



DECEMBER 2014/JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Given the very unseasonal weather, it is hard to believe that Christmas is nearly upon us. In saying that, classes are already hard at work learning songs and creating crafts for our fayre on the 12th (see below for further information). We are looking forward to welcoming parents to a change to the usual format of school performances.



HOLIDAYS

The school closes at the usual time on Friday 19th December and re-opens, for all, at the usual time on Tuesday 6th January 2015.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

On Friday 12th December, we would like to invite you to a Christmas Fayre that we are running along with the PTA. There will be gifts galore from crafts made by the pupils, to handmade sweets, locally made soaps, jewellery, handbags and more! Come along and get your Christmas gifts all wrapped up. Enjoy a cuppa and a mince pie whilst the pupils perform festive songs and then take some time to browse the stalls when your child goes back to their class.

The PTA will be raffling Christmas Hampers at the fayre and we would be very grateful for any donations. Suggested items are: luxury pudding, Christmas cake, sweets/chocolates, mince pies, shortbread, crackers for cheese, tea/coffee,

stuffing, cranberry sauce, pickles or olives, tins, crisps, Christmas crackers, small toy. If possible items should be nut-free. **We cannot accept donations of alcohol.**

Please hand items into the school office or your child's teacher by Tuesday 9th December.

In order to ensure that there is enough room in the hall for everyone to enjoy the event, we would ask that you time your visit to match your child's performance

- P4 children will perform at 9.45
- P5 children will perform at 10.15
- P6 children will perform at 10.45
- P7 children will perform at 11.15

We look forward to seeing you on the 12th.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



On Friday 12th December, King's Meadow will be supporting Save the Children Christmas charity this year. We ask that the children wear a Christmas jumper/t-shirt to school and donate a £1 for doing so. There will be prizes for the most festive jumper/t-shirt and for originality.



CHRISTMAS PARTIES



Parties will take place on the last week of term and there will be a 50p charge to help cover costs. Please send this in a sealed envelope with the word 'party', your child's name and class

clearly marked on the front.

- P7 - Morning of Wednesday 17th
- P6 - Afternoon of Wednesday 17th
- P5 - Morning of Thursday 18th
- P4 - Afternoon of Thursday 18th



BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION ULTIMATE DODGEBALL TOURNAMENTS



During P.E, Primary 7 has been learning about different roles in sport. As part of this, they will be teaching other children in the school the exciting and energetic game of Ultimate Dodgeball.

The children will then take part in a sponsored year group event during the last week of term. For P4, P5 and P6, these events will be held at the Aubigny Sports Centre - a venue has still to be found for P7.

- P4: Monday 15th 11-12
- P5: Tuesday 16th 9-10.15
- P6: Tuesday 16th 11-12
- P7: Friday 19th 10.30-11.30 - (venue to be confirmed)

The money we raise will go towards the British Heart Foundation. This is the UK's number one heart charity. As you may be aware, coronary heart disease is the UK's single biggest killer and the BHF are leading the fight against it.

Please help us, and the BHF, by supporting your child to collect sponsorship money and, if you have any spare time, coming along to the event.

All monies should be collected and brought in to school for Friday the 16th of January.



WE WILL MISS YOU



STAFFING NEWS

It is with regret that we have to say "Good-bye" to Miss Edmunds. We would like to wish her all the best as she moves south to continue her career. We would like to thank her for all she has done to support her pupils and the school.

On a happier note, we would like to welcome Ms Laidlaw back from maternity leave. She, along with a recently interviewed preferred candidate, will take over the reins of P4B.

BOOK FAYRE



The school book fayre proved to be a great success and many thanks to all of the parent helpers who turned up that **week to make it so!**

£1600 worth of books was sold which means that, with 60% commission, we have £960 to spend on reading resources.

Well done and thank you, to all parents/carers and pupils for your support.



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. Upon return to school, your child should bring a letter explaining their absence.

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



THANK YOU



Many thanks go to two enterprising P7 pupils, Ellie and Abbey, who raised £76.50 by doing a sponsored cycle in the October break. The girls used the money they raised to buy books, in line with the Accelerated Reading programme, which will be added to the school library to be enjoyed by all pupils.



ILLNESS



We would like to make parents aware that following bouts of sickness or diarrhoea children should not return to school until **48 hours** after the last instance of sickness or diarrhoea.

Sending children back any earlier than this puts the rest of the school community at risk and can mean that children become re-infected. We really would appreciate your cooperation with this.

FRIDAY CLUBS



Our Friday Clubs are proving to be very popular with pupils and staff alike. **We would like to make another plea for help** as an extra pair of hands and eyes can make the difference between a good activity and a great activity. We would also be interested in hearing from parents who have a skill that they would like to share - we will support you. For the next block of clubs, you would only need to make a commitment to 5 x 45 minute sessions. The Meeting Room is available for parents to meet, have a coffee and a chat before or after Friday Clubs.



BBC CHILDREN IN NEED



Thank you all for your kind donations for Children in Need ☺ We all really enjoyed dressing up as superheroes and thought everyone put in an amazing effort. Well done!

We have worked hard to count all the money you donated. We sorted all the coins and recorded the information using tally marks and tables- we even made a bar graph!

We have raised an amazing total of £328.31 which we have sent off to Children in Need.

Thank you all again for your support ☺

P4/5



PROVISION OF MID MORNING MILK IN SCHOOLS



The payment of £10.26, for the period 06/01/15 to 02/04/15 is due for term two milk. Those children who paid for the first term only (20/08/14 to 19/12/14) will receive a reminder slip, this should be returned to school with the payment or confirm paid online by no later than the **12 December**.

Any children who do not already receive milk and would like to do so, please arrange for payment either by cash or cheque (made payable to East Lothian Council) or pay online at

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

www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit by the above deadline.

For children who have paid the full year, no action is necessary.



THANK YOU



P5 would like to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to all the parents and carers who supported their recent Macmillan Cancer Support fundraising event. They were overwhelmed by the amount of delicious cakes you provided and the children certainly enjoyed eating them!

In total, £120 was raised for MacMillan Cancer Support - a tremendous effort! Thank you everyone!



GIFT IDEAS



Should you be considering a present for your child's teacher, we would like to suggest that instead of buying a gift you could, for example, buy £5 worth of a classroom that would be built in Africa. Although teachers appreciate presents at Christmas we know they would be touched by receiving a present that could be used by children in Africa. If you are interested in this idea here are two links to look at -

www.oxfamunwrapped.com

www.savethechildren.org.uk/wishhot



SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Our match against Dunbar primary school was the first away match of the season. We lost 7-5 but that didn't stop us from enjoying ourselves. Mr Purvis is our coach.

Our second match was against Pinkie (a Musselburgh school). It was a lot better than the first game, we won 10-1. It was a great game. It was pretty even until we scored our first goal and started gaining confidence. David, Cameron, Ewan, Nathan and Owen scored the goals.

Our third match was even better than the second! We thrashed St. Mary's 17-0. Marcus, David, Cameron, Ewan, Keir and Matthew were the goal scorers.

Our fourth match was against Longniddry. We won 6-4 but it was a hard game. The scorers were David, Cameron and Owen.

Ewan P6



WATER BOTTLES



It is important that children have access to drinking water throughout the day, even more so if they have been doing sporting activities. We recommend that all children have a named water bottle, which they bring, filled, to school each morning. These can be topped up when required. **PLEASE NOTE:** These should only contain **drinking water**. Sipping fruit or diluting juice throughout the day can lead to tooth decay.



ROAD SAFETY

Once again, 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.

As always, 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.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Tuesday 2nd: P4 badminton festival
- Friday 5th: Last Friday Club of the term.
- Tuesday 9th: Last session of

Gamestar Mechanic

- Wednesday 10th: Christmas lunch
- Friday 12th: Christmas event
- Thursday 18th: P6 PTA cake stall
- Friday 19th: Special Assembly - invited parents/carers only.
- Friday 19th: School closes
- Tuesday 6th January 2015: School re-opens
- Thursday 8th: P6 visit to Dynamic Earth
- Friday 16th: Friday Club (1 of 5)
- Wednesday 21st: Performance of 'Lifeboat' for P7
- Friday 23rd: Friday Club (2 of 5)
- Friday 30th: P6A Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am. Friday Club (3 of 5)



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A have been working very hard over the past few weeks and are enjoying learning all about Religions around the World. They particularly enjoyed researching the Hindu festival of Diwali and making some wonderful diva lamps and Mehndi hand patterns. Based on what they had learned about Sikh worship, the children worked extremely well in groups to produce some wonderful plans of a Gurdwara temple that Sikhs could build. We are now focusing on Christianity and are looking forward to investigating the similarities and differences between world religions. In Maths, we have been focusing on data handling and division. I have been very impressed with the children's efforts to understand some tricky concepts. We are all now confident explaining the different strategies we can use when multiplying or dividing. Please take a look at the school website to see our science learning. The children have enjoyed learning all about the Earth, Sun and Moon. They responsibly carried out some fantastic experiments. We have now started making some Christmas crafts for the school fayre and are enjoying using a variety of recycled resources. Thank you all for your donations. We are also having fun practising Scottish country dances in preparation for our Christmas party. Finally, I would like to remind you that the children need to have their P.E kits in school on a Monday and Wednesday for taking part in P.E. lessons.



P4B have all been having lots of fun learning about religions from around the world. So far we have explored Hinduism by researching and doing fun activities like making Barfi sweets! We looked at how Hindus celebrate the festival of light called Diwali and researched, using books and computers, the origins and key beliefs. We then moved on to looking at Sikhism. We compared how Sikhs celebrate Diwali too. Our secondary focus for Sikhism explored the Gurdwara and how Sikhs worship. Within art, we have been looking at Buddhism and the very talented Mr Connell has been creating some impressive prayer flags with the children, which I cannot wait to display in the class. It has also come around to that time of year again when the glue and glitter comes out! To fit in with our religions around the world topic, we are exploring the religious aspects of Christmas through song and performance. The children are excited to perform their hard work to you!

In maths, we have looked at shape, position, and movement. We've enjoyed getting outside for these lessons, particularly making symmetrical patterns with things we found outside. Please see our class page on the school website for our pictures and creations!

Sadly, I have to say that I am leaving Kings Meadow Primary School to move down to London. I have had two really fun terms with Primary 4B and I wish the children every success and happiness in their future. Thank you to all the parents who have supported and helped us this year.



P4/5 have been very busy!

We all enjoyed learning about Hinduism and Diwali earlier in the term. We used clay to make diya lamps and followed a recipe to make Burfis (Diwali sweets).

In drama, we also re-enacted the story of Rama and Sita in groups using a series of frozen pictures. We are now learning about Sikhism and are using our knowledge of Sikhism to design our own gurdwaras (the Sikh holy building). Our mini homework projects are due in soon. Hopefully, the work for these is almost complete. On the week beginning the 8th of December, each child will be given a chance to share their knowledge with the class.

We have also started the preparations for the Christmas Fayre on Friday 12th December. We've

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

been practising our songs and have made a start on our Christmas crafts which you will be able to buy at the Christmas Fayre. Please keep sending in any odds and ends of wrapping paper, ribbon, sequins, buttons, Christmas baubles etc. This will help us with our Christmas crafts. We've also been practising our Scottish Country Dancing for our Christmas party. In P.E., we have been working on our central net skills, focussing especially on badminton. We are hoping to put these skills to good use at the Badminton Festival on Wednesday 3rd December



P5A have had a very busy time. Our page on the school website clearly shows this.

We spent a whole day celebrating Remembrance Day and made a beautiful class wreath to hang up.

We had great fun being mad scientists, making batteries out of fruit and vegetables as part of our Electricity topic. A huge thank you to the Knox Science department for lending us the equipment.

We have also been getting mucky planting daffodil bulbs. This is a fundraising activity organised by Marie Curie called 'Mini Pots of Care'. We are keeping our green fingers crossed that they flower next year and we can use them to raise funds for this hard working charity.

Jen, our Ranger, and June, from Amisfield Garden, came to visit us in class, and we came up with lots of exciting ideas for our John Muir Award. Look out for more information on planting, pond building and maybe even the construction of critter hotels in the near future!

We like to keep ourselves busy, so as well as all of our Outdoor Journeys, we are also working on a country comparison in class. The children chose Brazil as the country they wanted to learn about and have been looking at ways that it is both similar and different to Scotland. We have just finished creating our own Scottish Country Dances and are about to start work on choreographing a Brazilian Ceilidh. Wish us luck!

With the Christmas Fayre coming up, we have been hard at work making crafts for our stall. Unfortunately Christmas can't officially start in 5A until the White Witch is defeated in our novel, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We hope the spell starts to break soon!

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas when it does come and Santa is good to you all. 5A

have certainly been working hard to keep off the naughty list!



P5B are very busy preparing for our School Christmas Fayre. We are making things to sell on our craft stall and learning some songs to entertain you.

Our "Electricity" topic is now complete. Everyone had great fun experimenting with magnets and making circuits with bulbs, switches, batteries and crocodile clips.

Our current topic is a comparison between Scotland and Brazil. The class voted for which country they would like to find out about and Brazil came out on top. Each child has created a fact file about Brazil and we have found out about the climate. Now they are working individually or in pairs to research a Brazilian animal. They will then choose how to present their information. This can be a poster, a leaflet, a PowerPoint, a model, word processing etc.

In Art, with Mr Connell, the class are drawing and comparing Scottish thistle and the Brazilian iris. They have been working on tone and I am really looking forward to displaying the finished work.

In Maths, we have been working hard on multiplication and learning our tables. Now we are using our tables knowledge to learn about division of 2 and 3 digit numbers by 1 digit. In mental maths, we are looking at strategies to improve speed and accuracy. When we have completed division we will be moving on to look at symmetry. (MTH 2-19a: I can illustrate lines of symmetry for a range of 2D shapes and apply my understanding to create and complete symmetrical patterns and pictures.)

In AR, we have read a total of 2, 897, 498 words since September and the reading charts have proved to be a great incentive. The children will complete a STAR test during the first week in December so some ZPDs may change.

I am always happy to meet with parents to discuss any concerns. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



P5C have recently read that a White Witch has cast a spell over our room, creating an environment of constant winter but never Christmas... We hope that our journey through "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"

by C.S Lewis will see Aslan free the Christmas spirit

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

and we can't wait to see how he does it.... We do hope he's quick! While we wait for an epic battle in our reading, we continue in our quest to learn lots!

In topic, we have been carrying out independent research on various aspects of life in Tennessee - such as geographical features, important dates in history and famous people who were born there. We will link this research with direct comparisons to here in East Lothian. One of the songs we have chosen to sing at the school Christmas Fayre was written and performed by an artist from Nashville.

While the White Witch was distracted in Narnia, we sneaked a few good quality Christmas Singing rehearsals into our timetable. The music is absolutely magical and the singing beautiful. A real treat for all the P5 parents and carers whom we hope will come to see us on Friday 12th December.

In writing, we have been learning all about personal recounts. We know to write in first person, in past tense and use lots of adjectives. We started by sharing information about a special moment we have had in our lives. This week we are transferring our skills to write a descriptive piece about our memories of Christmas.

Our recycled crafts are sure to be much sought after originals. We are learning many new craft skills and learning the quality of a certain amount of patience! We hope to have them all ready for the table top sale that will accompany our choral performance on the 12th.

All that remains to say is that I hope you all have a very healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.



P5/6 have been working hard on our Earth and Space topic. We had a letter from Doctor Who asking us to work in groups to research and create a poster

about a planet from our solar system. We also spent time learning about the position and distance of each planet from the sun and built a small model using play dough and string. The class have brought in some wonderful work as part of their Earth and Space homework - well done!

In maths, we have been working on information handling and, as a final challenge, the children were asked to create and conduct a survey, present the data gathered in a graph of their choice and interpret their results. Thank you to P4 and P4/5 for answering our survey questions.

In reading, we have been looking at some of the Dr Xargles stories and decided to create our own books in the same style. We are working extremely hard to plan and make our books and are looking forward to sharing our finished work with the rest of P6. On Monday 1st December we will be having a visitor to come and talk to us about the process of making a book.

P5/6 have also been learning about Remembrance Day by making poppies, watching a special online assembly, taking part in a two minute silence and writing acrostic poems. Brooke wrote this super poem.

Please remember us we saved you
Over the hills you see the poppies
Poppies grow where we are now
Please remember
Yesterday we gave our lives for you



P6A have been very busy over the last few weeks with their topic work. The children have been enjoying "Earth and Space", and have been making amazing posters to share what they have been learning. The homework coming in has been fabulous. It's imaginative and detailed, with lots of time obviously being spent on each piece. A reminder also that the class (along with $\frac{1}{2}$ of P5/6) are going to Our Dynamic Earth on Thursday 8th of January. It will be a great day and the children will get a tour, the show dome and a workshop called "Quake, Rattle and Roll", which is all about natural hazards. This links with our topic work until Christmas, which will concentrate on the structure of the earth.

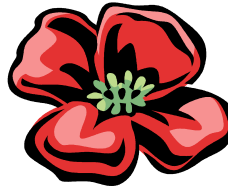
In maths, we have been learning about Information Handling. The children have been engaged in creating surveys, collecting and organising data, displaying their information and then interpreting the results. They have been producing excellent graphs and charts.

We have been taking part in Remembrance Day activities. We watched an assembly from the Tower of London and learned about the Christmas truces of WW1. In class, we wrote remembrance acrostic poems. The children's work was both mature and incredibly moving.

All of Primary 6 are learning three Christmas songs to sing at the Christmas Fayre. We are also going to have a whole day of craft on Thursday 4th December, when we will make a selection of paper based crafts to sell at the fayre.

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

I hope you all have a peaceful holiday and look forward to seeing the children back in the New Year.



P6B find it hard to believe that we have already completed 5 weeks of term 2 - time really does fly when you are having fun!

Our Earth and Space topic homework has been a great opportunity to share our learning at home; resulting in some amazing models of the solar system, creative astronaut kit bags, informative timelines, engrossing stories and detailed fact files. Thank you everyone for the superb effort put in! We are now looking forward to learning about the structure of the Earth and natural disasters and are particularly excited about our trip to Dynamic Earth in January.

We have been enjoying the benefits of groupwork across the curriculum. In maths, we worked together to create and carry out surveys before presenting our findings in a chart of our choice. In literacy, we are supporting each other to create our own books inspired by the Dr Xargle series. We definitely recommend reading the originals if you have never had the chance, as they are very funny! In music, we all loved listening to the Planet Suite composed by Gustav Holst and are currently working in groups to compose our own pieces based on what we have learned about our solar system.

We participated in a number of activities to commemorate Armistice Day. Joining other schools across the UK we watched a national remembrance assembly broadcast from the Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red memorial at the Tower of London. We also wrote acrostic poems and made our own poppies. Over the next few weeks we are looking forward to social dance, Christmas crafts and rehearsing for the Christmas Celebration amongst other things! We hope to see you all on Friday 12th December.



P7A have been writing their autobiographies with Miss McBirnie. They have created a booklet describing themselves including information such as their likes/dislikes, hobbies, family, friends and pets. They have shared some of the memorable events in their lives as well as writing about their future aspirations.

We are currently busy learning about different foods. We have discussed the distance our food has to travel from different parts of the world (food miles) and also looked at how seasonality affects the quality of our food. We have recently focussed on how culture and religion both influence the type of foods we eat. Our culinary skills were also developed by making fruit kebabs and vegetable wraps. In the last few weeks, 7A have certainly experienced lots of 'fruitful' learning!

During our weekly French lessons, we have been learning lots of new French words and phrases. The class have been practising how to describe the weather (always a popular topic in Scotland!) as well as learning the French names of fruits and common foods.

John Gray Centre

7a went on a trip to the John Gray Centre to meet a lady called Elaine from the Scottish language dictionaries.

First Elaine taught us heid, shooders, knees and taes and everyone joined in, then we played Simon says.

We learnt lots of Scottish words like: aipples (apples), bakes (thick soft biscuits), tatties (potatoes) and ingan (onion). She taught us that we borrow lots of words from all over the world but we change the meaning or pronunciation. We borrow from Latin, Gaelic and French. Elaine kindly printed out a leet (a list) with Scottish words and meanings. She gave us a leet about food and cooking, minibeasts, animals and birds and body. We learnt lots. Everyone in 7a had so much fun. Go onto their website to learn more....

www.scotsdictionaries.org.uk

Also write or draw poems including scots words and send them in. Elaine loves to get them. Take a photo and email them to... mail@scotsdictionaries.org.uk

By Holly C and Summer



P7B have started our new cooking topic. Last week we made yummy fruit kebabs and will be making lots more foods over the next few weeks. In P.E, we have started a dodge ball fundraiser for the British Heart Foundation. We have been very excited about it and will be teaching the P4s some skills. Christmas is coming fast and we are all looking forward to our last Christmas party - we hope it will be our best one yet. Speaking of Christmas, we have the Christmas

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

craft fayre coming soon; we have been learning some Christmas songs for it. In January, we will be starting a new topic which is yet to be revealed. We are having fun in 7B so far with Miss Hainey and we will be doing a lot more fun stuff after the Christmas holidays.

By Holly and Samantha



P7C have started our food topic which is part of our health project. So far we have made fruit kebabs which were delicious and good fun and we have tasted a variety of new and interesting foods. The fruit kebabs included apples, bananas, pears, satsumas, honey and yoghurt! Charlie thought "it was very refreshing and exotic!" We will also be making wraps and other healthy foods. We have been practising for our class assembly to share the mix of different subjects that we have been learning about. We have had fun creating power points and presentations for your entertainment.

By Daniel, Hugo, Findlay and Kyle

A large part of our Health topic has been learning about human reproduction and caring for babies. We have had a lot of discussion about how challenging a new baby can be and how it changes your life forever. We have started studying famous artists and have made portraits of our friends in the style of the Italian artist Modigliani. In addition, we wrote personal accounts about memories that we shared with our friends. We have been learning about mixing primary colours to create blends of colour by using chalk pastels and this has been really successful. We have just begun to look at the work of Marc Chagall.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all staff, pupils and parents a Joyful Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Seonaid McGillivray