



MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new term. The weather at the start of the term was very kind and helped to make some of our recent educational excursions more enjoyable. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for this week!

The final term of the session is always very busy and we hope that we can look forward to your support in making it a success. If you have the time, we would warmly welcome your help with Friday Clubs or assistance with class activities.



HOLIDAYS

The school will be closed to all pupils and staff on Monday 4th May. It will reopen as normal on Tuesday 5th May.

There is an in-service day on Monday 18th May, which means the school will be closed to pupils. It will reopen as normal on Tuesday 19th May.



SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDERS



It is that time of year again when we need to start thinking about School Uniform Ordering for Session 2015/16.

We will be continuing with the same ordering process as this year i.e. you can order direct with the supplier (www.eeslschools.com), which will be delivered to your preferred delivery address or you can order from the school by completing the Uniform Order Form, the order form is available on request from the office or from the school website (<http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/school-information/school-policy-on-clothinguniform>), this must be returned to school no later than **Friday 15 May**.

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

LOST PROPERTY



We are finding far too many items of clothing being left behind at the end of the day and, unfortunately, most of this is not named. Your child's clothing and personal items are their responsibility and you should encourage them to take charge of them. School staff do not have the time to look for things that have become lost. We also do not have room to store lost property and would ask that you come into look as soon as you are aware that something is missing. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL PROPERTY IS NAMED.**



JOHN BYRNE NATIONAL DRAWING COMPETITION



We are delighted to announce that Corin, in P4, was a runner up in the John Byrne National Drawing Competition.

He attended the Winners Exhibition at Paisley Museum and Art Gallery on Friday 27 March, where the work of all 33 prize winners and runners up was displayed. The exhibition was opened by John Byrne who presented the prizes and the runners up certificates.



BENMORE P7 RESIDENTIAL **30TH MAY - 3RD JUNE 2016**

Next year's Primary 7 residential excursion will be based at the Benmore Centre. Located in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Benmore is seven miles north of Dunoon. It is a not-for-profit facility operating under the umbrella of the Children and Families Department of City of Edinburgh Council.

Further Information regarding this excursion will be sent to parents and carers on Monday, 12th May. www.benmorecentre.co.uk.



SUN PROTECTION

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



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Monday 4th: HOLIDAY
- Monday 11th: P7 Leavers' photograph
- Wednesday 13th May: P3/4 transition potted sports event.
- Friday 15th May: P4/5 class assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Monday 18th: In-service day
- Friday 29th May: P4A class assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.



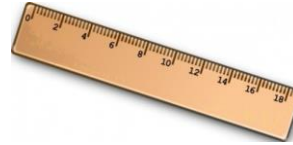
AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A have been busy since the Easter holidays learning about the Celts and Romans. The children planned what they wanted to learn before the holidays and have started looking at a timeline of when the Romans and Celts came in history. They have also begun looking at Celtic artefacts and understanding the role of an archaeologist. The children are keen to research the lifestyle of the Romans and Celts and investigate Roman inventions. We plan to include technology and art and design into our topic and are going to make

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

our own Roman mosaics. In Maths, we are focussing on time and hope to improve our confidence in telling 12 and 24 hour time. Our P.E days continue to be on Mondays and Thursdays. We are working with Mrs Arnold on a Monday and have started some fitness work with Miss Grantham on a Thursday. Please remember a P.E kit for these days. Our class assembly is on Friday the 29th of May, we look forward to seeing you then.



P4B rounded off their food education topic with a very successful Food Event. The turnout was amazing and we received very positive feedback. Thank you for taking the time to come! We really enjoyed preparing and making all the food plus helping at the event. Well done, Primary 4B!

Our new topic is Celts and Romans. We will be learning about Celtic warriors; focusing on their clothing and making a helmet, the day in the life of a Roman, converting roman numerals and the evidence left behind by the Celts and Romans - how have these cultures survived? We have already created a timeline showing when the Celts and Romans lived and, in pairs, we looked at and created a map showing the countries that the Celts and Romans inhabited.

In maths, we have finished our work on measuring length. We used rulers, metre sticks and measuring tapes to find the length and width of different objects in and around the class. We linked this to our previous knowledge on measuring; converting between centimetres and metres. We will now be focusing on information handling and fractions.

We have been concentrating on our Accelerated Reading books and have been passing lots of tests within our ZPDs. The class, as a whole, has an average of 80%, let's keep it up.



P4/5 hope you all had a lovely Easter break and that you are feeling refreshed and ready for the new term.

Last term, the children worked extremely hard and were very enthusiastic about our food education topic. They thoroughly enjoyed using the skills they had learned to prepare all of the different foods for our showcase event. Thank you so

much to so many of you for joining us and for all the positive feedback. It was a nice end to our term.

This term, our topic will be 'The Vikings!' Thinking about chronological order, we have placed important people/events in history on a timeline and learned when the Viking age was. We have already begun to think about what evidence is and how we can find out about the past. We will be using clues to try and build up a picture of who the Vikings were and how they lived their lives.

In Drama, we have read the story about the Viking god of thunder, Thor, and the Serpent of Midgard. We are working on re-telling the story in a series of 'frozen pictures.' You will be able to watch some of our drama work at our class assembly on Friday 15th May. In music, with Mrs Roberts, we have been learning the great fun song 'The Valhalla Tango'. Again, we will be performing this at our assembly.

Our writing, this term, will also link to our topic work. We will be trying to re-tell Viking stories and writing our own Viking sagas. We will be thinking about what life would be like for a Viking and using this to write our own Viking diary entries.

In P.E., we are practising our batting, rolling and fielding skills. This will help us when we come to playing games such as rounders and cricket. The p5s will also be having a block of tennis lessons in May which I'm sure they are looking forward to.

In maths, we've been brushing up on our times tables to help us with our division. Keep practising them at home too! We have been estimating and measuring length using different units of measure and will be moving on to area, perimeter and then capacity in the next couple of weeks. After this, we will be looking at time.

In reading, we are continuing with reading detectives. We have already learnt how to be 'prediction makers' and 'word finders'. We will be moving on to learning how to be 'link-makers', and 'summarisers'.

Important dates:

Tues 5th May- P5 children to visit John Muir Birthplace 9.00 - 12.15



P5A hope you all had a nice restful break. The children will certainly need all of their energy to tackle all of the exciting things we have planned for this month.

On the morning of Monday the 11th of May we will be making our spring visit to Amisfield Walled Garden. As always, anyone is welcome to join us on the walk and to do some work towards our John Muir Award in the garden.

Our John Muir Project will be coming to a close at the end of this month. We have had drama and dance workshops, and visited John Muir's Birthplace to help us learn about the famous Scot. To help us learn more about John's passion, nature, our topic for the next few weeks is going to be Ecosystems. The children have started an exciting project with Mr Connell on food chains to link in with what we are learning in class.

Mrs Arnold is also making links to John Muir in PE by doing problems solving and teamwork activities with the children. With Miss Smith, we are going to be trying our hands at racquet sports and Stuart Brown, the Tennis Development Officer, will be coming in to teach the class. For this the children will need to make sure they are prepared with outdoor kit which ranges from the usual wet weather gear to hats and sun cream at this time of the year in Scotland!

Last Autumn, the children planted daffodil bulbs as part of the Marie Curie Mini Pots of Care fundraiser. They bloomed before Easter and the class were given their plant to take home and enjoy over the holiday. Our next task is to hold a fundraising event in school to make some money for the charity. We have a few ideas so look out for the final decision coming soon.

In other areas, we will be finishing fractions and moving onto percentages in numeracy and we are looking at 2D shapes in maths. The children have a personal project to complete on an endangered species of their choice, using what we have learned about non-fiction texts. While this is the written reading homework, they have their AR books to read in school and at home.

Finally, make sure you keep an eye on our page of the website for regular updates and photographs of what we are doing.



P5B have another busy term ahead of us.

Our main focus this term is our work for the John Muir Discovery Award. As you know, we have been looking at trees and wildlife in and around the River Tyne, as well as working within the woodland area of the school grounds.

Our activities for this term include:

- The Hirsell near Coldstream- April 29
- River Dipping - with East Lothian Ranger, Jen Edwards, on May 13
- Visit to John Muir's Birthplace on May 20
- A talk from the ELC Diversity Officer, Stuart McPherson, on May 21.

In the woodland area, we will be creating minibeast habitats and planting flowers to attract bees and pollinators. We will continue to monitor some of the trees by the river. So far we have looked at the alder, elder, lime and beech.

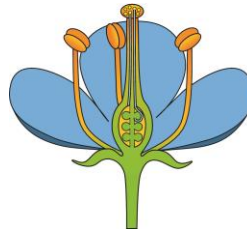
In Literacy, we are learning to take notes and write an information text in our own words. We are finding out about vertebrates and invertebrates in this way. We will also be creating leaflets/posters about an aspect of the River Tyne eg trees, birds etc. Our aim in AR is to read for 20 minutes each day in school.

We will continue to take part in Woodland Workout sessions. Parents/carers will be notified by text a few days before each one.

In Numeracy, we will continue to practise times tables, especially division and factors. We are currently looking at equivalent fractions, then we will move on to decimals. The class will be revisiting addition and subtraction up to 7 digits. In Maths, we will be learning to describe and classify angles. As part of our John Muir Award we will be collecting litter from the woodland, weighing it; using the results to create different types of graph.

This term, we will be listening to stories involving the major world religions to discover the key beliefs, moral values and significant figures in each. Mrs Arnold recently organised a netball tournament as a finale to the class' work in this area last term. The level of skill, understanding and sportsmanship was outstanding. In PE, at the moment, the children are learning about teamwork through problem solving activities and will focus on tennis later in the term.

You may remember that we studied Mary, Queen of Scots and castles last term. As a follow-up to this we will be visiting Craigmillar Castle to take part in a workshop about Queen Mary on Thursday, May 24. Finally, I would just like to pass on my sincere thanks to all parents/carers for their continued support in our activities, especially on outings. Thank you!



P5C have to be congratulated on a very successful bridges topic last term; our assembly and class design challenges were completed to a high standard - well done everybody!

Thank you for all of the support

5C received at home when completing their reading for information homework last term. The work produced in their fact files about bridges was truly magnificent and a real pleasure to read. We will return our focus to group novels in the initial 5 weeks of term; moving onto individual novel studies later.

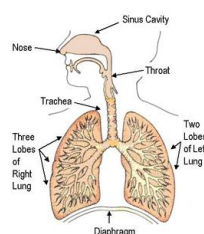
This term we are diving into a topic about diversity and classification of plant and animal ecosystems to coincide with our continued John Muir Award efforts. We have our Spring walk planned for Thursday 30th April. We had a successful trip to John Muir's birthplace this week which has inspired us to be true environmentalists this term.

Our writing focus will be linked to our topic; labelling food chains and identifying cross sections of native flowering plants. We will also have the opportunity to write a persuasive argument involving environmental issues.

In class maths, our focus will be information handling and money. We will create bar graph and pie charts to record the wildlife that we observe and budget a garden make-over.

We welcome outside expertise in tennis starting on 14th May as we approach our health topic planned for later in the term. We also hope to rearrange the rugby festival that was cancelled last term.

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



P5/6 had a fantastic trip to the Museum of Flight. We spent time on Concorde and learned lots of interesting facts about it. Then we visited the fascinating flight hut where we were able to explore the four forces of flight through different games and

activities. Our last activity was to make paper aeroplanes and take part in a competition to see which plane flew the furthest. Sam was our winner! The trip was rounded off with a visit to the adventure

playground which was enjoyed by all. A selection of photographs will be displayed on our P5/6 page of the school website.

Our new topic this term is Body Systems and this will focus particularly on Health and Wellbeing and Science outcomes. We will be learning about the skeletal, nervous, digestive, circulatory and respiratory systems. In ICT, we will create a website using Googles Apps to share our body systems research.

On the 14th of May and 18th of June we will be participating in tennis workshops with Stuart the Tennis Development Officer. Between those dates we will be developing our racquet skills in P.E by playing a variety of racquet games including tennis, badminton and table tennis.

The children are looking forward to having art this term with Mr Connell. They will be creating line drawings of skeletons which will link with our new Body Systems topic.

We are continuing to work hard on reading our Accelerated Reader books. In class we are reading for 20 minutes each day and everyone should be reading at home for 20 minutes each night. Our current class word count is nearly **8 million**. We are hoping to reach 10 million before the end of the summer term.



P6A have a very busy term ahead, although it's difficult to believe that we are into the final term of the session.

To round off our flight topic, the children enjoyed a wonderful trip to The Museum of Flight. We had our tour on Concorde, investigated all the activities in the Fantastic Flight hangar, and had a paper aeroplane competition.

The class continue to enjoy Accelerated Reader and **P6A** have read 10 million words. Well done to everyone!

Our topic for the first part of this term is Body Systems. We will be learning about 5 major systems including the respiratory and circulatory systems.

In other areas of the curriculum we will be learning about angles and bearings in maths, writing instructions, and continuing with our Buddhism work.

The class will be having music with Mrs Roberts until the end of term, and they will be learning how to play the ukulele!

Finally, the class has a visitor for the next five weeks. Her name is Mrs Jones and she is a student teacher from Edinburgh University. She will be working with me and the class and I'm sure the children will make her very welcome.



P6B have obviously had a great Easter break and it has been good to hear about all the exciting adventures that the class got up to! During the last week of term, the majority of the children really enjoyed sharing their learning and achievements in school with parents and carers. The evening was very well attended and lots of positive feedback received, so well done to the class for being such excellent leaders. We have already had a brilliant day at the National Museum Flight where the Concorde Experience and hands-on Fantastic Flight gallery were real highlights. This term we are looking forward to exploring body systems; learning more about angles, bearings and directions and creating clear instructions amongst others. On Tuesdays we will be preparing skeletons with Mr Connell and are also keen to learn more about Buddhism. Our next session of Friday Clubs begins on Friday 1st May and everyone is keen to experience a new skill. We continue to be fantastic independent readers and our class word total now stands at a huge 10,975,984 words. What a fantastic total!



P7A are all refreshed from the holidays and ready to start another term.

As you may know, we worked with

composer Alan Penman to write and record a CD. It is a lively motivational song called 'Get up and go, go, go'. At the moment this is unreleased as we are hoping to launch it and sell copies. We still need to create a cover for it. We are also trying to have it played on local radio - watch this space!

7A and **7C** are embarking on a project with Virgin Money. Virgin bank will lend each class £125 to be used for an enterprise project. This week Anita and Heather from Virgin Bank are coming in to explain how this will work. The bank will lend the classes the money and support us in planning and running an

enterprise activity. As yet the children have not decided what form this enterprise might take. We keep the profit and repay the £125 to the bank. All this will help us with.....

Sky Academy Skills Studios. We are very fortunate to have secured a learning experience with Sky Skills Academy at Livingstone. On **Monday June 1st at just after 8:00am** we will be heading to the Studios. We need to be there for 9:20am. The focus of our programme is 'Mind, Body and Sport'. We need to prepare material for our report before we go and this will be our main topic for the next month. We will be researching and compiling reports in order to have enough background material to present a news report. Once at the TV studios we will be given a tour and then work in groups with different responsibilities - studio report, on location report, eyewitness report and expert report. The children will have different responsibilities within each group such as producer, director, camera operator and presenter. It should be a very exciting opportunity. Each child involved gets a copy of the programme. It is not aired nationally! The cost of the bus is £300. It is our hope that we will have a very successful enterprise event and be able to fund this without asking parents for money! Permission forms for the visit will be issued shortly.

Primary 7 are also beginning to plan our Leavers' Show. You will receive more information about this nearer the time. The performance will be on the evening of July 1st.

It looks like a busy term!



P7B enjoyed our Easter holidays and are looking forward to our last term in primary 7. Before our holidays we did activity days - some of us went hillwalking. There was also science, problem solving and orienteering. Everyone enjoyed these activities and

had a lot of fun!

We have started learning about Buddhism; we have all learned something new about this religion. We have all made a Dharmakatra wheel and the 8 Nobel truths that come with it. We also drew Buddha symbols and learned about their meanings.

We have started our athletics with Mrs Arnold and we are all really enjoying it. We also have Meadowbank coming up so try outs are taking place and we are all very excited.

In music, we have just started learning how to play the ukulele. We have been playing along with the piano and we are having a lot of fun.

We have started our new Friday Clubs and most of us are very happy with the club we got.

We look forward to starting new topics this term and finding out about our end of primary 7 show!

Iris and Cara



P7C have a busy time ahead of them, as you will be able to read from Ellie and Tegan's report:

Drugs

P7c have been learning about drugs. We have learnt about the differences between legal and illegal drugs such as paracetamol and cocaine.

Keeping myself safe

We have also started a new topic on Keeping Ourselves Safe. We learnt about keeping secrets, including dangerous secrets and safe secrets, and knowing when to share these with someone you trust.

Dalguise

Last month primary 7 went to school camp where they took part in activities like abseiling, archery, raft building, trapeze, cat walk, quad biking, zip wire and loads more. The people who stayed behind had an activity week, which included cooking, gardening, making clay faces and painting them.

Future plans

We have borrowed money from the Virgin Money Bank to help set up a fundraiser for the buses that will take us on a trip to Sky Studios later in the term. We have also to plan our end of term concert, which should be exciting.



HADDINGTON AND LAMMERMUIR AREA PARTNERSHIP

Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership is working with Knox Academy to explore local people's attitudes to learning. We've put together a survey for people living in the Haddington and Lammermuir ward, asking for their experiences of learning at school and since they've left school.

Young people's attitude to learning can be influenced by a number of factors. Clearly teachers and other pupils have an influence, but so do the adults they spend time with outside school - family, friends, coaches, employers and other members of their local community. This survey seeks to explore how adults' experiences of education impact on the messages they pass on to young people.

Knox Academy and the Area Partnership will use the findings of the survey to will to look at the opportunities there are to help support positive approaches to learning across the whole local community.

Please help us gather as many views as possible by promoting this survey within you school community. The survey can be completed at [Share your views about learning](#) or paper copies are available from Haddington Library, Knox Academy office or the main reception at John Muir House.

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL
RESOURCES AND PEOPLE SERVICES
SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2015/16

TERM 1	Staff In-service Day 1	Monday	17	August	2015
	Staff In-service Day 2	Tuesday	18	August	2015
	Pupils Resume	Wednesday	19	August	2015
	Autumn Holiday (schools closed)	Friday	18	September	2015
	Autumn Holiday (schools closed)	Monday	21	September	2015
	All Return	Tuesday	22	September	2015
	All Break	Friday	9	October	2015
	Staff In-service Day 3	Monday	19	October	2015
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	20	October	2015
	Term Ends	Friday	18	December	2015
TERM 2	All Resume	Tuesday	5	January	2016
	All Break	Friday	12	February	2016
	Staff In-service Day 4	Monday	22	February	2016
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	23	February	2016
	All Break	Thursday	24	March	2016
	Good Friday – 25 March 2016 Easter Monday – 28 March 2016				
TERM 3	All Resume (Staff and Pupils)	Monday	11	April	2016
	May Day (Schools closed)	Monday	2	May	2016
	All Resume	Tuesday	3	May	2016
	Staff In-service Day 5 (pupils off)	Monday	23	May	2016
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	24	May	2016
	Term Ends	Friday	1	July	2016
Provisional 2016/17					
	Staff Resume	Monday	15	August	2016

Approved by Education Committee on 30 September 2014