



SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

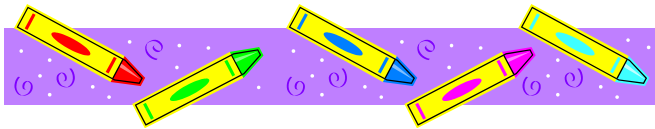
KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to all children, parents and staff. We have been very fortunate with the weather over the holidays and everyone seems raring to go in the new session.

As you will see, as you read through this newsletter, we have made a few changes this year; this is a result of listening to feedback from parents. Mrs Gilfillan has particular responsibility for working with parents/carers and, as part of this, she will be looking for people to join focus groups.

As part of our Development Plan, we are focussing on Science as well as Outdoor Learning and we would be delighted to hear from any parent who has an interest in either of these areas.



ONLINE PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL



We are now in the position to take online payments. Please see the information at the end of this newsletter that tells you how to do this.

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.

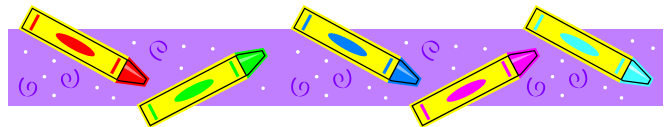
<http://edubuzz.org/blogs/King's Meadow>

COMMUNICATION



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.

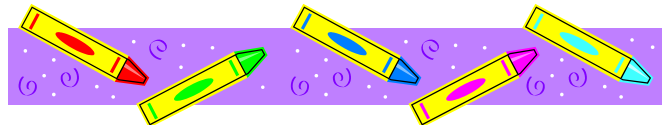
Our website is also a good source of information.



PARENT COUNCIL



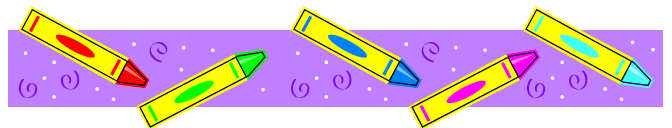
The AGM of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 9th September. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



HOLIDAY

The school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 12th September. It will re-open as normal on Tuesday 16th September.

See our website for this session's holiday dates.

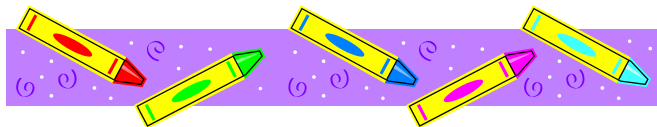


CHILDREN'S ABSENCE



Should your child be off sick please inform the school office by telephone, preferably between **8.30am** and **9.15am**. Failure to inform us of your child's absence will initiate a text/phone call to you so that we can check on your child's safety. If we are unable to contact you the absence

will then be passed to ELC's Children's Wellbeing Team. Planned absence eg holidays, should be requested as far in advance as possible, preferably two weeks before.



START OF DAY



We have noticed a few children in the playground just after 8 o'clock and we would advise parents/carers that there is no supervision 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 were not sent to school before 8.30 am.



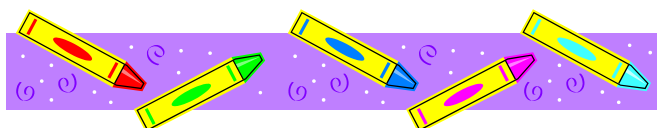
PARENT/CARERS' MEETINGS

One-to-one consultations will take place on:

- Tuesday 7th October 4-7 pm
- Wednesday 8th October 4-7 pm

A child-led evening will take place between 4 and 7pm on Tuesday 31st March. There will be the opportunity, if required, to request a one-to-one meeting following this.

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

In order to give parents/carers more opportunities to share in the life of the school, we are changing the format of our assemblies. Parent/carers are welcome to come along to their child's class assembly. We are also introducing termly Special Assemblies where parents will be invited to share in their child/ren's success.

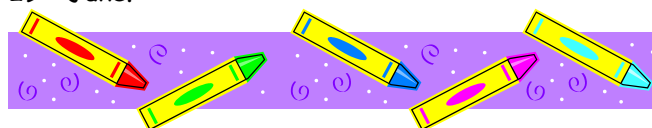
All assemblies take place at 9.00 am on Friday mornings as follows:

- 3rd October - P7A

<http://edubuzz.org/blogs/King's Meadow>

- 10th October - Special Assembly
- 14th November - P7B
- 28th November - P7C
- 19th December - Special Assembly
- 30th January - P6A
- 6th February - P6B
- 13th February - P5/6
- 27th February - P5A
- 6th March - P5B
- 20th March - P5C
- 27th March - Special Assembly
- 15th May - P4/5
- 29th May - P4A
- 12th June - P4B
- 19th June - Special Assembly

P7 will hold a leavers' event on the week beginning 29th June.



FLU IMMUNISATION

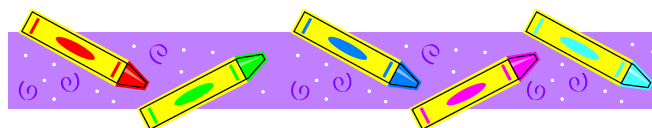


Since 1st October 2013, there has been a phased introduction of the childhood flu programme in Scotland. Building on the success of the pilot, all children in P1 to P7 will have the opportunity to be immunised against flu every year. For most children, the vaccine will be administered, by NHS staff, in the form of a nasal spray.

King's Meadow children will have the opportunity to be immunised on Monday 27th October. You will receive a consent pack before this date. You can find out more about flu and the immunisation process by visiting:

www.immunisationscotland.org.uk/childflu

We will be showing a video with more information during our October Parent/Carers' Meetings

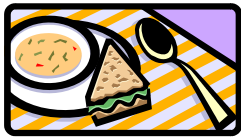


PE EQUIPMENT

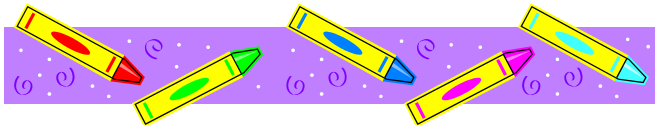


Please ensure that your child has a full kit, including gym shoes/indoor trainers, shorts and a t-shirt (this should cover your child's midriff), with them at all times. Please note: In the interests of health and safety **no jewellery should be worn on gym days.**

LUNCHES



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

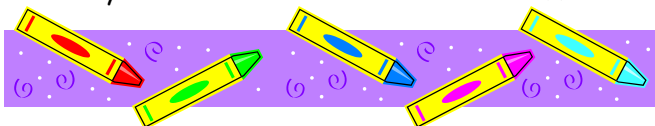


FRIDAY CLUBS



Following the October break, we will be moving from Golden Time to running mixed year group clubs that will focus on the development of skills eg cooking, computing, music, gardening, cycling etc. As always, many hands make light work and 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. The more adults we can get involved the smaller the groups can be and, hopefully, this should lead to a better experience all round.

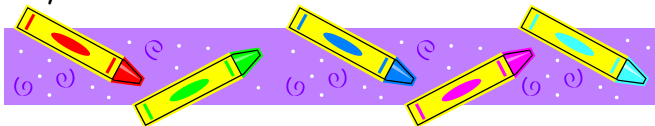
Along with the above, if you have any time that you could spare to help in class or with school outings, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact your child's teacher or the school office.



THANK YOU



We would like to say "Thank you" to Hollie, Iris, Abbie, Samantha, Kate, Emma and Elise from P7 who raised £24 for school funds by making and selling loom bands. The Apprentice here they come!



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A have enjoyed settling into their new class and getting to know each other better. They have created some excellent 'Who Am I?' poems to learn new facts about each other, as well as

producing some wonderful personal accounts and pictures about their summer holidays. We have all been thinking about our golden rules and how rewarding it is when they are followed. We even decided to come up with our own class rules to ensure we all played a role in creating a positive classroom learning environment. We all worked really hard to help plan our first topic which is all about pirates. We started discussing what we already knew before deciding what we wanted to learn. We have decided to look at the history of pirates, take part in some drama activities and create our own sea shanties. We even decided we wanted to learn about the journeys pirates took and are going to do some map work. We will also be writing our own pirate stories and poems and sharing these with others in our class. In maths, we will be looking at plotting co-ordinates on grids and using compass points and positional vocabulary. We will also look at shape and angles. We are looking forward to our swimming lessons which will take place every Wednesday until the 5th of November.



P4B have all had a lovely first week settling in to our new school, new classes and our very smart new blue jumpers! Everyone has been great at helping each other find their way around the school. A big thanks to you all for helping the children settle in and have such a positive start to the year. The children are working really hard to remember the new routines and surroundings and are all doing really well.

So far this week, we have been focusing on getting to know each other and forming our awesome P4B class. We have looked at different ways of getting to know each other through games, circle time and creating displays for our classroom. As a class we have looked at the Golden Rules of King's Meadow, children have been allocated into houses to earn house points and, in reward for our super behaviour, we all had a fabby first Golden Time playing outside together!

Over the new few weeks we are going to be exploring Scotland, what it means to us and using the Scottish parliament and referendum to explore how we listen to each other, how to choose ideas when we all come up with great ones and how to act fairly and honestly in class. Afterwards we are going to focus on friendships and the theme of getting to

know each other and our own unique skills through the film *Monsters University*. The film explores topical themes such as friendship and we will continue into the topic to look at creative writing, art and design, science and energy generation as well as creating expressions and emotions with our faces, voices and bodies in drama.



P4/5 have settled in really well and are quickly adapting to their new surroundings and routines.

This term, our main topic will be based around a "Superhero" theme and will focus mainly on Literacy, Expressive Arts and Health & Well-being outcomes. The children will develop their reading for information skills, create a variety of written texts and have fun using their imagination and creativity to express work with others in Drama and Music. The children will also be encouraged to think about personal abilities and talents and value those of others; building positive relationships with each other. P4/5 will soon realise that they are all "Superheroes!" In Art, this term, Mr Connell (Art Specialist) will also be linking his work with our Superhero topic and the children will look at Lichtenstein's work as a starting point.



P5A have had a great start to Primary 5. It's going to be a fantastic year! The children did a great job of all of the back to school activities, learned lots of new things about each other and

have settled well into their new class.

We have started thinking about our new topic 'The Ryder Cup', and the children have shared what they know already with me. There are some golf pros in the class who, I'm sure, will be able to help the rest of us out. We have created a bank of questions to answer and the class have told me they'd like to be active while they learn, which is absolutely fine with me.

Alongside the topic the children will be taking part in the First Club Golf programme; learning the basic skills of how to play the full game. We will be building up to a games session with the Golf Development Officer, Kate Green, on Thursday 2nd October.

We are in the middle of assessing the children to see where they are in literacy and numeracy so we

<http://edubuzz.org/blogs/King's Meadow>

can tailor our lessons to them. Regular homework will start to appear soon. The children have come back keen to get back into Accelerated Reader and that is up and running. We have been to the 'new-look' school library and the children have all chosen books to get them started.

We're looking forward to a busy few weeks.



P5B has made an excellent start to their Primary 5 year. They are very quickly getting used to new surroundings and routines. Our

current class novel is "Daggie Dogfoot" by Dick King-Smith, the story of a pig who wants to fly! As a result, we have been learning about Gloucester Old Spots and Muscovy ducks.

The class timetable for this term is in their journal and hopefully will give you an idea of how our day is structured.

The children are taking part in ClubGolf sessions for the next few weeks. These take place on a Thursday from 2.15 till 3.14 and are led by our PE specialist Mrs Arnold. If any parents are available to help at this time we would be very grateful. Thank you very much to the parents who have already volunteered their services - it is much appreciated.



P5C have been an absolute pleasure to get to know. We welcome Andrea, Antonia and Isabella to our school. I know that the class is having lots of fun getting to know them a little better. We have been very busy in these initial days, establishing

routines and getting back into the swing of listening carefully and studying hard! We're excited to learn all about the Ryder Cup. We have agreed on the information we want to learn, established the ways in which we'll find it and also have a few ideas up our sleeves as to good ways to share our learning with others. We are using non-fiction texts to gather information about our topic. We will work in teams to explore the history of the sport, the dress codes, equipment needed to play, the rules involved and even design our own hole. We will explore the personnel behind the hospitality, tourism and event organisation involved in the tournament. There will be virtual play and an attempt to tend our own mini green. We will share regular updates and photos in our class area on the school's website - please leave a comment, as we love to read what you think of our

progress in class. We are keeping a real focus on the curriculum for excellence outcome that concerns presentation and layout as we begin new tasks and do our best at all times. We recently started ICT with Miss Gillan and are currently enjoying Club Golf sessions with Mrs Arnold on a Wednesday morning. Our full weekly timetable can be found at the beginning of the new school diary. We have been to the school library and made personal book selections to read in class every day, working towards our Accelerated Reader quizzes. What a busy bunch we have in 5C. Well done everybody, keep up the hard work!



P5/6 have spent the first week of this term getting to know each other and making lots of new friends.

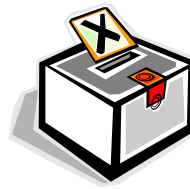
Our first topic of the year is the Scottish Parliament. We have spent time in class discussing

what we would like to find out about as part of this topic. P5/6 are interested in discovering how the parliament functions, who works there and what the parliament does. We will be forming parties, running an election campaign and holding a ballot to select our class representative for the School Parliament. We are also looking forward to visits from The Outreach Team from The Scottish Parliament (5th and 26th of September), and Iain Gray MSP (3rd of October).

In maths, we have been working in groups to complete a problem solving activity. The class were asked to design a park keeping within a budget of £5000. The groups worked well together and came up with some super designs, all within budget!

In P.E., with Mrs Arnold, the class will be playing hockey; focusing on game and technical skills. In addition to our class P.E. lessons, P5 children will be joining 5C on a Wednesday morning to learn to play Club Golf. Any parent helpers would be much appreciated.

P5/6 are beginning to learn French and have thoroughly enjoyed our first few lessons. We have been learning the months of the year, to ask when someone's birthday is and to say what month our own birthday is in. We have also created French birthday cards to give to each other throughout the year.



P6A children have settled in well and are becoming familiar with the daily routines of the class. They have been issued with their diaries and these should be coming home for you to see.

We have started our Scottish Parliament topic. The children are excited to learn about how the parliament works the election process and democracy in the UK. The Outreach Team from The Scottish Parliament are visiting school on the 5th and 26th of September, and Iain Gray MSP will visit on Friday 3rd of October. Each class will also be creating a political party, and will campaign to be elected. The leader of the winning party will become the P6A School Parliament Representative.

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.

Although there are no maths sets this year, the class will usually have four maths lessons per week. We have started with problem solving where the children have been working in groups to design a play park.

In P6, the children begin to learn French. They have begun to learn the months of the year and how to say when their birthday is. We have also started learning classroom commands.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch.



P6B have completed an All About Me exercise through which we have been finding out information about our new classmates and their interests, both in and out of school. We have discussed our

Golden Rules and our expectations of each other. Following on from this, we agreed our Class Charter which we have all signed. Please have a look if you are visiting us.

The children were fascinated to receive a letter from their new teacher introducing herself and have started planning their replies using paragraphs, adjectives and a friendly writing style. They are really keen to share their exciting adventures over the holidays! In maths, the children have worked well together to design a fun park within a budget.

Our first topic is the Scottish Parliament. Amongst other things we will be exploring, with the assistance of the Parliament Outreach team, what the Parliament does. We also want to be very well prepared with lots of interesting questions for our local MSP, Iain Gray, when he visits later in the term.



P7A are settling in to their new classroom and have already completed some art work to make the room brighter.

Everyone is busy on the first homework task of the session, our hobby talks.

This is a good way to learn about different hobbies and perhaps find something new to try! We have all had time in class to begin planning and thinking about presenting our talks.

We are starting our WW2 Home Front topic and will be giving out homework tasks which we hope will be fun as well as learning activities. We will be using the information we learn to develop our writing, particularly in adding relevant details to make our work interesting and informative.

We have had our first art lesson with Mr Connell where we looked at different styles of lettering.

Our first PE focus, with Mrs Arnold, is hockey. We will also be developing our rugby skills with Scott Marnoch, the Rugby Development Officer. It has been super to see so many of the class with full PE kit. Thank you for your support with this.

AR will be starting again soon. It has been very encouraging to see how many keen readers are in the class. Everyone seems to have a book!

Our first group of prefects has their responsibilities for the term. It will be great to have their assistance in organising activities in the school.

Everyone now has their new diary which should travel daily between home and school. Please sign these diaries weekly and add a comment about the targets if you wish.



P7B are still settling in and getting used to new routines. We are going to be starting a mini topic from Barclays Bank about various life skills and we will also be beginning our very exciting

topic of World War 2. We will be giving out various homework tasks which we hope will be fun and

<http://edubuzz.org/blogs/King's Meadow>

enjoyable. We will be continuing to develop our writing skills and taking part in some fun Kung-Fu punctuation.

We have started art, with Mr Connell, and will be working on various World War 2 creations. In PE, we will be starting hockey and looking into various positions and roles to play within a team. For the next 5 weeks we will be taking part in rugby sessions with Scott Marnoch over at Neilson Park and will look forward to the rugby festival at the end of the 5 week block in October.

Primary seven will also be given the opportunity to become a school prefect and begin their prefecting duties around the school.

We look forward to a great and exciting first month in primary 7B.



P7C has a very busy month ahead. We are starting with a mini project provided by Barclays Bank. This involves learning all about the skills that

are needed to successfully function in the workplace and include identifying personal skills and attributes that can lead to success in general. We will also be studying The World War Two Home Front. Homework tasks to compliment this topic will be organised.

The class will participate in rugby training with Scott Marnoch, the Rugby Development Officer. These sessions will take place at the Rugby Club in Neilson Park on Wednesday afternoons starting on 3rd September and will run for four weeks. The sessions will finish with a rugby festival in early October.

Our specialists until October are: Mr Connell, Art; Mrs Arnold, PE; and Ms Gillan, ICT.

ONLINE PAYMENT

We are delighted to let you know that we are now able to accept online payments through the East Lothian Council **Pay For It** webpage. We will send out information to you whenever your child is due to pay for a trip, milk money, camp money etc.

You can continue to pay using cash or cheque as usual if you prefer this. You can use the online system to pay for anything except **SCHOOL MEALS OR UNIFORM ORDERS**. We will let you know when you can do this.

HOW TO DO IT?

1. Log onto East Lothian Council's homepage at www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit.
2. Select either Primary School Payments or Primary School Milk Payments.

Online Payments

Payment For Primary School Payments

Primary School *

Item *

Student's name *

Student's class *

Parent/Guardian's name *

Contact phone number *

If the payment is for more than one student please enter the additional student names here.

Additional student

Please provide additional information to let us know what you are paying, especially if it is for more than one item or service.

Additional Information *

Important: Payments for milk must be paid separately by clicking back and selecting Primary School Milk Payments option. This cannot be added in when making a multiple payment for items against this service.

Amount * £

3. Select Kings Meadow Primary School
4. Fill in the relevant information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You must include the 'Additional Information' to let us know what you are paying for, especially if you are using the miscellaneous option. Transactions must be made before **8.00am** to meet any deadlines for payments.

Confirmation

When your payment has been completed you will be issued with a reference number. This is your record of payment; however, you can also request an email confirmation.

Paying for more than one child at the same time.

If you are making a lump sum payment for eg trips for more than one child, you can do so as long as you name all children individually in the Additional Information box. Please note: You can only make lump payments for the same categories eg trips for more than one child, you cannot mix categories.

You must use the Primary School Milk Payments section when paying for milk as this money goes directly to East Lothian Council and not the school.

Charges

If you choose to pay online using a debit card there will be no charge; however, the charge for using a credit card is 1.9%. This would mean that a payment for an item costing £10 would cost you an additional 19p if you used a credit card but nothing if you were using a debit card.