



## FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

### KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas is behind us for another year and, as you will read, the new term is in full swing.

We look forward to welcoming more parents/carers to our assemblies, Friday Clubs, sports events and as helpers around the school.



#### CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



A huge thanks to everyone for supporting our Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. It was nice to see the children make such a huge effort with their fabulous creations! We managed to raise a total of £290. Well done!!



#### PARENT COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



#### HOLIDAY

**The school will close at the usual time on Friday 13th February and re-open for pupils at the usual time on Monday 23rd.**

#### PTA FUNDRAISING NEWS

What a busy year 2014 was! From the Festival Cafe, Halloween disco, cake sales, a quiz night and a movie with duvets there have been lots of fundraising events. All of which would not be possible without YOUR valuable support! This support has raised funds which will benefit all of the children here at King's Meadow Primary School. At the start of 2015 balance of that fund is £2082.52!

Last year, your fundraising helped to pay for many items; speakers for the school, cooking equipment, playground equipment, Christmas party food and the Christmas tree are just some of the items bought! Going forward it's the intention that the money raised from the Christmas Fair will fund the Christmas party in full next year. The Christmas Fair raised £547 for the PTA; most of which is from the hamper raffle tickets and refreshment sales. Thank you for all of the donated items.

The children's stalls were very popular at the Fair, raising a whopping £662.25! The money raised by the children goes directly back to the school. Well done children for the effort in making and selling your Christmas decorations and gifts.

If you would like to be involved in making decisions about how money raised by the PTA is spent, come along to one of our friendly meetings. You can give as much or as little time as you like; all input is welcome and appreciated. If you can't make a meeting, email suggestions or questions to:

kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting your children's fund raising events!



#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Please ensure that the school office has up to date contact telephone numbers and emergency contact details.**

## INTERNET SAFETY



It has come to our attention that a number of our pupils have Facebook accounts etc. This is despite the fact that the minimum age for this is 13. These children are posting comments and images on unlocked pages. This allows anyone to see what is on the site and puts the child at risk of cyber bullying and potential grooming. We would advise all parents to closely monitor children when using the internet whether this is via a laptop, tablet, smartphone, Xbox, Playstation etc.



## MOBILE PHONES



There is no need for children to have mobile phones in their possession during school hours. Children who require a phone for use outwith school hours should hand their mobile to either the HT or the DHT. Any child who is found to have a phone during school hours will have it removed. The school takes no responsibility for children's mobile phones.



## P7 TRANSITION EVENT

The Haddington Cluster of schools will be holding a transition event, in Knox Academy at 6.30pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, for P7 parents/carers. We would encourage all parents/carers to come along and listen to speakers from Anti-Bullying East Lothian (ABEL), Police Scotland, Community Education, as well as school, talking about ways to ensure that all pupils experience a happy and safe move from primary to secondary school.

We very much hope that all parents/carers of P7 children will be able to attend.

Further information will follow.



## INDOOR SHOES



Please remember that all children should have a pair of indoor shoes to

change into upon entering the building. These shoes can also be used for PE. For safety reasons, children should not be walking around the school in stocking soles.



## ROAD SAFETY



Since the restrictions came into place in Neilson Park Road and Victoria Road, 11 drivers have received a fixed penalty notice of £50.

If you see cars without permits using the road during restricted times please contact the police by using their non-emergency telephone number, 101.



## 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.

**Reminder:** Payments can be made online at [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit) for all school excursions/trips



## DALGUISE 2015

P7 children are looking forward to their trip to Dalguise. We will be away from the 9<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> March and parents/carers are invited to attend an information meeting regarding this residential excursion on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30pm in the drama room. Children not going to Dalguise will be taking part in a range of activities in school.

Further information regarding Dalguise will be issued in due course.



## BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION ULTIMATE DODGEBALL



Thanks to the super coaching skills of our primary seven pupils (with a bit of help from Mrs Arnold), we were able to run a very successful Ultimate Dodgeball tournament. Not only was this very enjoyable for all concerned but, it raised massive £1420 for a very deserving cause. Thank you and well done to all those who took part; your efforts are very much appreciated and will make a positive difference to the lives of others.



### 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



- Friday 6<sup>th</sup>: P6A assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>: P4 Fun in Athletics Festival - Meadowmill
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 3.30pm: Meeting for parents of P7 pupils who are going to Dalguise.
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup>: P5/6 assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup>: HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>: P7 Indian Music Workshop
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 6.30 pm: Signs of Safety event for P7 parents/carers, Knox Academy.
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup>: P5A assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.



## AROUND THE CLASSES



**P4A** have been very busy since the start of term. We have been planning our new food education topic and have decided what we want to learn. We are all keen to try and taste some new foods and learn some new skills when preparing a variety of foods. We are going to be using our interdisciplinary topic across the curriculum and have begun looking at money and weight in maths. In our writing, we plan on looking at recipes, menus, letters and adverts. During ICT, the class have been researching where different foods come from and plotting these on a map of the world.

As always, we continue to take part in P.E lessons, which are Mondays and now also a Thursday. Along with a pair of indoor shoes, please ensure your child brings an appropriate P.E kit to school.

We will be going on a number of trips very soon, including a trip to the Hirsell on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February and Meadowmill Athletics Festival on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. Please make sure the children have appropriate clothing and footwear on these occasions and a packed lunch to bring to the Hirsell. Thank you to the parents/carers who are coming along to support these events.

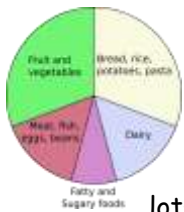


**P4B** have had a very busy start to the new term. The children have been focusing on their new food education topic. The pupils are developing their knowledge of the five main food groups; looking at different examples of food, what each group gives their bodies and where food comes from. Each pupil created a food plate, which included a variety of foods and the correct amount for a healthy and balance diet. The class moved onto looking at compact foods, focusing on the ingredients and the food groups that were covered. The next steps are preparing different types of foods and tasting foods from around the world.

In maths, the children have been working on measure. The pupils have been estimating how heavy objects are, comparing objects with weights and measuring using the correct scales. The children can write the correct units and convert between kilograms and grams. As well as work on weight, the class has taken part in a number of different activities related to money including making their own poster to display

their knowledge of pounds and pence, converting between pounds and pence and decimal points. These two areas are helping the pupils to read and write recipes and food menus.

There are a number of fun and exciting events coming up for 4B. The class will take part in a Primary 3 and 4 transition dance with Haddington Infant School on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. In P.E, the class has been working on their athletics skills for the upcoming Athletics Festival which takes place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Finally, the class is going to the Hirsell Estate on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February to look at and identify the source of ingredients and the role these play in contributing to a healthy diet. This will be a very busy week for the class.



**P4/5** has made a great start back after the Christmas holidays. We have been reading about Robert Burns, Scotland's national 'bard' or poet. We have produced beautiful posters containing lots of information about the 'Ploughman Poet.'

We have also been learning Scots poems. The teachers have been very impressed with the high level of performance. The winners will be announced soon, but we would like to congratulate everyone for putting in so much effort to learning their poems and for standing up in front of the class to perform them.

In Maths, we have been working really hard on mental subtraction. We are now moving on to looking at fractions. Keeps an eye out for fractions being used all around us. Some examples we've already thought of are: half time, half price, quarter to, quarter past,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon etc. Can you think of any more examples?

In P.E., we have been working on the skills we use in athletics; namely running, throwing and jumping. This is in preparation for the Fun in Athletics Festival at Meadowmill on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. We have also been practising Scottish Country Dancing for the transition dance with the P3s from Haddington Infants on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

This term, we have also been looking at Food Education. We have been investigating a range of foods and discussing how they contribute to a healthy diet. We have looked at the 5 main food groups and begun thinking about having a balance of

these in our diets, using the Eatwell plate as a guide. We are moving on to thinking about where our food comes from and the journey it makes from source to consumer. We will be thinking about what is available locally and discussing seasonality. We are also all looking forward to our trip to the Hirsell. We began our food prep lessons this week. We learned new skills, such as how to chop using the bridge and claw hold, and successfully made a yummy cous cous salad. We will be continuing to prepare a variety of simple healthy foods and drinks in the coming weeks. We have had the opportunity to taste different foods from around the world, giving our thoughts on them.....some we liked, others we didn't! As we proceed through our topic, we are becoming more aware of the importance of good hygiene and how cleanliness, hygiene and safety can affect our health. We carried out an experiment to see how easily germs can be passed from one hand to another and on to the surfaces that we use. It showed us how important it is to keep surfaces clean and wash our hands thoroughly using soap and warm water. We have been looking at recipes; identifying their key features, reading and following simple recipes and writing our own. We will be looking at menus and how to construct a healthy, balanced menu. In Maths, we are looking at money and measurement and linking this to our food education too.

P5 have also started a short series of lessons on Electricity. So far they have discussed what electricity is and carried out some fun experiments with static electricity. They have built simple circuits and have managed to light more than one bulb at a time. They have also started to think about the dangers of electricity and how they can keep themselves safe around electricity.



**P5A** have lots of exciting things happening over the next month.

Unfortunately we had to postpone our walk to Amisfield Garden but we have rearranged it for the morning of Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

The children will be working with June at Amisfield, planting berrying shrubs along one of the walls. Jen, our Ranger, will also be there helping us learn more about the types of birds we are hoping to attract to the garden with these plants, and maybe looking at nesting materials that the birds will need too. Anyone who would like to come with us is more

than welcome; just make sure you're prepared to get mucky!

In class, we are continuing our Scottish history topic, looking at life in New Lanark. We had fun choosing our own locations for a mill along the River Clyde and planning our own village. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at how David Dale built his village and how Robert Owen changed it. The main focus of this topic is to compare and contrast life in the past with life today, using both primary and secondary sources. The children are very excited to be going to New Lanark on Thursday 5th March. Again, anyone who would like to come with us is very welcome; however there is a small entrance fee. If you would like to come please let Miss Smith know so we can work out how much it will be and check numbers for the bus.

Looking at other areas of the curriculum, we will be moving onto division in numeracy lessons, so keep practising those tables 5A! In maths, we will still be working on problems with time but will be moving on to using timetables. We have been having lots of fun speaking in Scots and learning lots of new Scots words. The children have each chosen a poem to recite to the class and we are looking forward to the performances. In PE, the children are doing gymnastics and, going on what I've seen, the next Dan Keatings or Beth Tweddle could be in this class!



**P5B's** new topic is "Life in Scotland at the time of Mary, Queen of Scots". So far we have been learning about this period through text book, music, drama and ICT based activities.

We are continuing our work towards the John Muir Award. Currently we are learning about trees through Outdoor Learning, research and science. Our walk around the Tyne with the Countryside Ranger was really informative and the children were able to take lots of super photographs. We even saw two squirrels jumping from one tree to the next and captured the moment on film; however, we did have to return to school slightly earlier than planned due to a heavy snow shower! We will be going on another walk on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, again accompanied by the Ranger.

On January 21 two officers from the Scottish S.P.C.A visited the class to talk about wildlife in Scotland. The class really enjoyed this session and asked lots of questions!



**P5C** all returned healthy and happy after the Christmas and New Year break. Mrs Guy would like to thank you so much for the very kind and generous gifts received at Christmas, they were very much appreciated!

A full and exciting term is planned for P5C. We kicked off our Medieval Scotland topic with great enthusiasm. We have learned about the feudal system and the hierarchy involved in Scotland at that time. We are currently comparing and contrasting our lives to those who lived in past and hope to invite the other P5 classes, and our parents, to the information centre we are building within our classroom to share our learning. Meanwhile, we continue to research and undertake activities linked to our topic of Medieval Scotland. We have yet to try some tapestry, Medieval dancing and to learn about some of the major Scottish personalities from the Middle Ages.

In reading, we continue to aim for 20 minutes a day in class and the same again at home. We have chosen our author of the term and each group in the class has a Roald Dahl novel to enjoy. We are learning about his school life, family, life as an adult and the books and screen plays that he wrote. Please continue to support your child by listening to them at least once a week and discussing what has been read.

In class maths, our focus will be on the relationship between multiplication and division and the use of both skills. We will investigate patterns found in the factors and products of the tables. We welcomed Lee from the SSPCA on Wednesday and she taught us all about Scottish wildlife and the ways in which the SSPCA work towards their upkeep. She also played games with us and let us try out some of the special equipment that is used to keep native and foreign animals (sometimes smuggled into Scotland) safe from harm.

On Thursday we made our second of four outdoor journeys to the Railway Walk for our Winter Learning. Previously we made bird cakes to take with us to assist the wildlife in the coldest of months, coinciding with the RSPB big bird watch last weekend. Jen Edwards, our local Countryside Ranger, helped us identify the trees that we had adopted on our previous Autumn Walk. She also let us in on some invaluable survival information. Can P5C remember the leaves best used to make a den as they trap air



and act like mini duvets? Our Spring walk will be on the morning Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April



**P5/6** have settled back into school after the holidays and are working hard on our new topic Ancient Greece. We researched and created wonderful posters to compare the cities Athens and Sparta and are currently learning about their role in the battle of Marathon. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at the features of a news article and writing our own articles about the battle.

We have been learning about Greek myths and legends and using different reading skills to help us interpret and summarise the stories. The children have put a lot of effort into their Arachne the Spinner homework, creating posters, Power Points and mobiles. Thank you for your hard work P5/6!

In maths, we have been learning about algebra. The children have been engaged in using function machines, balancing equations, using letters and symbols to replace numbers and are beginning to solve simple equations using different methods. We have also been concentrating on setting out our written calculations correctly and neatly.

Our Random Acts of Kindness project was a great way to start the New Year. Each member of the class was provided with a rose and asked to give it to someone special and explain to that person why they had been given the flower. We then wrote about our experiences and how they made us feel. The class made kindness cards to give to pupils or teachers when they were being kind or helpful in school. Our last task was to draw a self-portrait and pass our drawing round the class for everyone to write positive comments on the back. It was a great feeling to receive our portraits back and read the kind comments others had written about us.

Our class assembly is on **Friday 13th February** from 9.00am until 9.30am. Please join us in the school hall to see what we have been learning in class.



**P6A's** trip to Dynamic Earth was a great success. The class learned about the formation of the Universe and our Earth and took part in a workshop called "Quake, Rattle and

Roll", where they investigated Natural Disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. The tour, 4D cinema and showdome were very interesting. Thanks to Mrs Gill and Mrs Cunningham for their help.

This term our topic is Ancient Greece. We will be learning about what life was like for people, who their Gods were and learning some of the Ancient Greek myths and legends.

The class assembly is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00am. Parents and carers are welcome to come and watch. The assembly is called "Greeks Got Talent", and is based on the work we have been doing in class.

Maths this term is influenced by our topic. As the ancient Greeks were famous for their love of mathematics we are studying algebra - substituting letters for numbers and balancing and solving equations.

PE with Mrs Arnold this term has a rugby focus, whilst on Fridays, with Mrs Philp, it is basketball. Please make sure that children have their PE kits in school on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Please also remember that P6A have a page on the Kings Meadow website, where you can find information about class homework. Class homework is normally given out on a Monday and is due back on Fridays.



**P6B** were very lucky to have a fantastic visit to Dynamic Earth the first week back and all thoroughly enjoyed the

exhibits, a natural disasters workshop and a dramatic film about volcanoes. Many thanks to Mr Denholm and Mrs Prentice for giving up their time to accompany us - I think they enjoyed it as much as the boys and girls!

We have begun a new topic all about Greece and are looking forward to learning about Greek gods, daily life and the ancient Olympics, amongst other things. Inspired by the famous mathematicians of that time, we have begun to tackle algebra in maths and most of the class are finding it easier than we expected! We have also designed posters to promote the learning of French in East Lothian schools as all primary ones will be doing this soon. If any of our entries are successful they will be displayed in schools and public building across East Lothian so good luck to everyone. Planning our posters reminded us just how much we have learned since August! In writing, we are becoming journalists and now understand the main

features of newspaper articles and how to use them. A further focus has been our spectacular space assembly which was planned by the children. I was very impressed by their creative ideas as well as their support and encouragement of each other. Thank you to those parents, carers and family members who came to watch it on Friday - we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

As is usual for this time of year, P6 celebrated the Scots language with an afternoon of poetry, song and haggis eating (for some!). Mrs Roberts has introduced us to the ukulele this term and everyone has been working hard at learning chords and the correct strumming action. Mrs Muir has been relishing the opportunity to learn this new instrument alongside the class.

It was lovely to see everyone return to school happy, healthy and well rested after the Christmas break. Thank you very much for the incredibly kind and generous gifts which were very much appreciated by Miss Murray. She hopes that the children enjoyed reading their novels over the holidays.

**P7A** have been very busy during January. Here is a flavour of their month:

### SPORTS

There have been a lot of sporting events in P7! There has been swimming. All of the swimmers got through to the finals, which are on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2015. The Sportshall athletic team is being formed. We are practising our events at break times. Hopefully we will do very well this year and we will try our best to win!

By Julia & Sophie

### WOODLAND WORKOUT WEDNESDAY

Every Wednesday we do woodland workout as you can tell in the name it is done in the woodland area. It is great because we can get outside and have an excuse to get dirty, though most of us have managed to stay quite clean! There are lots of activities, some work well and some don't. It all depends on the weather and the equipment we have. It has been great that so many people remember their kit and are prepared to get



involved in the activities. There are some photos on our web page.

It is great fun ☺

By Gregor and Ryan



### AFRICA

We have been making comparisons between African countries and the different ways of life there. The work we do in class is also supporting our personal research projects. These projects are due in on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February. It

has been good to see how many people have been completing pages every week and not leaving it all until the last minute!

On 4<sup>th</sup> February we are taking part in Mandela dance workshops when dance specialists will be coming in to school to lead this activity.

We are being very dramatic in class just now as we are creating dramas from African Folk Tales. We will be videoing these and evaluating our performances.

### GLOBAL WARMING POSTERS



This January we have been working on Global warming and climate change. We have been learning lots of interesting information during our ICT time.

With our information we have created climate change and global warming posters telling you how we can help and what might happen in the future.

We have also been evaluating our work asking ourselves these questions:

- ✓ Does it explain global warming?
- ✓ Does it explain climate change?
- ✓ Are there examples of what might happen in the future?
- ✓ Have we offered suggestions of what you can do to help?
- ✓ Is the poster eye catching?

By Campbell and Thomas



**P7B** have lots of exciting things to look forward to this month.

We have been working very hard and learning all about Africa. We have looked at the wildlife, the

different countries and cultures, land use and conducted a lot of research about the different languages and education in Africa. We have also made comparisons between Scotland and Africa. We have been finding out about the very interesting life of Nelson Mandela and, in a few weeks, we will be taking part in a workshop about him, which we are all looking forward to. The class is also very lucky to be taking part in an Indian music workshop and show. We have been doing a bit of performing ourselves and working hard to learn lines and make our own props for our own African plays, which we will perform in the last week before the holidays. After the February holiday, we will be beginning our new topic of Keeping Ourselves Safe, along with drug education; these are both very informative topics. We all look forward to another exciting month in P7B.



**P7C** have been learning about Africa. As part of this we are doing African masks in art and Madagascar writing. We really like this topic because there is so much to learn. We also have a big homework

task where we have to pick a country in Africa and do a lot of work on it. We have been studying the weather and climate, geography of Africa and the landscape. We have made posters on global warming and we are looking forward to learn more.

By Holly

We watched a performance of Lifeboat by the Catherine Wheels Theatre Company. This was about two totally different girls getting evacuated to Canada. Bess would love to be a movie star and going to Canada is a dream come true. But Beth isn't so sure about leaving her mum at home in Liverpool while World War Two was starting. The two girls meet on the boat but later it gets torpedoed and sinks. They were hanging on to the side of a lifeboat for twenty two hours until they were rescued. Only true friendship gets them through it. Bess married Beth's brother and the girls remained friends for the rest of their lives. A truly moving story, which we all enjoyed.

By Claire

Other things we are doing in 7C include learning to say what we like and don't like in French. In class maths, we have just finished working on problem solving and have started working on telling and reading time. In PE, we are working on gymnastics which involves exciting things like using the box and springboard and we are all thoroughly enjoying it! We are having a great new year in 7C and are looking forward to the rest of it.

By Emily