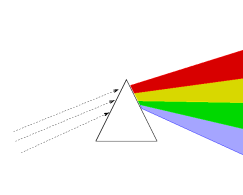
I am always keen to welcome parents into the classroom to work with us. If any of you are willing or able to do this, please let me know. I am sure there are many of you with particular talents or interests and it would be wonderful if you were willing to share your skills and knowledge with us at any time. Also, we will be undertaking some outings at various times, so it would be great if some of you were able to come with us.

Our first Parents' Nights are at the beginning of October; however, if you would like to speak to me before then, please let me know.



P6B have been involved in activities to help us get to know each other. The whole class received a letter from their new teacher and each pupil replied with their own personal letter.

The children have been allocated a 'talking partner' and we have been practising good talking, listening and questioning skills. Our first topic this term is Light, Sound and Colour and we have been busy exploring different light sources and how shadows are formed by opaque and translucent objects. The children also used this knowledge to produce some lovely art work where they were able to turn shapes in to forms with tone, light and shadow. The class have been reading keenly and are excited that AR will be starting again soon. We would love to welcome in parents/grandparents/carers to help listen to reading so please do get in touch if you have an hour to spare! French is spoken in class every day and the children are able to greet one another in French, do the register and count to at least 10. Everyone now has their new homework diary which should travel daily between home and school. Please sign these diaries weekly and add a comment about the targets which the children have chosen.



P6C are hopefully feeling refreshed and ready to work hard as we are about to start our first topic - Sound and Light. So far we have been thinking about sources of light

and learning to use the terms transparent, translucent and opaque. This topic will involve carrying out lots of exciting experiments. We will also be learning how to write these experiments up. This term we have Mr Connell for art. He will be using our topic of sound and light for inspiration. In drama, we are creating 'still images'. We are using impressionist paintings as stimuli and working in small groups to create a 'still image.' In P.E., we will be working on improving both our fitness and our hockey skills. We will mainly be

outside for P.E. this term so please make sure you have outdoor P.E. kit!

In numeracy, we are starting off by looking at whole number. We will be consolidating all the work we covered on whole number in P5; filling in any gaps and of course extending our knowledge of whole number too. We will also be doing some real life problem solving.

We have made a super start to learning French. We have already learnt how to greet someone, how to say our name and how we are feeling. We will be moving to numbers and age next.



P6D have many interesting experiences and activities to look forward to this year. During the first few days we focussed on getting to know each other and working well together. We completed a class charter so that we know what to expect from each other. Please have a look if you are visiting us.

Our first topic is sound and light and the children have identified what they know about the topic and what they hope to learn. In maths, we have been improving our fluency and accuracy at mental maths - with determination and hard work we know that we will all see progress! The children were delighted to receive a letter from their new teacher introducing herself and have started planning their replies using friendly language, letter layout the first person. Miss Murray is really looking forward to reading all about their exciting adventures over the holidays!

Date for your diary: February 12th 2016, P6D class assembly.



P7A are already feeling settled into Primary 7. Our House Captain elections have taken place and the House Captains from 7A are Jamie (Tyne), Bethany (Lothian), and Iona (Abbey). Our class representative

on the School Parliament is Anna. We know Anna will be keen to share any suggestions we might have and also be good at keeping us informed about decisions that are made by the parliament. Well done and thank you to everyone in 7A who prepared speeches for these roles.

This week we began finding out about WW2 and some of the reasons why it began. Currently we are busy with research tasks so that we can make information sheets about the leaders of WW2. We found out some very interesting facts this morning - did you know that Adolf Hitler's father changed their surname from Schicklgruber to Hitler in 1877? We have also been looking at WW2 fashions as we will be creating characters when we write biographies.

It is lovely to see everyone working so enthusiastically. Thank you for providing ring binders. It's easier to identify folders when everyone has their own design! We will be filing all our topic work in folders this session.

One of our class has already handed in their first piece of WW2 topic homework! As you know there are three tasks to be completed over the next few weeks. The information about this has been stapled into every diary for safe keeping. Hopefully the tasks will be fun as well as opportunities for learning more about our topic.



P7B have quickly settled back in to school life and seem ready for the year ahead. We have been working hard, have established some class rules and have produced some super results so far.

We worked in groups last week during an "apprentice" style challenge where we had to design a new product to help children with daily school life. Mrs McGinlay was very impressed with our ideas, work ethic and the finished designs that we presented to the class. Lord Alan Sugar would have a hard time deciding on the winning product. Well done everyone 😊

Our first group of children has been given their role as prefects and has made an impressive start to their responsibilities within the school. Congratulations to the elected House Captains- Hamish, Euan M, Kaci and Bruce and our School Parliament representative Amelia. We are sure they will all do a great job 😊

Our first topic is WW2 and we have already started learning about why the war began. We have placed key events in order of time and, in ICT, have begun researching information about the important leaders during the war. We are currently thinking about creating our own WW2 characters and will be writing a biography for them soon. We have

researched the fashion at the time and have made some super sketches to help us.

In PE, we will be working on our fitness and hockey skills this term. PE days are Tues and Wed- please ensure a change of clothing is in school for these lessons.



P7C have had a busy start to the session. We began the term by electing house captains and our class representative and the children have now been assigned their prefect duties for term one.

All of the children will be given a prefecting role throughout the year. If they are not a prefect this term they will be given the opportunity next term.

Our World War 2 topic has got off to a great start. We have been looking at how the war began and learning about some of the important leaders at the time of WW2 as well as looking at how the lives of ordinary people were affected by war. The topic will have a literacy focus so the children will produce a variety of different pieces of writing. As well as this, we will be reading "Carrie's War" by Nina Bawden. This will be our class novel for the term.

In maths, we have started looking at revising and consolidating number work. The children have been looking at place value, rounding, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have also done some problem solving.

The children have some specialist teachers working with them this term. Mrs Arnold will be taking the class for P.E. twice a week and, this term, we will be having art lessons with Mr Connell. The children will also be working with the rugby development officer.

I hope that the children enjoy all that we have planned for them and that it is a busy and productive term for all of them.