



MARCH/APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems no time at all since Christmas but here we are in March. The lighter nights, and better weather (?!), hopefully, mean that the children will be able to get out more and enjoy the fresh air. One group of children who will certainly be doing this are our P7 children who are off to Dalguise next week.



CHILD-LED PARENTS'/CARERS' MEETINGS



As notified in the September newsletter, we will be holding child-led parents'/carers' meetings between 4 and 7pm on Tuesday 31st March. Your child/ren will guide you through the work they have been doing and talk about the progress that they have made. Families have been allocated a 25 minute slot in their child/ren's classroom. Class teachers will be there to facilitate this event; however, they will not be able to talk confidentially about individuals as there will be more than one family in a class at a time. Appointments will come home with the oldest or only child in a family. You should receive your appointments with this newsletter.



EASTER HOLIDAYS



School closes, for pupils, on **Wednesday 1st April**, at the normal finishing time. The new term will begin on **Monday 20th April**, at the normal time. Please note: School will be closed for the May Day holiday on **Monday 4th May**.

MILK PAYMENTS



Payment for Term 3 School Milk will be due by the 20th March. Further information will follow.



LOST PROPERTY



We still have a number of items, ranging from shoes to jackets, in our Lost Property. The Lost Property box is located at the front of the school; please feel free to have a look.



COMIC RELIEF 2015



Red Noses will be on sale from the School Office from Monday 2 March. They cost £1.00 each.



PARENT COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Thursday 23rd April. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



KINGS MEADOW REGIONAL CHAMPIONS!

On the 26th of November last year Kings Meadow's Sportshall Athletics team took second place, qualifying them, along with Dunbar Primary, for a place in the Regional Finals at Meadowbank. Twenty six children from primary 6 and 7 attended the competition on Thursday the 26th of February.

PTA NEWS

Throughout the competition we were aware of winning two track heats and coming second in almost all of the other ones. The field events were much harder to monitor/gauge and apart from the children reporting back where they thought they might of come we had no real indication until the results at the very end.

The teams were lined up neatly to hear the results and, of course, the gentleman running the event began with tenth place. As the results came I was honestly pleased that we seemed to be near the top but was more than aware of the strength and history of some of the other teams. We normally enter the East Lothian competition every other year and it hasn't been since 2009 that we last qualified for the regionals. So when we reached third position and our team wasn't called my heart was in my mouth and the children were completely silenced! When he called second place with a total of three hundred and forty points we couldn't help but cheer. It was amazing. Our team won with three hundred and sixty four points, a clear twenty four point win! We were euphoric!

Although winning isn't everything it is a remarkable feeling to be rewarded for our efforts, especially at this level.

The children were amazing and an absolute credit to themselves, their families and the school. Well done girls and boys you have one very proud P.E teacher! King's Meadow Sportshall Athletics team 2015:

Emma, Catriona, Ella, Ellie, Iris, Cara, Hollie, Abbie, Summer, Julia, Sophie, Holly, Louise, Cameron, Nathan, David, Ewan, Samuel, Jack, Findlay, Daniel, Kirk, Euan, Lewis, Gregor, Josh.

Many thanks to Mrs Amanda Cameron, our parent helper, for all her help and support throughout, Jamie Bowie our Athletics Development Officer for taking the children for a training session and the Aubigny Sports Centre for facilitating practices, often at short notice!

Mrs Arnold



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.



P5 Movie and Duvet Night.

This was a great success last year. The children wear their onesies/pyjamas and watch a film together in the school hall. Mats are put down for them to relax on and they can bring a cuddly toy and a pillow, duvet/blanket. The event will cost £2.00 per child and will include a drink and popcorn. The date is Tuesday March 24 from 6:15 till 8:15.

Family Quiz Night

This is planned for Friday March 20. More information to follow.

Cake Stall

It is P5s turn to provide the baking this term. This will take place on Tuesday March 31 and all contributions will be gratefully received!



DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 6th March: P5B assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Week beginning 9th: Primary 7 to Dalguise. P7 activity week.
- Friday 13th: Comic Relief Day
- Friday 20th: P5C assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Thursday 26th: P7 Maths Transition, Knox
- Friday 27th: Special Assembly. Parents to attend by invitation only.
- **Tuesday 31st: Child-led Parents'/Carers' meetings.**



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A have been very busy enjoying their food education topic. They have been learning about the different food groups and what makes a balanced diet. We have also learnt about

where our food comes from and researched foods that were produced in different countries. We worked together to show these on a map of the world. Miss Grantham was very impressed with our map skills. We have been enjoying learning some food preparation skills and using the claw grip and bridge hold when chopping our fruit and vegetables. We made some delicious cous cous and some tasty smoothies. We have now begun learning about seasonal foods and how our food gets from farm to fork. Our recent trip to the Hirsel farm was an excellent start to this and we all had great fun! We are continuing to work on money and weight in our number and maths work and have been practising reading scales and working out change from items. We are enjoying athletics in P.E lessons. Please remember gym kits need to be at school on Mondays and Thursdays as well as homework diaries in school each day.



P4B had a great time on their recent visits to the Athletics Festival at Meadowmill and the Hirsel Estate. At Meadowmill, the children practised their sports skills including jumping, throwing and running. They attempted the long jump, triple jump, hurdles and even a sponge version of javelin throwing. The relay at the end brought out the children's competitive side when there was lots of cheering and incredibly fast running. The Hirsel estate was also a success and the children enjoyed seeing the crops and making oatcakes and potato soup.

We are coming to the end of our money focus in Numeracy. The children are confident in converting pounds and pence. Most recently we have been looking at how we calculate change. To reinforce this learning it would be helpful if children could be given regular opportunities at home to handle money, count coins, practise making amounts, work out change etc. In the coming weeks we are going to follow up this learning by spending some time working on subtraction.

In Science, and as part of our food topic, we have been looking at the digestive system, discovering what happens to food as it travels through our body, and the different roles the organs play in the breakdown of food and the absorption of nutrients. This term the class has benefited from the weekly music lessons with Mrs Roberts. The children are always enthusiastic and highly motivated in their

music lessons. They have been learning how to play the ukulele, singing Scottish songs including Skyscraper Wean and learning how to keep to a beat and maintain rhythm.

The children continue to set targets for themselves at the beginning of each week and evaluate these at the end of the week. They work with their shoulder partners when they do this. Please take the time to look at your child's homework diary where they record this information to encourage them to put in the effort to achieve their target.



P4/5 has been working very hard on our Food Education topic. We have been thinking about where our food comes from and the journey it makes from source to consumer. We all had a great day at the Hirsel and enjoyed finding

out about what is grown at the farm and what products these can be turned in to. We had fun making oatcakes and potato soup too. We have been learning lots of new skills and have created some super dishes so far. This week, we also got to cook on an open fire, which we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We are hoping to create a dish of our own next week to make a "hobo dinner" by placing all our ingredients in one tinfoil package and placing it in the fire to cook. We are also hoping to work with a local business to hear about what life in a professional kitchen is like and to work with their chef to improve our food prep skills and create a new dish. We have been writing recipes using the key features needed and will be asked to show that we can successfully follow a recipe to create something yummy!

In Maths, we are looking at money and measurement and linking this to our Food education. We will be looking at cost and comparing prices from different sources.

P5 will be continuing to find out about John Muir and will be taking part in a number of activities as they work towards their John Muir Award including participating in a John Muir Dance Workshop in early March. They will also be continuing to complete a series of lessons on Electricity and will be encouraged to problem solve during practical activities and experiments.

The athletics festival for P4 at Meadowmill went well. Everyone worked hard and enjoyed themselves. For the next few weeks, we are doing gymnastics in P.E. We are working on improving our jumping, balancing

and rolling skills. We will be working with a partner to put together a sequence of jumps, balances and rolls to perform to our classmates. We will also be having some rugby taster sessions this term and taking part in a rugby tournament.

In reading, we are all working on becoming 'reading detectives'. We will be learning to use the same skills (predicting, clarifying, questioning and summarising) that a real detective, like Sherlock Holmes, does every time we read a book.

In numeracy, we are continuing our work on fractions. Some of us have now met halves, quarters, tenths and fifths. Others have been learning how to compare and simplify fractions using a fraction wall.



P5A have had a great start back after the February break with our second walk to Amisfield Walled Garden. Everyone was relieved that the rain stayed away this time and,

though it was a bit chilly, we worked hard to keep warm. We worked with June Tainsh to plant different shrubs along the north wall of the garden in the hope that they will attract birds by providing shelter and food for them. Jen Edwards taught us about the different birds we would like to see in the garden then helped us make bundles of nesting materials for them. We hung them on the trees and, in no time at all, two great tits had come to investigate the new adornments. With all of this work we are all well on our way to achieving our John Muir Awards. As part of our John Muir Award, we will be taking part in dance workshops with Rhian Reynolds. We are leaving school to go across to the Aubigny Centre on Tuesday 3rd March at 9:15am if anyone would like to join us.

We are heading out again on our visit to New Lanark on Thursday 5th March. We have learned about New Lanark in 1795 when David Dale was in charge. We have looked at the living and working conditions and learned about a typical day in the life of a child at the time. The children will be using the visit to learn about the changes made when Robert Owen took over from his father-in-law. We will be out of school all day and will be back to school a little later than normal finishing time, hopefully by 3:30pm.

As well as all of these exciting excursions, we also have to fit in the 3Rs that Robert Owen had the

children drilled in! We are almost finished our group novels and will then be focussing on non-fiction texts for a few weeks. During this time the children should continue reading their AR books at home and taking quizzes. We will be deciding on a new challenge soon.

We have been using our topic to inspire our writing and are continuing to focus on personal/functional pieces. We are moving on in numeracy to look at fractions and in maths we will be looking at shape. Hopefully all of the multiplying and dividing has paid off and will help us with our fractions and we will have some fun playing with and building 3D shapes. As we get closer to the Easter break, we will be hoping to get outside for PE. The children should have both indoor and outdoor PE kit in school at all times so as to adapt to the ever changing Scottish weather.

It's going to be non-stop till the Easter holidays!



P5B have another busy few weeks ahead of us. Our topic about "Mary, Queen of Scots" is coming to an end and we are continuing our work for the John Muir Project. Recently, we have been focusing on trees and we

participated in an experiment to demonstrate the capillary action. We used celery, food colouring and water to show how trees are able to draw water from the soil. Also, we have begun our "Woodland Workouts". This programme, designed by the Forestry Commission Scotland, aims to enable children to participate in enjoyable learning experiences in outdoor environments, such as playgrounds and parks, and should help them to develop enterprising skills and attitudes as well as promote physical health and wellbeing.

We will soon be looking at a new topic on "Castles", with a particular focus on the design and technology involved. As a conclusion to this, parents and carers will be invited to join us from 3pm on Monday 23rd March to see what we have been doing.

In Literacy, we are preparing to present class talks about Scottish wildlife; learning how to use dialogue correctly in stories and continuing to work on literal and inferential questions in comprehension. We are also reading AR books for 20 minutes each day in class and I am encouraging the class to try to read their AR books at home too.

Over the past few weeks we have been learning about Time in Maths and will be moving on to MTH 2 -16a:

Having explored a range of 3-D objects and 2-D shapes, I can use mathematical language to describe their properties, and through investigation can discuss where and why different shapes are used in the environment.

In Numeracy, our current focus is Mental Arithmetic skills and strategies. We are also continuing to practise times tables to improve speed and accuracy.

Diary Dates:

John Muir project - Dance activity at the Aubigny Centre - Tuesday March 3 - 11.00 - 11.45

5B Class Assembly - Friday March 6 @ 9.00am

Rugby session - Thursday March 12, 19

Rugby festival - Thursday March 26 - all morning at Neilson Park



P5C's Medieval Scotland topic has been a smashing success and we have all enjoyed the internet research involved in finding out about the life and times of people in that period

of our country's history. We were very pleased with the great response we had from family and friends who came to our visitor's centre and shared in our learning. Thank you for coming! We were also very pleased to receive a special award for our efforts from the other children in P5 as they all enjoyed hearing our stories, watching our medieval dancing and looking at our heraldry and stained glass designs.

We are now commencing our Building Bridges technology topic. We hope to learn a great deal about the design of different kinds of bridges and transfer the skills we have in a three day finale where our construction teams will be challenged to use their new knowledge to design, build and test a miniature bridge of their own.

We continue to think about our year-long commitment to the John Muir Project by taking part in a dance workshop following a John Muir theme. This activity will take place at the Aubigny Centre on Tuesday 3rd March starting at 8:45.

In literacy, we will focus on the features of writing such as punctuation, paragraphing and general grammar skills. We move away from group novels for a time and focus on reading for information as reading homework until Easter; using the skills we acquire in class to create a fact-file on Bridges of our own. I look forward to reading these!

In class maths, our focus will be 2D and 3D shape; nets, tessellation, symmetry and area. We will be working within the context of designing, planning and building our own bridges in class. Thank you to those of you who have already responded to our plea for construction junk materials. Please keep them coming. Our class assembly will take place at 9.00 am on Friday 20th March. All parents and carers of P5C are invited to this assembly and we look forward to seeing you then.



P5/6 rounded off our topic about Ancient Greece with a very successful class assembly. The children really enjoyed sharing what they had learned with the rest of the school and their parents/carers. Thank you to all who came to watch our performance.

Our new topic will be flight, with a particular focus on technology and science. We will be learning about the four forces of flight, how things fly, the parts of an aeroplane and completing a variety of experiments and reports.

P5 will be working on their John Muir Award between February and June. They will be taking part in a John Muir Dance workshop with P5C at the Aubigny Centre on Wednesday 3rd March from 8.45 - 9.30. The children will also be visiting John Muir's Birth Place with Mr Smith on Tuesday 5th May with the P5 children from the P4/5 class. Jen Edwards one of the local rangers will also be coming to work with the P5 children in March. The children will be developing bush craft skills and learning to look after the environment.

In music, with Mrs Roberts, we have been learning to play the ukulele. We have been developing different strumming techniques and learning to play a variety of notes. The highlight was accompanying the song Count on Me by Bruno Mars.

We had a fantastic visit from the SSPCA who lead a workshop on Animal 999. We watched a short presentation, got to rescue toy animals using different pieces of equipment and had the opportunity to ask lots of questions about the role of the SSPCA.

We are continuing to work hard on reading our Accelerated Reader books. In class we are reading for 20 minutes a day and everyone should be reading for about 20 minutes at home each night. Our current class word count is **6,300,026**. Well done P5/6!



P6A worked very hard to produce an amazing Ancient Greece Assembly. Thank you to all those parents who came along to watch.

Our new topic is going to be science based and is called Flight! We will be learning about the development and history of powered flight, how and why planes can fly and even designing our own plane. We will link the topic to our literacy work by writing reports and diary entries. There is also a homework task which is due for Friday the 27th of March.

We are doing very well with Accelerated Reader. The class as a whole has read 6.4 million words and has an average of 87.7%. Keep up the good work everyone!

In PE, with Mrs Arnold, the class has started gymnastics. They will create and then perform gymnastic sequences in small groups. Well done also to the 5 children from P6A who were chosen to represent the school at the Meadowbank Athletics Championships.

Our RME focus this term is Buddhism. We will be studying Buddhist parables as part of our reading work.



P6B have recently enjoyed an afternoon of Indian music and a workshop with the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. It has made us think about

jobs we might be interested in doing in the future. We have worked together to select our next topic which is going to be air travel. We examined the learning to be achieved before the Easter holidays and came up with fun topics to help us do this before holding a vote. We are looking forward to model building, plotting journeys and gaining an appreciation of the contribution that individuals are making to scientific discovery and invention and the impact this has made on society. In literacy, we will be learning about report writing and diary entries through our topic.

Since Christmas, we have been focusing on our Accelerated Reader books and have been passing lots and lots of tests within our ZPDs. Our class word count is almost at 8 million!

In music, we are working really hard with Mrs Roberts to further progress our ukulele skills and are aiming to perfect a Bruno Mars song soon. We

also hope to work with a visiting drama specialist so we should be becoming more confident performers!



P7A are just beginning our new topics this week. We will be focusing on Drug Education, which includes finding out about drugs, tobacco and alcohol. Already we have discussed the differences between some legal and illegal drugs and the effects they have on our bodies. We have a homework task (due on Thursday, 4th March) linked to this work.

Our other topic is 'Keeping Myself Safe'. The aim of this is to develop personal safety skills to deal with difficult situations. We are introduced to different scenarios and discuss topics such as peer pressure, safe and unsafe secrets, and risky situations.

Our Africa projects have now been peer assessed and the teacher comment has been added. The standard of work is really high. Hopefully the projects will still be on display during parents' night. All children who completed the task have been given a certificate highlighting some of the good aspects of their work.

In ICT we are learning how to input information into a spreadsheet. Today we also used a simple formula to complete answers to times tables. We are also learning some useful shortcuts such as numbering boxes.

Visit from Calum Booth



Primary 7 had a visit from Hibs and Partick Thistle footballer Calum Booth. We had prepared some questions about his career and about his school life. Calum is a former pupil of King's Meadow. Our interviewers were Amelia and Verity. Our introducers were Gregor and James. We learned a lot more than we thought we would! We found out his favourite teachers, what pets he had, what teams he supported/supports, and how many goals he has scored in his whole career. It is obviously very competitive being a professional footballer and Calum also told us how important it is to work hard just in case things don't work out with football. We are very grateful for all his wonderful answers and for coming in.

By Daisy

Numeracy set



We recently had a homework task where we were finding out how maths is used in real life. We interviewed friends and family and discovered jobs that we would

not have linked to maths! For example, did you know that a martial arts instructor uses shape in his teaching? Leading on from this, Charlie introduced us to Stuart who works as a software developer with Minecraft. Stuart very kindly came in to talk to us about his job - he obviously loves maths! Stuart introduced us to quite a lot of technical language but also showed us how some of the work we have been doing (BODMAS) is relevant to his work. We did not gain any insider knowledge about future Minecraft developments, but we found it fascinating to learn about the construction on the game.

Dalguise and Activity Week

Everyone is very excited about all the activities that are planned either away at Dalguise or in school. The timetables look full with so many fun and challenging things to do. We are all looking forward to the week.



P7B have been learning about drug education and how drugs can be both good and bad in different ways. We have also been finding out about different

drugs. Recently we created leaflets about our knowledge so far about drugs.

We have just started learning about Keeping Myself Safe. We have been watching little video clips of scenarios about keeping yourself safe and how other people have dealt with dangerous situations.

We are very excited about going away on a big trip to Dalguise camp! We have been told that there are lots of fun things to do every day, as well as evening activities, such as capture the flag, the giant swing, the catwalk and much more. We will be going there for five days.

In P.E, we have just finished gymnastics which has been great fun and has improved our skills a lot. We had the access to lots of equipment including the wall bars and the horse. We also got to make up gymnastic routines in groups or partners and video some.

We are having lots of fun in primary seven! 😊

By Cara and Iris



P7C have been learning about lots of different things in class. We made global warming and climate change posters as part of our Africa topic. We have really enjoyed learning about this. We also

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

peer-assessed other people's work and we have been learning a bit more about self-editing. In maths, we have been revising time. Different groups have been learning different things. We are now doing basketball in P.E and it is very confusing but fun! We have also been discussing friendships and relationships in many different ways in circle time. We all have different opinions and think of things in different ways and we have been trying to have working relationships in class with those who we don't usually work well with to develop our life skills.

By Michaela

On 24 February we had a visit from two people who were teaching us all about Indian music and instruments. They used drums (tabla) and the classical guitar. They played a performance to the whole school with music that they had made themselves. They had written more than 50 pieces of music. They asked us questions at the end. They had toured India, Pakistan and Europe.

By Kiera

A few weeks ago, the ECO Group went on a trip with the Outdoor Education Team and visitors from Belgium and America. We went to Tynninghame Woods. In the car park, the leader chose two of the ECO group to read the map and choose a good camp area to put up the tent. Later we took a walk up to the cliffs and looked at the stunning view. We went down to the beach and played a few games and had a walk. We then had hot chocolate in the tent and went home. It was a great experience and great fun.

By Lucy

The Stationery Trolley

The Stationery Trolley so far has been very successful and has just started funding little activities around the school. Since it has been so popular, we have ordered new stock including, for the first time, Sticky-Tac! We will be starting back up on 3 March and will be running on Tuesdays and Thursdays, including during the Dalguise Trip. Our products range from 20p to £1.50. We are open to any suggestions you may have to improve the service.

By Kyle and Claire