



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new term and a new year at King's Meadow. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year.



SSPCA

A big 'Thank You' to all those who made donations to our leaving collection at the end of P5's Christmas assembly. The sum of £70.00 was raised and we will send this to Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.



PARENT COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Meeting Room at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 14th January. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



HOLIDAY

The school will close at the usual time on Friday 7th February and re-open for pupils at the usual time on Tuesday 18th.



INTERNET SAFETY



It has come to our attention that a number of our pupils have Facebook accounts. This is despite the fact that the minimum age for this is 13. These children are posting comments and images on

unlocked pages. This allows anyone to see what is on the site and puts the child at risk of cyber bullying and potential grooming. We would advise all parents to closely monitor children when using the internet whether this be via a laptop, tablet, smartphone or Xbox.



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 to either the HT or the DHT. 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.



INDOOR SHOES



Please remember that all children should have a pair of indoor shoes to change into upon entering the building. For safety reasons, children should not be walking around the school in stocking soles.



LOST PROPERTY



We are finding far too many items of clothing being left behind at the end of the day and, unfortunately, most of this is not named. Your child's clothing and personal items are **their** responsibility and you should encourage them to take charge of them. School staff **do not** have the time to look for things that have

become lost. We also do not have room to store lost property and would ask that you come in to look for it as soon as you are aware that something is missing.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL PROPERTY IS NAMED.



DALGUISE 2014

P7 children are looking forward to their trip to Dalguise. We will be away from the 10th- 14th March and parents/carers are invited to attend an information meeting regarding this residential excursion on Wednesday 26th February at 3.30pm in the drama room. Children not going to Dalguise will be taking part in a range of activities in school.

Further information regarding Dalguise will be issued in due course.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Thursday 9th January: P7s will be having a taster session of Disc Golf.
- Monday 13th: Lucy Coventry, student teacher, joins P5C.
- Monday 20th: Blair Aitken, student teacher, joins P5A.
- Friday 31st: Childline presentation to P6 and P7.
- Monday 3rd February: P7 Childline workshop.
- Tuesday 4th: P6 - Childline workshop.
P7 - visit from Knox Academy pupils and staff.
- Week beginning 10th: HOLIDAY
- Monday 17th: In-service day
- Wednesday 26th: Meeting for parents of P7 pupils who are going to Dalguise.



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A were invited by Haddington Infant School pupil council us to go and try out their new trim trail before the holidays. The children thought that it would

be nice for the P4s to have a go since they had been involved in the planning and buying of the equipment last year. The class thoroughly enjoyed their visit and testing out the trim trail was great fun. We were also lucky enough to be an audience to the Infant School Christmas show which we all thoroughly enjoyed.



The class had great fun at our Christmas party. Everyone looked very smart and participated in fun and games, dancing and singing and even snowman building!

Until the February break, we will be looking at Chinese New Year as an interdisciplinary topic. The children will carry out some research to find out about this important traditional Chinese festival and its associated customs. By experiencing a range of activities, and with a focus on the Expressive Arts' outcomes, we hope to build towards holding our own celebration at the end of the topic. To help with our research, we will use the school library and, hopefully, Haddington library to learn about features of non-fiction texts. We will be learning how to find, select and sort information on subjects linked to our topic. In Maths, we will be continuing with work on our multiplication tables and will be looking at the link with division. We are also learning about different types of angles and angles within 2D shapes.

In ICT, we will be developing our knowledge of how to keep ourselves safe whilst online. We will be working through a "Keeping myself e-safe" programme and discussing safe and acceptable conduct.

We have just finished our class novel 'School According to Humphrey' by Betty G Birney, which the children have really enjoyed. In the story, Humphrey the class hamster helps the children to be responsible and challenge themselves with various class jobs! We have been discussing how we can be more responsible in class and how we can use our unique skills and abilities to support each other. We will start our new class jobs next week.

In the lead up to Burns' Day, the children will be asked to learn a short Scots poem for homework. As part of a Burns' competition they will each recite their poem to the rest of the class, trying hard to entertain the audience.

Another busy month for 4A!



P4B - Mrs Higgins would like to wish Happy New Year to you all and she hopes that you enjoyed the Christmas break.

The children have made a good start to the new term and we have been busy creating our new year's resolutions. We have been thinking about how we can make improvements at a personal, school, community and global level and the children have had some super ideas. We have also made a start to our new topic on China and this will continue until the February holidays. As part of the topic we will be looking at traditions related to the Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. The children will also be learning about Robert Burns and celebrating Burns' Day. As part of these celebrations the children will be expected to learn and recite a Burns' or Scots' poem to their class. Over the next few weeks, the poems will be studied as part of our reading lessons and the children will be asked to practise reciting their poem at home. Your support with this would be much appreciated. I am looking forward to another busy and enjoyable term with the 4B.



P4C hope to have another fun and successful term.

Swimming lessons start in the first week of term and will continue for 9 weeks. These take place on Wednesday mornings. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help during these. The class have been looking forward to starting these lessons! They will be able to keep a track of their progress, highlight their favourite parts of lessons and describe what they have been learning in their Swimming Diaries. In PE, will be focusing on gymnastics this term.

In maths, we will be focusing our attention on multiplication and division. We will be working on revising and practising our multiplication tables. Tables cards will continue to go home as usual.

For topic, we will be learning about China. We will be looking at the history and different aspects of Chinese New Year within this.

Along with learning about that celebration, we will be touching on Burns' night. We will be looking at different poems and will practise reciting them.



P4D began swimming lessons this week. These will continue until Wednesday 19th March, with no session on Wednesday 12th February due to the February holiday. Mrs Anderson was pleased with all the

three groups and is looking forward to the rest of the sessions. This week the pupils have been looking at different types of spoken and written instructions. The class will move on to reading, amending and writing different forms of instructions. Last term, the class worked extremely hard on learning their multiplication tables. The class are going to continue to learn these and work on putting them into practice with multiplication word problems. The class will be starting a new topic on China with a focus on Chinese New Year.



P5A will be concentrating on learning all about the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, between now and the February holiday. This will include participating in the

Commonwealth art competition and creating dances to represent countries. We are also attending a dance workshop in the Corn Exchange on Thursday 6 February. In addition, as part of our John Muir project, we will start to organise the bird feeding stations around the school as we didn't manage this before the holidays. We will also be moving the sapling trees ready for replanting in other areas.

This term everyone will be encouraged to join in with the Burns' Scottish Poetry competition. This will be organised in classes and winners will be given the opportunity to recite their poem to the P5 year group during our Scots' Day celebration (date to be confirmed). Certificates will be presented to the winners.



P5B - Mrs Reid and Mrs Roche would like to start by congratulating Primary 5 one more time on their fantastic performance of The Miracle Child at the end of last term. They worked very hard on the show and we're sure

you will agree it was worth the effort!

We have already made an exciting start to 2014. On the first day back, we learned about Janus, the Roman God of New Beginnings. This helped us to focus on what we are looking forward to in 2014 and what we would like to achieve.

We have also made a start to our new topic which will be a mini topic on the Commonwealth Games. This will involve lots of different activities including research into one or more of the Commonwealth countries, creative dance and producing a poster for a national art competition.

In reading, we are continuing with our group novels but the children will also be bringing home a Scots' poem to learn. They will be given a choice of poem and we will be encouraging the children to recite this poem in front of their peers.

In P.E., the class are doing gymnastics with Mrs Arnold, which they are enjoying. We will also be continuing to look at Sikhism in RME. We will be researching different aspects of Sikhism in our ICT time and then producing a poster with the information we find.



P5C - Mrs Guy said that it was lovely to see everyone return healthy and happy after the Christmas and New Year break. Thank you so much for the very kind and generous gifts received, they were very much appreciated! We have a full and exciting term planned for P5C.

In preparation for this summer's Glasgow Commonwealth Games we have been asked to participate in an art competition. The closing date for work is just before the February break. Winning pieces will be displayed in and around the athlete's village throughout the games.

This exciting opportunity has fuelled the concept for our cross curricular learning. In topic, we will focus on social aspects of people, place and environment as we investigate who makes up the Commonwealth and why they are a part of it. We will explore the similarities and differences in culture, currency, climate and land use between Scotland and another country within the Commonwealth.

In literacy, we will make posters to advertise the event and promote Scotland as a cultural place to visit. We will design and create leaflets to explain the core and selected sporting disciplines. We will compare Scots' tongue to that of other

Commonwealth nations and we will listen to news reports concerning the games. We also hope to write and star in our own weather reports for a Commonwealth country other than our own.

In class maths, our focus will be money, investigating costs involved in visiting the games. How much money would we really need if we wanted accommodation in Glasgow, a few tickets for events and travel from a Commonwealth country other than our own? Not forgetting, we'd need to eat and have some money left over to browse the gift shop for Games' souvenirs. I get the feeling we are going to learn a lot about money and we are going to be big spenders!

P.E continues on a Wednesday and Thursday. Miss Coventry commences her 12 week placement with us on Monday (13th January)

Let the Games begin!



P6A - Mrs Philp said that it was lovely to see everyone back this week and I hope that everyone had a great holiday.

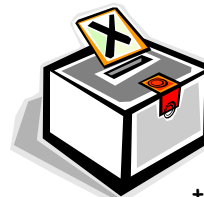
This term the class will be learning about elections and democracy. We

will be debating issues and having a mock election in class. We will also, as is usual for this time of year, be learning about the Scots language and will be reading, writing and singing in Scots. The children will be asked to learn and recite a Scottish poem.

The children have their class assembly this month, so I will be asking for their ideas and expecting them to take the lead in planning and organising this.

Another area of learning for the children will be Health Education. An information letter for parents/carers will be sent home soon. We will not begin this topic until the week beginning 20th January to allow parents/carers to seek further information, if required.

We will be expanding our use of Accelerated Reader, by introducing the children to the Vocabulary Practice section.



P6B will be beginning some new topics this term. One of these will be Health Education. Each parent/carers should have received a letter, during

the first week back, giving them information about the Health Education programme for P6 and 7. In P6, the focus is "Puberty". We will not start this topic until the week beginning January

20th, to give parents/carers an opportunity to seek further information, if required.

Our other topic this term is "Scotland". 2014 is an important year with the Commonwealth Games and the Referendum coming up. As part of our work we will be looking at the following learning outcomes:

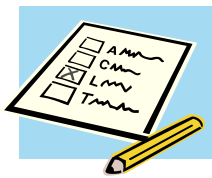
1. I can describe the main features of a democracy and discuss the rights and responsibilities of citizens in Scotland. **SOC 2-17a**
2. I can investigate the features of an election and the work of representatives at a local, national or European level to begin to develop my understanding of how democracy works. **SOC 2-18a**
3. I can persuade, argue, explore issues or express an opinion using relevant supporting detail and/or evidence. **LIT 2-29a**

With this in mind, the children will be participating in a "mock election" to demonstrate how an electoral system works. In conjunction with this, we will be listening to and learning some Scots language poems and songs, extending our knowledge of Scots vocabulary and using this to create texts.

Our focus in P.E is Gymnastics and, in ICT, the children will be learning to use LOGO. Mr Connell, our Art specialist, will be introducing the class to the work of a variety of Scottish artists, such as John Bellamy.

In Accelerated Reader, we will be introducing the children to the Vocabulary Practice section, which will allow them to extend their knowledge in this area.

Please let me know if you have any questions about any of the above.



P6C had great fun in the run up to Christmas - from traditional Christmas crafts to showing the music prowess when performing 'The Cup Song'. They showed some superb coordination and managed to sing beautifully at the same time, very impressive!

We have a busy few weeks ahead of us. We have started our new topic looking at the British Government, Scottish Parliament and the upcoming referendum on independence. The children have been really enthusiastic about the topic and, although their knowledge of politics is very

impressive already, they still have lots of questions, which we will hopefully answer in the coming weeks.

As well as looking at Scotland from a political perspective, we will be looking at the Scots' language in the run up to Burns' night. The children will be learning some Scots' poems and writing in Scots. Judging by the interest shown when they were displayed, I can tell already that there is going to be a scrabble for The Broons and Oor Wullie books.

The children were keen to get to the library to choose new AR books and have been sharing their reviews of books they have read and recommending them to others.

It's going to be a busy term with lots of hard work, but I'm sure we're up to it!



P7A are already busy with work on our new topic. We are finding out about Africa and the different ways of life in the many countries there. We will be discovering similarities and differences with

life in Scotland. Everyone has a personal project to do looking at an African country - we have discussed how to tackle this and should be completing two or three sections each week. The projects are due back on the 30th January. No information printed directly from the internet please - own words should be used! The staff at the John Gray Centre are always happy to help with books and access to online resources.

In PE, we will be developing our basketball skills. We hope to have some mini tournaments during our practice times at the Aubigny Centre.

Diaries are updated every Monday, detailing homework and days for PE kit (currently Monday and Thursday). Please remember to sign the diary every week. It's great to have comments from home in the diary too!

Last term we were learning about googledocs and sharing our writing for friends to contribute to. The writing was successful but we had to cope with some technical issues. We also had fun working on animation. Everyone is very enthusiastic about extending skills in ICT.

Accelerated reading is going well for most children and we are now familiar with the routine of reading and completing quizzes. There are some amazing word counts - well done everyone. Keep reading!



P7B are starting our very interesting topic of Africa. We will be looking at the different countries and cultures, the different animals and habitats, the different foods and the climate. We

will also be learning about Nelson Mandela, his life and the ways in which he has helped to change the world. The children have all been given a research topic for homework; Primary 7 have been asked to choose one country in Africa, research it and then produce a report. The teachers are very much looking forward to reading them.

Miss Hainey has been given a challenge to teach all of Primary 7 African Gumboot dancing. African Gumboot dancing is very popular and is a dance in which everyone can take part in, so get your wellies at the ready Primary 7!

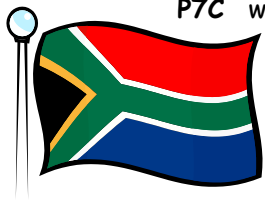
We continue to update our diaries with a target for each week and then assessing whether we have met this at the end of the week.

In PE, we are beginning basketball and looking at the different forms of defence and attack.

P7B are looking forward to the next 2 months.

strategies for basketball. In music, we will be learning to play tuned percussion with a Scottish theme and to read musical notation.

Seonaid McGillivray



P7C would like to wish you all a "Gelukkige nuwe jaar!" Throughout January and February we will be comparing the African continent with Scotland as the context for

the majority of our learning. We will begin by using atlases to locate and learn about some of the largest countries in Africa, before exploring the different types of physical environment, the weather and climate, endangered animals and the different cultures. We will be exploring our own images of Africa and trying to decide whether they are really accurate. We aim to write imaginative stories about being stranded on Madagascar and prepare balanced, factual arguments about the existence of zoos. We will begin by reading about a boy who biked around Africa (fiction) and then about the sad truths of apartheid through "Journey to Jo'burg" and will practice the reading skills of note taking, questioning and summarising through these novels. In art, the children are very excited about using the medium of clay to make masks. We are keen to keep up the momentum with cooking and will be preparing a delicious African inspired dish with our new skills! PE this term will be focussed on the skills and