



MARCH/APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

At last the days are getting longer and there are signs of Spring in the air. This is just in time for our P7s to head off for a week of outdoor activities at Dalguise.



CHILD-LED PARENTS'/CARERS' MEETINGS



In a change to previous practice, we will be holding child-led parents'/carers' meetings between 4 and 7pm on Tuesday 1st April.

This means that you **have** to bring your child/ren with you as they will guide you through the work they have been doing and talk about the progress that they have made. Families, have been allocated a 25 minute slot in their child/ren's classroom. Class teachers will be there to facilitate this event; however, they will not be able to talk about individuals as there will be more than one family in a class at a time.

You should receive your appointments with this newsletter.



EASTER HOLIDAYS



School closes on **Friday 4th April**, at the normal finishing time. The school will resume for all pupils on **Tuesday 22nd April**, at the normal time.

Please note: School will be closed for the May Day holiday on **Monday 5th May**.

COMMUNICATION



We communicate with parents/carers in a range of ways - text, email, website, letters etc - in order to ask your opinion or keep you up to date with what is happening in school or with your child. We would like to think that we work in partnership with our parents/carers for the benefit of all pupils. Communication is a two-way process and we rely upon feedback from you in order to ensure that we are providing the most appropriate experience for your child. If you have a concern, please remember that the easiest, and quickest, way to resolve this is to talk it through, at the time, with someone in school. If we do not know about a concern there is nothing we can do to address it.



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 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.



PARENT COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Meeting Room at 7.00 pm on **Thursday 20th March**. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**

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.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Thursday 6th March : World Book Day
- Week beginning 10th: Primary 7 to Dalguise. P7 activity week.
- Wednesday 12th: P5 music workshop.
- Friday 21st: Sport Relief Day
- Monday 31st: Primary 7 visit the Risk Factory
- **Tuesday 1st April: Child-led Parents'/Carers' meetings.**
- Wednesday 2nd: P5 music workshop.
- Thursday 3rd: P5 music workshop.
- Thursday 3rd: Primary 5 PTA baking stall
- Friday 4th: Primary 4 assembly.
- Wednesday 30th: P5B will visit Dirleton Castle.



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A have been working extremely hard in Writing since the holiday. We have discussed what makes a good story and have given thought to how to add detail and description to help grasp the reader's attention. We have been working on a 500 word story as part of a BBC Radio Two competition. We had to write 500 words or less, edit our work and then use our word processing skills to type it up! We are hoping that we have a budding author in the class because the prizes for the winners are fab!

This week, we will be visiting the local library to look at non-fiction texts. We will be able to borrow a book about something that we find interesting and

want to learn more about. We will then be using this text to learn reading for information skills by completing tasks in school. This will include skimming and scanning for key information, putting texts in to our own words and using information to create labelled diagrams. We will, towards the end of this term, also be using this information for a small personal project. *More information to follow.

In Numeracy this term, we will be using our knowledge of the 2,3,4,5 & 10 times tables to work within division. We will also be learning problem solving strategies and using these to help solve given problems. We will be learning how to tell the Time accurately and will be completing some Information Handling activities.

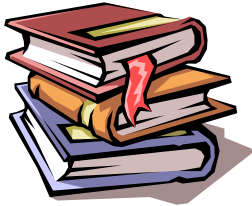
We all enjoyed singing and dancing as part of our Chinese New Year celebrations and everyone did very well in the class performances to the rest of the year group. This term, we will be working towards our end of term assembly and are looking forward to using our beautiful singing voices while performing to our parents.



P4B will be focusing on different types of books and stories. We have been taking part in the BBC Radio 2 500 words story writing competition and the children have really enjoyed it. They have created all sorts of stories about time travel, dinosaurs, holidays and even zombies!

In reading and writing, our focus will be on non-fiction books and research skills. The class have been to the John Gray Centre library this week to choose a non-fiction book. This book will be the central focus of a research project they will carry out in the next couple of weeks. More information about this will follow. In class we will be developing skills such as finding information in a non-fiction book, making notes in their own words and formulating research questions.

Before the February break, the class enjoyed our topic on the Chinese New Year. This topic had a focus on the expressive arts and we all enjoyed performing our songs and dances to the rest of the year group. Towards the end of this term the children will be working hard on our Primary 4 end of term assembly. We look forward to presenting this to parents in the last week of term.



P4C got together, before the February break, with the whole of primary four to celebrate Chinese New Year and the end of our topic. Each class performed a song and a dance

that they had been working extremely hard on. All of the performances were fantastic! They really showed what primary four had been working towards and what we had enjoyed.

We are going to be very busy leading up to the Easter holidays. Primary four will be working towards organising our upcoming assembly. It will be based on work we will be doing in our new topic - all about books! Look out for fun homework challenges leading up to World Book Day.

Miss Sutherland would like to mention how hard P4C have been working in regards to the BBC Radio 2 writing competition. The stories that have been created in a short time have been excellent, and really stretch the imagination!

In maths, we have started to look at time. We have been practising telling the time using analogue clocks and will be starting to look at digital clocks shortly.

The class are still going to swimming lessons on Wednesdays although there are only two more weeks left. The class are thoroughly enjoying these lessons and have been learning lots of new strokes and tricks that can be done in the pool.

As a class, we create a blog entry every Friday about what we have been learning throughout the week! Please feel free to have a look and leave a comment if you wish!



P4D have been exceptionally busy over the last few weeks focusing on the BBC Radio 2 500 words competition. Over the February break, the pupils were asked to

start thinking of ideas for their imaginary story. The class came back with some fantastic ideas and were very keen to get started. The pupils wrote their 500 word stories which included a mixture of horror, fairy tales, mystery and romance. The pupils typed their stories up and uploaded them onto the Radio 2 website. To go along with their stories the pupils designed their own book front covers that included the different features of a book cover and

these will be displayed in the class library for others to read. Good Luck in the competition, P4D!

In maths, the class have been continuing with work on multiplication tables and trying to gain more stickers for their multiplication table cards. They have also been working on identifying 3D and 2D shapes and stating their properties. The class took part in a number of different activities including making their own 3D shape game and using laptops to solve 3D and 2D shape problems.

The pupils will be starting their new non-fiction project, which has a focus on animal characteristics, food chains and habitats. Pupils will be asked to complete this in school and at home. Primary 4 have their end of term Easter assembly coming up and will be working hard to make it a success.

Miss Laidlaw would like to congratulate Primary 4 once again on their fantastic Chinese New Year Performances. Each class performed a short dance and sang a Chinese New Year song including playing musical instruments. They worked extremely hard and it paid off.



P5A really enjoyed our Ground Force Day on 30 January, which was part of our John Muir work. The children helped to lift the sapling trees and make them ready for transport. This involved working with gardening tools, digging, organising the compost, weeding and generally tidying the garden. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who worked very hard all morning with the children. Our P5 School Parliament reps subsequently visited Mrs Guy's farm to plant some of the trees and take photographs and then reported back to the year group. We are now successfully managing our bird feeding station and are pleased to see a variety of garden birds returning to the garden as well as the resident pigeons.

As part of our Commonwealth project, the class has been exploring dance moves and hopefully groups will create short dances to represent a Commonwealth country of their choice. This will involve some research and experimentation as well as developing group cooperation skills. They also recently enjoyed a short dance workshop at the Aubigny Centre lead by Rhian Reynolds, a dance specialist. The theme was based on animals and, although it was related to the John Muir Project, the moves will be used in their Commonwealth dances.

On Friday 28 February, 5A will present their Commonwealth project to the whole school in the style of a TV programme. Everyone has been busy making scripts, posters and flags and is very excited! This will be a unique P5A production!



P5B are having a busy time. Our main focus at the moment is our class assembly. We have chosen Sikhism as the theme for our assembly as all the children have been enjoying finding out about this religion. We will be acting, singing and sharing some of the work we have been doing in class.

The children thoroughly enjoyed our mini topic on the Commonwealth Games. We are all now very excited about the Games. Three members of our class had their Commonwealth Games posters chosen to be sent in to the national art competition. We look forward to hearing how their entries get on. The winners of the national competition will have their artwork displayed in the athletes' village in Glasgow.

Our topic this term is Scottish history and we are looking forward to making a start on it this week. The focus will be on Wallace and Bruce. Our class writing will be based on our history topic and will include some exciting pieces such as 'Secret Panel Writing' and 'Wanted' posters. We will also be looking at Castles as part of this topic. This means a trip to Dirleton Castle which is a fascinating morning out and a great way to learn about castles. Our art work will also tie in with our history topic. At the moment we are learning about perspective and using what we have learned to draw a perspective drawing of a castle.

In reading, we are focussing on finding and using information. The children have now chosen a non-fiction text which they will be bringing home instead of a group novel. They will also continue to bring home their AR book as well. We would like to remind the children that they should be reading their AR book 20 minutes a day in school and 20 minutes a day at home.



P5C's Commonwealth Games topic has been a smashing success and we all enjoyed the internet research involved in finding out about the venues and events involved in this

year's Glasgow Games. Our atlas skills have improved as we searched the globe for Commonwealth members and we hope to share our excellent weather reports with you at a later date. We wish the 9 lucky entries from across P5 all the very best in the Commonwealth Games Art competition.

We are now commencing our Scottish History: The wars of Independence and Castles topic which will take us well into April, culminating in a fantastic trip to Dirleton Castle. We visit the John Gray Centre and library on Friday this week to kick things off, where we will look at historical documents and evidence gathered from the past. We will discover information about key characters in Scottish history and the role they played in shaping the Scotland of today.

In literacy, we will focus on imagined personal response, comparing our life to that of a child during the times of Wallace or Robert the Bruce. We will continue to use our imaginations, building our use of descriptions of character and setting by writing a piece about an ancient castle and the life within its walls. We move away from group novels for a time and focus on reading for information as reading homework until Easter; using the skills we acquire to create a fact-file of our own. I look forward to reading the fact files.

In class maths, our focus will be 2D and 3D shape linked with nets, tessellation, symmetry and area. We will be working within the context of designing and building our own castles in class. Thank you to those of you who have already responded to our plea for construction junk materials. Please keep them coming. P.E continues on a Wednesday and Thursday. Miss Coventry completes her 12 week placement with us on Friday 28th March.



P6A have had a busy few weeks. We have been learning about kindness and about how good it feels to be kind. The class has produced some excellent pieces of writing about their experiences of giving a flower to someone special.

In our topic, we have been learning about Body Systems such as the respiratory and digestive systems. The class enjoyed pretending to be red blood cells moving through the body when we learned about the circulatory system.

Our new topic is going to be science based - Flight. We will be learning about the development of powered

flight, how planes can fly and even designing our own plane.

In PE, we have been doing gymnastics. The class created and then performed gymnastic sequences in small groups. Our next focus will be athletics, where the children will have the opportunity to try various athletic events and even the chance to represent the school at the Meadowbank Championships!



P6B recently led the whole school assembly. Our theme was "Scotland 2014". They sang, recited poetry, created and displayed PowerPoints and discussed the forthcoming referendum on independence. They were amazing! Well done, 6B!

Mr Connell, our art specialist, is delighted with the art work they are producing at the moment. Their subject is local artist John Bellamy, and the children have worked hard to create excellent pieces of art. These will be on display in class in time for our next Parent/Carers' Evening, so you will be able to see them then.

We are continuing our work in Health Education and will shortly be starting a new topic as a follow-up to the World War 1 workshops we recently attended at the John Gray Centre.

Diary Date: We will be visiting the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday, May 13. More details to follow.



P6C had a very busy start to the year. After 4 weeks of hard work looking at the Scottish Parliament and Scottish culture, they received a letter from the MSPs asking them to carry out a range of tasks for them. They designed stain glass windows in the style of Charles Rennie Macintosh, wrote their own quote about Scotland in Scots and wrote about the Referendum before sharing their views. The whole class worked exceptionally hard to finish each challenge and their work was sent back to the Parliament before the February holiday. We are anxiously awaiting a reply to see what they think of our ideas!

This term looks to be just as busy, if not more so. We are carrying on with our health topic and will be starting Flight next week. The children will be looking at the development of flight from the first

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

planes to present day and have a challenge to complete just before the Easter Holiday.

There has been a slight change to the organisation of Spelling and Reading homework, but the children have been doing well, remembering to hand it in on time.

In PE, we are excited to be joining 6A on a Thursday to do our athletics. The children are really enthusiastic about these lessons and are keen to be picked for the cross country running team, or the team to represent us at Meadowbank this year.

At the end of last term the children received a reward for reaching their Accelerated Reader word count target of 16 million words. They are well on their way to reaching this terms target of 22 million by the Easter Holiday so keep reading...



P7A have been enjoying doing the other half of Keeping Myself Safe. We did the first half in P6. Keeping Myself Safe is about watching animation clips and then discussing personal safety.

We have introduced a new way of keeping class points (class dojo). We each have an avatar and the teacher can hand out points that are recorded on the program. We can earn points for being on task, putting extra effort into work, looking after property and listening to others. Each point is recorded as one point and the teacher can also hand out negative points. At the end of the week the person with most points picks a reward. This week's chosen reward is to sit beside a friend for the day. Hopefully, parents will be able to log in to the program to see how we are doing, but we have not started this yet!

Our topic before the half term was Africa as you know. We have really enjoyed getting feedback on the Africa homework projects. The projects were great. We have all had the chance to make comments on each other's work and note facts that we have learned.



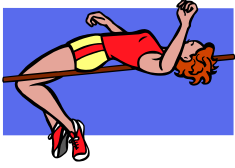
Before the February break we made balls using newspaper, old plastic carrier bags and string. We watched a video clip of a boy in Kenya making a ball like this and then we tried it! We were surprised at how good the balls were - even for football!

We have also started a new novel called 'Abomination' by Robert Swindells and by the looks of the class they seem to be enjoying it.

We are intending to post more regular news on our class web page. Please add comments if you read the page.

Dalguise and School Activity week are very soon - we are all looking forward to the different activities.

Written by Luke and Jenny



P7B have settled in well after the holiday and we are now getting very excited about going to Dalguise and having an activity week in school. We are

very much looking forward to all the different activities we will be taking part in and all the new skills we will learn at camp. The activity week group is very excited about taking part in the disc golf competition at Foxlake and the wide range of activities they will take part in.

In class, we have started our new topic of Keeping Myself Safe; learning about how to keep ourselves safe in various scenarios.

In writing, we are looking at various authors and writing in the style of these authors. Last week our chosen author was Michael Morpurgo and we enjoyed writing poetry in his style.

In PE, we have started athletics and we have particularly enjoyed the high jump this week.

In art, we are producing art work in the form of various artists.

This month we will also be celebrating national Downs Syndrome day on the 21st of March. We are still in discussion as to the ways in which we can raise money for the charity, so any suggestions are welcome. We look forward to another great month in P7B.



P7C have a lot to pack in before it is literally time "to pack" for Dalguise! We are hoping for good weather but remembering to pack spare gloves is my top tip for staying positive in the

rain! For those not going with us, activity week at King's Meadow looks set to be a fun and busy week too. Through our health and wellbeing topic, "Keeping Myself Safe", we are developing personal safety skills to be used in dangerous situations. We will focus on how to identify early warning signs and look at strategies for being assertive, using drama to teach some of these. In writing we, are learning

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

to create interesting characters and settings in our stories. We will look at the work of famous authors and try to adopt some of the features of their writing. How do they manage to hook readers in in the first paragraph? We are looking for creative ways to capture the reader's attention.

After Dalguise we will be investigating substance misuse. We are expecting a visit from the local police to enhance our understanding of the dangers of various drugs. Our writing will then change to non-fiction and we will be learning to write factual reports. In maths, the children have been revising their knowledge of the compass, degrees and angles. What angles can you spot around you in the environment?

In reading, we are currently enjoying "Abomination" by Robert Swindells. We have looked at how he creates believable characters and the theme of bullying fits well with our recent visit from Childline. This term we are also going to be investigating the Buddhist religion. 3 dojo points if you can tell me who the founder of Buddhism was!

Seonaid McGillivray