



MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for coming along to our recent Parent/Carer's evening, which proved to be a positive experience for the majority of pupils and parents. Thank you too for taking the time to provide feedback and this will be used when planning future events.

As you can see, we have a busy time ahead of us and many of the activities would benefit from additional support. If you can help in any way, please let us know.



HOLIDAY

The school will be closed to pupils on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th of May. It will reopen as normal on Wednesday 7th May. The school will also be closed on Monday 19th. It will re-open as normal on Tuesday 20th.



PARENT COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Meeting Room at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 27th May. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



PTA NEWS

The PTA will be holding a Quiz Night on Friday, May 23 from 7.00 till 8.30pm. Tickets will cost £5.00 per family or £2.00 for an individual ticket.

There will be a raffle on the night and the PTA would be grateful for any donations. These can be handed in to the school office.

Our day for the Festival Café is Monday, June 2. As usual, we will be looking for volunteers to help on the day and parents/carers should have received information about this already.

Many thanks for all your support this year. The various events have helped raise money to invest in our school. The main benefits so far have been improvements to our school grounds, the introduction of cooking in P7 and books for Accelerated Reading. Thank you again for your continued support.



WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

King's Meadow will be taking part in 'Walk to School Week' from the 12th to the 16th of May. This is part of a national campaign to reduce fuel emissions and encourage children to lead a healthier lifestyle. Throughout this week pupils are being asked to try to come to school in an active way. It could involve walking, cycling, scooting, skateboarding or park and stride. Each day the children will record how they travelled to school on their class 'Walk to School Week' chart and the children will be given a badge at the end of the week. The classes with the highest number of stickers on the 'Walk to School Week' chart will be given a certificate to recognise their achievement.



ROAD SAFETY

It has come to our attention that some parents are still dropping their children off at the top of Neilson Park Road, in and around the entrance to the car park for John Muir House.

Staff there have witnessed children dodging cars to get to school and have expressed a concern that there is going to be an accident.

We would encourage all parents to use a 'park and stride' approach and use either the car park at Tesco or the Aubigny Centre; taking care to ensure that it is safe to drop their child/ren off.



UNIFORM



At King's Meadow we **strongly encourage** the wearing of our school uniform for a variety of reasons. Firstly, the wearing of school uniform helps to build up a sense of identity, pride and belonging within the school. It helps to distinguish between work and play i.e. "We wear our uniform to school where we go to learn." Secondly, it helps to cut down on individual differences between children and may help to reduce the sort of bullying brought about by children not wearing the current designer labels! **To date the majority of parents/carers have supported us in this.** We hope that this support will continue from year to year.

Uniform: Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan with school badge
White or blue polo shirt (with or without badge)
Royal blue fleece (with or without badge)
Plain grey/navy/black school trousers/joggers/skirt

A separate pair of indoor shoes for inside the school (ones that would not normally be worn outside) - these can be used for PE and Drama.

Please label each item of your child's clothing with their name and class.



SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDERING

It is that time of year again when we need to start thinking about School Uniform Ordering for Session 2014/15.

We have been working closely with our supplier this year, trying to make the process of ordering

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

uniforms easier and more accessible for parents/carers. There are now two ways you can order sweatshirts etc, they are:

- 1 The normal way, completing the Uniform Order Form, which can be obtained from the school office or the school website, which must be handed into the office by no later than **Wednesday 14 May**. Payment can be made by cash or cheque (made payable to East Lothian Council). Orders will be completed by the school and all orders will be delivered to the school, all being well before the end of term and given home with your child.
- 2 You can order directly with the supplier at any point throughout the year, all orders will be delivered directly to your preferred delivery address and not the school. Website for online ordering is: www.interkit.co.uk

In addition to the new ordering system, there has also been an addition of school cardigans. These can be ordered and are now accepted as part of the school uniform.

After reviewing your preferred method of ordering, if you would like an order form please let the office know and this will be given to your child, bearing in mind the above deadline.



CONGRATULATIONS



We are delighted to announce that Ms Laidlaw recently gave birth to a baby boy, Harry. Both mother and son are doing well; so well, that Harry recently had his first visit to school!



SUN PROTECTION

Hopefully, we will be approaching the time of year when we get a bit more in the way of sunshine and warmth. We would like to remind parents/carers to send their child/ren to school properly prepared for this. This might include providing your child/ren with a hat and some sun cream. It should be noted that the school takes no responsibility for applying sun cream



FIRST CLUB GOLF

Parent/Guardians/Golfers: We need your support.

All P5 children are given the opportunity to experience golf; however, we could always do with an extra pair of hands/eyes. If you would like to support Junior Golf as a helper or Volunteer coach please contact Kate Green.

If you would like to register your child's interest in golf coaching or would like to offer your support please contact:

Kate Green,

Junior Golf Development Officer,

East Lothian Council

Tel: 01875 619071

email: kgreen@eastlothian.gov.uk

<http://www.activeeastlothian.co.uk/news/looking-for-clubgolf-coaching-this-season-831>



NUTS



As we have a number of pupils in school with nut allergies, snacks or foodstuffs containing nuts are not allowed in school. It would be most helpful if parents could be aware of this when choosing items for their child/ren's packed lunches. Please note that this also applies to food packaging sent in for junk e.g. no Crunchy Nut Cornflake packets.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Thursday 1st: - P5C will be visiting Dirleton Castle
- Friday 2nd: - P5B will be visiting Dirleton Castle
- Monday 5th: HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 6th: In-service day
- Wednesday 7th: P7 dental inspection
- Thursday 8th: Playground relaunch
- Monday 12th: P7 Leavers' photograph
- Tuesday 13th: P6 will be visiting the Scottish Parliament
- Monday 19th: HOLIDAY
- Wednesday 21st: Interscholastics - Meadowbank
- Friday 23rd: PTA Quiz night

AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A children worked very hard on their personal projects and we really enjoyed listening to and seeing everyone's work. The children did extremely well. Thank you to everyone at home for your help and support with the homework task. We

ended last term with our year group assembly 'Books Glorious Books!' which was based on all the work we had been doing in reading. We hope you enjoyed watching as much as the children enjoyed participating!

We are now in our final term of Primary 4 and it's going to be another busy month!

Our topic this term is going to be based on the Celtic people who settled on Traprain Law. We will be finding out about how the Votadini tribe lived and learning about some of the Traprain treasure that was excavated from the Law. We have our class assembly on Friday 16th May where 4A will share their learning with the other classes in the school.

In maths, we have been working on telling the time and solving problems with time as well as division. We are now moving onto learning about fractions, equations and working on our mental maths strategies. 4A have been learning about the properties of materials and last week we did an experiment to test the strength of different carrier bags. We tested a paper bag, a regular plastic supermarket bag, a 'bag for life' and a cotton reusable bag. The results were very interesting and we were surprised to find that the bags carried a heavier weight than we predicted. The cotton bag was definitely the strongest and was still going strong with 26kg in it- the same weight as one of the children in the class!

Scott Marnoch, our Rugby Development officer is coming into school to work with all the P4s on rugby taster sessions. This will lead up to a rugby festival in June with P3 from Haddington Infant School.

The whole school will be participating in a 'Commonwealth Week' beginning Monday 2nd June. In class we will be working on a variety of tasks in the lead up to this, including researching a country from the Commonwealth and creating a dance for the opening ceremony of the week.



P4B will be focusing their work around a "Healthy Living" topic, this term. We will be learning about the different organs of the body, their functions and how our body digests food.

Linked to this we will be looking at different food groups and we are looking forward to doing some food preparation where we will be making some healthy recipes as well as tasting healthy food and drinks. The class will also be presenting their learning to the rest of the school in our class assembly on Friday the 23rd of May.

On the week beginning Monday the 12th of May, the class will be taking part in rugby sessions led by Scott Marnoch. These will culminate in a rugby festival with the primary threes from Haddington Infant School on Tuesday the 3rd of June.

With the Commonwealth Games approaching, we will also be preparing for this by learning about the Commonwealth. Each class in the school will be representing a Commonwealth country during Sports Week starting on the 2nd of June.

In maths, this month we will be looking, first of all, at fractions and then moving on to work on measure (length, weight and volume). The children should be continuing to practise their times tables at home using their times table cards.

A big 'well done' to all of the children for making such a big effort with their personal project presentations. Thank you also to the people at home who spent time making them such a success. The children were given feedback on their talks this week and it has been stapled into Week 1 of their journal.



P4C are going to be a very busy this term and the children seem very keen to get started!

Swimming lessons have now finished for the majority of primary 4. However, some pupils have been invited back for more

lessons on Wednesday mornings. Thank you to those who are volunteering to help during these sessions.

Primary 4 are going to be experiencing some taster rugby sessions. These will be starting in May and will run for four weeks.

We have a brand new topic this term. We will be focusing on how our body works and how to keep it healthy! We will be looking at our skeleton and

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organs, what type of foods we need to keep us healthy and we will be getting to do some food preparation!

In maths, we will be finishing off our division work and looking at fractions. We will be starting measuring and volume too and this will be linked to our topic. We will be measuring our bones and comparing them to our classmates!

Our sports week begins on the first week of June. Lots of exciting activities will be taking place during this week! In the lead up to this, we will be looking at the Commonwealth games and we will have one country to focus on. We have to design a baton, a flag and a dance representing our chosen country! The children are looking forward to learning about this with the Commonwealth games approaching.

4C will also have to create our class assembly which will be held on the 28th of May.

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 on the website and leave a comment if you wish!



P4D have had a very busy time since the last newsletter. Before the Easter holiday we spent time learning about animal groups, the features of different habitats and food chains. We used non-fiction texts and information on the

internet to help us research animals, using this information to create leaflets detailing the features of animal groups. We all worked hard on our individual personal projects about our own chosen animal. We each did a presentation to the class, telling each other what we had learned. These presentations were all very good. Well done, 4D! In maths we worked on telling the time using analogue and digital clocks and we all enjoyed our animal camouflage art task.

Our P4 end of term assembly was a great success. We enjoyed singing the songs and presenting what we had been learning about books. We worked hard as a class in drama to retell the moral story "The Fox and the Cockrell."

This term we are going to be looking at our bodies and keeping healthy. This will include learning about body systems and food groups and we hope to develop our cooking skills by creating our own healthy snacks. In maths we are working on information handling and are going to be learning about fractions soon too. We have been using the Athletics website to further extend our maths skills. Feel free to continue to work on

these activities at home if you can. We have rugby sessions coming up in May with a festival in early June with the P3s. We are hoping for lots of sunny days so we can enjoy these sessions in good weather!



P5A have been busy working on their John Muir Project. The large young trees that inhabited the inner garden have now been successfully moved.

Two were transplanted to the school woodland and the rest were transported to Mrs Guy's farm. Thanks again to Jen Edwards, our East Lothian ranger, for all of her hard work in organising this with the children. The next part of our project is to prepare the grass area within the garden ready for wildflower planting.

The class really enjoyed the music workshop presented by Dave Trouton. This was about how music was first written down in a uniform way during medieval times in Italy. Part of this involved a very clever time machine called The Toilet Paper Roll! Please ask your child how this helped to demonstrate a timeline. The workshop lasted all day and finished with a musical performance presented to a P7 class.

As part of the Scottish Wars of Independence project, the class participated in two drama workshops exploring the struggle of power between ruling dynasties in Scotland and England. This was very successfully demonstrated using a pack of cards with the suites used to represent families.

The owls were fantastic. Scottish Falconry brought a barn owl, a little owl and a huge tawny eagle. The little owl was very busy flying around the drama room and the beautiful barn owl flew silently over the children's heads to demonstrate just how effect they are as predators. The children were able to stroke the birds and we took lots of photos. The tawny eagle was too big to fly but she spread her wings to well over a metre and she stood about 60cms high. The children then listened to information about how important birds of prey were during medieval times.

Thank you to Erin, Iona and Savannah who organised a toy sale to raise money for the PTA. They ran their stall at the same time as the cake stalls at the end of term and raised just over £7. They collected toys, stored them, then presented their stall and sold everything. Well done girls!

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



P5B have made an enthusiastic start back to the term after the Easter holidays.

This term in topic, we are moving on from the Scottish Wars of Independence to Castles.

We will be looking at the development of castles from Motte and Bailey through to Stone Built castles. As part of this topic, we will be visiting Dirleton Castle on Friday 2nd May. Our writing this term will be linked to our topic. We will be starting with an imaginative piece about The Secret Panel. In class maths, we have been exploring 2D shapes. We are moving on to look at 3D shapes and will be using our knowledge of shape to design and build a model castle.

We will be starting tennis on Thursday 1st May. The tennis development officer will teach the first and last sessions and Mrs Roche will be teaching the middle four sessions. Please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor P.E. kit. With Mrs Arnold, the class will be participating in a block of orienteering lessons which encourages team work and develops map reading skills.

In reading, we will be starting work on an independent novel study. This will involve the children choosing a novel which is within their ZPD and completing tasks both in school and at home.



P5C are approaching the end of a very successful Castles topic, with some sadness. We are excitedly planning how we will share our knowledge with the rest of the school during our class assembly on Friday 9th May.

Later in the term we will be diving into a topic about diversity and classification of plant and animal species to coincide with our continued John Muir Award efforts.

We are all very excited about our up and coming exploration of Dirleton Castle. We hope that the weather remains kind to us next Thursday (1st) as we plan to take lots of photographs to evidence our visit and share them in a power point as part of our assembly.

Thank you for all of the support 5C received at home when completing their reading for information homework last term. The work produced in their fact files about castles was truly magnificent and a real pleasure to read. We plan to share some of the most intriguing facts discovered at our assembly. We will return our focus to group novels initially this term, moving towards individual novel studies, where

children will be supported in finding and studying their own choice of novel.

In class maths, our focus will be compass points, co-ordinates, angles and bearings. We will be creating treasure maps and testing our pirate skills when we challenge each other to find where X marks the spot!

We were very lucky to have experienced workshops in both drama and music last term in relation to our Castles project. The class evaluated these lessons and voted that they were interesting, fun and an experience that they would like to repeat! This term we welcome outside expertise in tennis and golf as we approach our health week at the beginning of June. We will have more information on this in June's newsletter.

P.E, on a Wednesday and Thursday, will involve lots of outdoor problem solving, team building and orienteering skills, so please wear weather appropriate clothing.



P6A have a very busy term ahead of us and it was good to see everyone back after the Easter Break.

We have two topics, the first of which is The Commonwealth. We will be learning about The British Empire and the formation of The Commonwealth. This will lead into learning about the Commonwealth Games and we plan to hold a whole school, week-long celebration of The Commonwealth the week beginning the 2nd of June. Our second topic is orienteering. The class will be learning about making and reading maps. This work will conclude with an orienteering competition during our Commonwealth week.

With Accelerated Reader, P6A have read more than 10 million words. Well done to everyone!

The class have an educational excursion to the Scottish Parliament. We go on Tuesday 13th of May and are looking forward to an educational activity and a tour. Letters about this were sent home last week. We also have rugby and hockey festivals to look forward to, as well as the Meadowbank athletics championships.



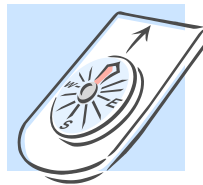
P6B are going to have a very busy term! One of our topics this term is "The Commonwealth". The children will learn about the

Victorian Era and the British Empire, which will then lead on to our work on the Commonwealth. Each class in the school has chosen a Commonwealth country as a focus- our country is Canada.

The children will be also be working on Mapping Skills within the context of Orienteering. The P6 staff participated in an excellent course run by Martyn Pegg from Outdoor Education, and we are keen to pass on what we learned!

Diary Dates:

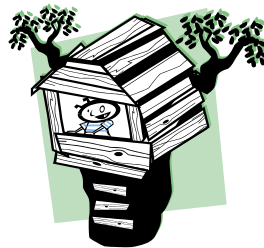
- Parliament Visit - May 13
- Police talks about Internet safety - May 14/15.
- Hockey Tournament at the Aubigny Centre- May 21
- Meadowbank Athletics - May 21



P6C have another busy month in store. We have started two new topics that are going to take us up to the end of May. We will be doing orienteering, looking at mapping, compass points and directions and

taking part in lots of fun activities outside (if the sunshine stays!) We will also be looking at The Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Games in the run up to the main event in Glasgow this summer. Mrs Johnston will be joining us from Edinburgh University for the next 5 weeks, working with the class on all of these exciting new activities.

The children will be visiting the Scottish Parliament on the 13th of May to see for themselves how it all works after learning about it last term. There is a P6 Hockey Festival on the 21st of May which the whole year group will attend, apart from those lucky few who will be representing the school at the Meadowbank Athletics Competition on that day.



P7A have had a busy start to our new term. Our topic is called 'Explore, discover, survive!' Read about our experiences so far:

Canoeing by Dillon

In P7A this week we went canoeing at the river Tyne. We were given massive blue waterproof clothing and life jackets. We looked like Smurfs. When we got in the water we quickly discovered that it was cold. Soon we were in the canoes and shooting down the rapids and it wasn't long before people started capsizing.

When we capsized our canoe it filled up with water and nearly sank but we managed to drain the water and get back in before we got too cold. It was too hard to paddle back up the rapids so we had to get out and pull the canoe. While we were there we learnt about the wildlife and about the water too!

Tree house by Adam

One of the activities we did was designing and building a model tree house. First we had to design the tree house. Designing the tree house was hard because we had to make the inside and the outside. Once we had designed the tree house we had to build a model of it. This was done using large sticks, plasticine, lolly pop sticks and sticky tape. We used plasticine for the base then built the rest step by step.

Science by Ingrid

Also in 7A we did some science experiments which were quite enjoyable. One of the experiments was when we had sugar cubes, flour, salt and a beaker with 200ml of water. What we had to do was put one of the ingredients in the beaker and then we had to stir it for 20 seconds and see if it dissolved. Nearly all of them dissolved at first apart from the flour which was in the shape of an oval. All in all we really enjoyed the science.

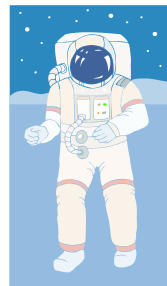
Explorers drama by Catriona

In 7A we have been working on explorer dramas. We had to choose an explorer to act out, and then we had to research about them so we could act out their life. We are hoping it will be like the show "This is your life". Each group came up with an explorer like David Livingstone. Once we had done all that, we chose a presenter, our main character and got family and friends for our explorer. Once all that was done we had some people practising chat shows and life stories. The dramas are starting to look really good, well done everyone!!



P7B are excited about starting our new topic of exploration and adventure (I am a Primary 7 get me out of here!). We will be conducting various science experiments and exploring the outdoors and the environment in which we live in. We will also be learning about space and the solar system. We are also very excited to begin canoeing lessons down the River Tyne. We will be conducting various river

experiments and looking into various habitats found near and surrounding the river. We will be looking into which animals live in various habitats and what they require to survive in these habitats. In art, we will be creating a masterpiece of the River Tyne and of the various places we will have travelled along. This month, we will also be having a playground day in which we will be setting up all the new playground equipment and creating games and various activities then teaching them to the younger classes. We are very excited to start the production of our leavers' assembly which will be revealed soon! We have a very exciting last term ahead!



P7C are hoping to be explorers, mathematicians, astronomers, journalists, artists and performers during their final term at King's Meadow. Through our new topic, "Exploration and Discovery", we are planning to learn about famous explorers in history. We will begin with learning about space exploration and the relative distances of the planets in our own solar system. Ten house points if you can tell me who said this; "Houston, the Eagle has landed," and another ten points if you can name the first woman in space! We will also learn about polar expeditions and try to form an opinion on whether Captain Scott was a victim of bad luck or just bad planning. To begin to explore our own locality, we will be kayaking down parts of the River Tyne. We will learn mapping skills when we map parts of the river and also dip for river samples during these visits with the Outdoor Education department. A block of orienteering lessons will develop our mapping skills and ability to estimate journeys which will culminate in a whole school orienteering event during our Commonwealth Games week for the competitive ones amongst us! The pupil visits to Knox will take place on the 17th and 18th June. Prior to those visits the children will be completing reflective profiles on their learning and their next steps on Googleapps software which will then be transferred to Knox. Saving the best for last, however, is the eagerly awaited P7 leavers' assembly coming to you at the beginning of July.....get ready for "Let Loose!"

Seonaid McGillivray

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL - RESOURCES AND PEOPLE SERVICES
SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2014/15

AMENDED – 1 April 2014

TERM 1	Staff In-service Day 1 (Primary & Secondary staff)	Monday	18	August	2014
		Tuesday	19	August	2014
	Staff In-service Day 2 (Primary & Secondary staff)				
	Extra in-service day (Secondary staff only)	Wednesday	20	August	2014
	Pupils Resume (Primary schools only)	Wednesday	20	August	2014
	Pupils Resume (Secondary schools)	Thursday	21	August	2014
	Autumn Holiday (Schools closed)	Friday	12	September	2014
	Schools closed	Monday	15	September	2014
	All Return	Tuesday	16	September	2014
	All Break	Friday	10	October	2014
	Staff In service Day 3	Monday	20	October	2014
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	21	October	2014
	Term Ends	Friday	19	December	2014
TERM 2	All Resume	Tuesday	6	January	2015
	All Break	Friday	13	February	2015
	All Resume	Monday	23	February	2015
	Pupils Break	Wednesday	1	April	2015
	Staff In service Day 4	Thursday	2	April	2015
TERM 3	All Resume (Staff and Pupils)	Monday	20	April	2015
	May Day (Schools closed)	Monday	4	May	2015
	All Resume	Tuesday	5	May	2015
	Staff In-service Day 5	Monday	18	May	2015
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	19	May	2015
	Term Ends	Friday	3	July	2015
Provisional 2015/16					
	Staff Resume	Monday	17	August	2015

Dates approved by Education Committee on 24 September 2013
 Extra in-service day for secondary staff approved on 1 April 2014