



## JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER

### KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Once again, we are almost at the end of another session, with our P7s are looking forward to their move to high school and P3 at Haddington Infants thinking about their next step.

As always, we have had a busy session looking at ways in which to develop our practice. We have taken a closer look at science, outdoor learning and our curriculum. Through this we have raised staff awareness and/or produced policies and guidelines. Each of the developments has already had an impact in classrooms.

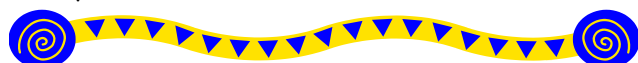
Next session, we will continue our work on curriculum by developing a progression framework. In both maths and spelling, we will be updating policies and, again, looking at progression.

The above should help to address topics raised by our recent parental questionnaire (see website for further details). In addition, we will also be introducing a further parent/carers' meeting next session.

A copy of our Standards and Quality Report and our Development Plan, which sets out our priorities for improving your child's education, are available on our website, or you may request a paper copy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents/carers who have taken the time to support the school by helping out with Friday Clubs, paired reading, sporting events, educational outings, work in class, PTA, Parent Council etc. We could not manage without you!

End of session reports will be coming home on the Friday 12th.



#### SUMMER HOLIDAYS

School closes at the usual time on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and reopens for pupils on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of August.

#### CLASSES 2015/2016

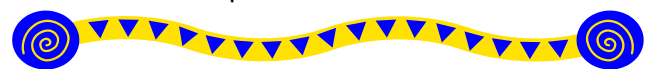


We have been allocated an additional class for next session. This means that we require to reorganise classes from P5-P7, this will be done according to age.

Class structure will be:

|     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| P4A | P4B | P4C |
| P5A | P5B | P5C |
| P6A | P6B | P6C |
| P7a | P7B | P7C |

We will be holding a 'moving up' day on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June when your child will spend the day in her/his new classroom with, hopefully, her/his teacher and classmates for next session. At this point in time, we are unable to say which teachers are allocated to specific classes.



#### STAFFING NEWS

WE WILL MISS YOU



It is with regret that we have to say "Good-bye" to a number of staff at the end of the session. Miss Grantham, Miss Hailey and Miss Murray will all be moving on to pastures new. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and the support they have given to pupils, parents and staff during their time with us. We wish them all the best.

We are delighted to announce that, following their maternity leave, Mrs Higgins and Mrs Murphy will be rejoining us at the start of the new session.



#### PTA BARBECUE



The PTA will be holding an end of term family BBQ on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June from 5.30 pm to 7.30pm. There will be a treasure hunt, crafts, tattoos and more! Flyers

with further information will be sent out soon. We would be very grateful for any offers to help, either before the event or on the night. If you are able to help please email [kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com](mailto:kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com)



### PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT SURVEY

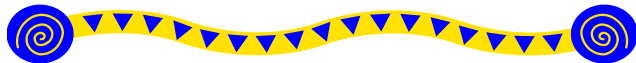
East Lothian Council wishes to gather the views of parents/carers. You can take part by going to the following:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/getinvolvedinschool>

The survey will also appear on East Lothian Council's Consultation Hub;

<https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/education/parent-survey>

and will be promoted via the Council's social media sites in order to reach as many parents/carers as possible.



### MEADOWBANK - 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015



Recently 25 children from Kings Meadow took part in an athletics competition at Meadow Bank. Some of the children gave their opinions of the day:

Gregor, P7A, said: 'On Wednesday morning I was so excited for Meadow Bank but the bad thing was that we had to be at school by 8am. We had to pick up Longniddry Primary. When we arrived at the event we started with the 150m and then the 80m sprints which I came first in.'

Louise, P7A, said: 'The atmosphere was very excitable and all the competitors and teachers were very crazy and dedicated. My event was the cricket ball throw; I came in 6<sup>th</sup> place and had a really good time. When I got back to the stands everybody was very supportive and encouraging. We had lunch really early and I loved cheering on my team mates and waving the banner.'

Summer, P7A, said: 'I got to school at 8. We were all excited. We waited for everybody to arrive. Once we were all there we got on and went to the back of the bus to leave room for Longniddry. I sat next to Sophie on the bus and we were chatting away. We got into the stand and started cheering. We seemed to wait so long and then it was my race - the relay. Abbie shot off, passed the baton to me then I started sprinting. I passed

it to Sophie who zoomed off and passed it to Hollie who got us 3<sup>rd</sup> place.'

Sophie said: 'When I got to school Mr Smith was taking the register. We were really excited. My events were the relay and I was a reserve for the long jump. I had a great time and the team was so supportive especially when I did the relay they all said that I was like a rocket! Even though it was freezing cold and I had two jumpers on and two t-shirts, I still had the time of my life!'

The team came second overall. It was a great effort. Thank you to Mrs Cameron, Mrs McKeachie, Miss Smith and Mrs Arnold for taking us and being so encouraging.



### BIG COOK, LITTLE COOK



Well done to Bethany and Ryan from P6A, who took part in the final of the Big Cook, Little Cook competition. They were ably assisted by Emily Fyffe from Preston Lodge High School. The final was held at Dunbar Grammar School and involved teams from Kings Meadow, Law, Cockenzie, Campie and Dunbar Primary Schools.

The teams were asked to make potato wedges, coleslaw, chicken nuggets and cheesecake.

The judges had a very difficult choice, as all the food was amazing, but they eventually decided the winners were the team from Cockenzie/Preston Lodge.



### HEAD LICE

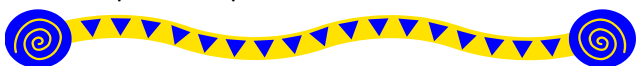


Once again, we would like to ask all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week. Parental vigilance plays a vital role in keeping the spread of this problem under control.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>: Sports Day
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup>: P4B Assembly. Parents of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup>: End of session reports come home.
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>: P7 transition day at Knox Academy and Move Up Day for P3 to P6
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>: P7 Transition Day at Knox Academy.
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup>: Special Assembly
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July: P7 Leavers' show for parents
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July: End of session.



## AROUND THE CLASSES



**P4A** have been super busy learning all about the Romans and Celts. We hope you enjoyed our assembly and could see all of our hard work. We have enjoyed getting to know about Roman and Celtic lifestyles and have applied fantastic effort in researching and sharing new facts with others. Miss Grantham is really impressed with all the project work we brought in from home. The model villas and Celtic roundhouses are great, as well as the posters, costumes weapons and recipes. In music, we have been enjoying learning how to play the ukulele and in art we have made some wonderful mosaics. We are continuing to focus on time in maths and have been completing challenges using Roman numerals in numeracy. We have decided to set ourselves a challenge in class and are going to continue developing our recall of times tables. In science, we have been investigating materials and are thoroughly enjoying hypothesising and carrying out experiments in relation to solids, liquids and gases. We are continuing to work on our book detective and comprehension skills in reading. We will continue to have P.E on Mondays and Thursdays, so don't forget to bring a full P.E kit. As we move on through the term we look forward to working on Google Apps in our ICT lessons and investigating forces.

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**P4B** have enjoyed learning about the Celts and Romans. We have looked at the life of a Celt and a Roman; their housing, food, work and entertainment as well as doing

our own Celtic writing and sums with Roman numerals. The effort put into topic homework tasks was outstanding. It was great to see the children so enthusiastic and excited about their work, clearly taking pride in their creations which included: Celtic and Roman swords and shields; 3D roundhouses; jewellery; informative books; posters; a PowerPoint; a photographic story of how to make Celtic bread; and drawn and painted pictures of artefacts and Celtic/Roman life. Well done P4B for putting in so much effort to this task.

The class have been learning their times tables and collecting bronze, silver and gold stickers for their charts. The challenge is to memorise as many of the times tables as possible before the summer. We will also be looking at division and time before the end of term.

We will have a focus on science for the second half of the term. We have started with materials and are exploring their properties by carrying out experiments to test predictions. We will finish the term looking at forces, electricity and waves.

We are looking forward to showing you what we have been learning about in topic at our assembly on the 12<sup>th</sup> June.



**P4/5** can't believe that we are now in the final term of P4/5! We have lots to do before we start to think about next year though.

We have been learning about the Vikings and seem to be enjoying finding out about what life was like in Viking

times. We started off our topic by looking at Viking artefacts. We learned that we can use clues from the past to find out about the people who have lived before us. We had to become detectives and work out what we thought each of the artefacts could have been and what they might have been used for. We had some super suggestions!

We all worked extremely hard to show you a little of the work we have been doing in our class assembly. Thank you to everyone who managed to come along- we hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did.



In Art, we have been creating some Viking raiders and we were all very pleased with how they turned out.

In Writing, we have been thinking about the Viking raid on Lindisfarne. We imagined that we were one of

the monks at the time of the attack. We all worked extremely hard to include key vocabulary and think about thoughts and feelings.

This week, we made some Viking bread and Viking apple juice to try. We put our food preparation skills in to practise again and had fun tasting. Some of us liked it a lot and some of us not so much!

In Numeracy, we are still working on division and thinking about our multiplication tables - keep practising! In Maths, we are starting to think about time. We will be looking at both analogue and digital times. It would be good if we could practise this at home too.

Next week is healthy eating week and we would encourage all the children to try hard to complete the five challenges they will be set.

P5 will be continuing with their John Muir award and will be working to try and improve our woodland area a little- starting with a litter pick!



**P5A** are going to have another busy month. In the afternoon of Monday 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs Gilfillan has organised for a local author to come and speak to us. Judy Hayman has written the 'Dragon Tale Chronicles', all about a family of dragons living in the Scottish Highlands. The children will have the opportunity to ask Judy questions and find out what it is like to be a published author, which I know a lot of the children aspire to be.

We have finished our Habitats and Ecosystems topic with a very successful challenge week and are moving onto a mini topic called 'Healthy Me'. Having looked at how plants and animals survive in the wild, we will now be focussing on ourselves. We will be investigating what we need to do to live healthy happy lives. This topic will include work in Food and Health, Physical Activity, Numeracy, Measure and Writing. Along the same theme, we are continuing to practise our tennis skills in our PE lessons, and Stuart will be back on the 18th of June to see how we have done. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the children have a Marie Curie Fundraiser to organise. They have decided to make and sell yellow smoothies to the rest of the year group. Once we have set a date, we will be putting out a plea for blenders to help us make our tasty treats!

We are hoping to visit Amisfield Garden for a final time later in the month; the date is still to be confirmed. This time we will be doing some

sketches using the skills Mr Connell has taught us in art. We will also, depending on the Scottish weather, be having a picnic lunch in the garden. The aim this time will be to enjoy the garden. Anyone who wishes to join us is more than welcome.

As you can see, there is a lot to pack in before the summer holidays and lots of fun to be had too.



**P5B** have had a very busy few weeks! Please take a look at our art work inspired by our John Muir Project and the world around us. You will find our work on [www.itisourworld.org.uk](http://www.itisourworld.org.uk). We used everything from cotton wool to leaves, which we collected. Hope you like them!

I hope you were impressed by the pizzas the children made at the Hirsell. Many of them told me that they tried the recipe at home. I will put some photos on the school website by the end of week beginning June 1.

The class had a ball on their river dipping outing. One of the class found out that his wellies had a hole in them, but enjoyed it all the same! Many thanks to the parents who helped make it possible. I hope you enjoyed it too. I have some photos of this, which should be on the school website by Friday, June 5.

Our visit to Craigmillar Castle was wonderful. The children were able to dress up as servants, courtiers or guards and were given a series of tasks to fulfil on behalf of Her Grace, Mary, Queen of Scots. They had the castle to themselves and really entered into the spirit of the drama. Her Grace was very impressed by just how much they knew about her life! Hopefully, the photos should be on the website by the end of next week.

You will probably have heard about our 'non-outing' to John Muir's Birthplace. This has now been rearranged for Wednesday, June 3.

Finally, 5B have been asked to contribute to an exhibition at the John Gray Centre. The display will include photographs we have taken on our river walks and related information texts written by the class. I will send home more information about this as soon as I can.

If anyone has any queries about what is happening in class or would like to talk something over, I am usually free from 3.30 till 4.30, Monday to Thursday. Please just give me a call if necessary.



**P5C** are about to embark on a topic, Healthy Me! During this we will touch upon many areas of the curriculum as we

investigate the finest ways to become the healthiest we can be.

In maths, we will explore decimals through measure and money: recording length as we investigate our vital statistics; are our feet really the same length as our elbows to our wrists?; weighing actual measures of processed sugar we find recorded on popular food labels; and budgeting for a healthy menu for a week from a variety of sources to find good value.

In writing, we will be looking at advertising and the impact this has on consumers and the products we choose. We will create our own adverts to promote an area of healthy living and will learn how to write a newspaper article taking a critical look at an aspect of the health industry. We will also continue to focus on transferring our spelling skills to extended writing.

Mrs Hayman, a local author, will be visiting P5 to talk about her work and read excerpts of her stories to the children on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. This ties in nicely with our reading - as each individual in the class will be requested to choose a novel within their ZPD to promote to others, using a variety of strategies, over the course of 4 weeks. Children will also have the opportunity to be leaders of their own cardio programmes over the course of the project, as they are challenged to choreograph and deliver short aerobic dance sessions to the rest of our class. Davina may have competition in the DVD market this Christmas!

Further sporting events P5 are involved in include Sports Day on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June; and a final tennis session with the development officer on Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> June. P.E lessons will continue on a Wednesday and Thursday throughout the month.

Other dates to keep in mind: New Friday Clubs begin on June 5<sup>th</sup>; P5 Reports out June 12<sup>th</sup>; and the children will experience a move up morning on June 16<sup>th</sup>.



**P5/6** have been working well on our topic, Body Systems. We have spent a week on each system and have enjoyed completing a number of experiments to learn how the body works. The digestive system experiment was a firm favourite, especially as it was messy! The class have worked

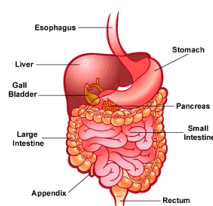
extremely hard on their body system presentations and made excellent use of Power Points and props. The presentations were interactive and encouraged audience participation throughout. Thank you for putting in so much effort!

Our next P6 topic will be health based, with a particular focus on puberty, body changes and personal hygiene. We will also be completing the Keeping Myself Safe programme which addresses key aspects of personal safety, provides opportunities for discussion and investigates appropriate responses to challenging situations. During this time P5 will continue working on their John Muir award and learn about the classification of living things.

In RME, we have been learning about Buddhism and were lucky enough to have a visit from a Buddhist Monk. Gomchen lead us through a guided meditation session then allowed us the opportunity to ask questions. We were able to share our knowledge about the Buddhist religion and learn a lot more from Gomchen.

P5 will be having a visit from the author Judy Hayman on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Judy will talk about her books the Dragon Tale Chronicles, her writing process and how her books were created. A selection of books will be available to buy on the day and are priced at £5.99.

We have been working on instructional writing focusing on the use of time connectives, writing in chronological order and using the appropriate layout. We had to help Angus the Alien make a cheese and lettuce sandwich then write a set of instructions he could take back to his home planet.



**P6A** recently gave presentations about a body system. The talks were interesting and informative and it was lovely to see the variety of ways that people chose to present their information.

Well done to everyone!

For the rest of the term, our topics are Health and Keeping Myself Safe. We will be learning about body changes, both physical and emotional, and learning about strategies to help us when dealing with situations which make us feel unsure or anxious.

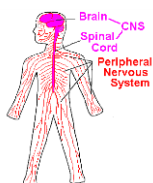
The class is going to be learning about weight and volume in maths and will be creating a class newspaper in writing.

We are hoping to have two sports festivals, one for hockey and one for rugby. The dates for these

have still to be arranged and I will let the class know as soon as I can. Sports day this year is scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June and parents/carers are welcome to come along.

Mrs Jones, our student teacher, has now completed her placement and we wish her well for her future career.

I can't believe it's nearly the summer holidays, but as always please feel free to get in touch if necessary.



**P6B** have a huge amount to be extremely proud of as we enter the final weeks of this session. Following our visit from Kelsang Gomchen we have all experienced meditation and some of us are even trying it out at home. The class has explored five body systems and have really enjoyed the innovative, detailed and professional presentations of research carried out as part of their homework tasks. We have created clear instructions for the perfect P7 pupil and will be trying our best to live up to this in August. Our work on angles, bearings and directions was approached with a positive can do attitude. In Art our skeletons are almost ready to move and we are looking forward to creating artwork all about our brains over the concluding weeks. We are becoming increasingly competitive about the length and complexity of words we can use with confidence in our daily spelling practice! Over the next few weeks we are looking forward to compiling a class newspaper to conclude our year as well as learning all about weight and volume. Finally, a massive well done to the children who represented the school at the Meadowbank athletics championship and those who took part in Big Cook, Little Cook.



**P7A** worked with a songwriter and composer called Alan Penman to create Britain's new top single 'Get up and go, go, go'. Forms have been out for ordering it and we have raised £146. The CDs are selling for £2 each. All money is going towards a fantastic trip to SKY TV studios in Livingston. There are a range of covers for the CD and they are all designed by members of 7A. We would like to say thank you to everyone who has purchased a copy.

Primary 7 have been given a challenge by Mrs McGillivray. We have been asked to run the last four Friday Clubs of this session as an enterprise activity. In groups of five or six, we have to decide what type of club we are going to offer and then use our best persuasion techniques to encourage P4, 5 and 6 to sign up for it. Each club will offer the opportunity to learn new skills. Some suggested clubs so far include hair styling, athletics, basketball and art. Each club will be assisted by an adult but run by the group.

We were hopefully all smiling when the camera clicked for the P7 year group photo. A copy of the photo will be sent to the class. We also had a photo taken by the local press as part of their P7 focus.

We have had several visitors from Knox Academy recently. We have had lessons taught by Miss Bulloch from Modern Studies and ICT taught by Mr Flood and Mr McFarlane. Miss Wilson (Guidance Staff) visited on Friday to talk about uniform and also to answer questions. Our visit days are 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June.

#### 'SCHOOL DAZE'

Auditions have been held for the speaking parts in our end of year show. The show is called 'School Daze' and we will probably all be in a daze by the night of the performance! The songs are catchy and many of us know some of the words already. We will soon be busy with rehearsals and prop making. Life in P7 is always busy! There will be a performance of 'School Daze' on the evening of Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July. Information regarding times and tickets will be shared nearer the time.



**P7B** are going to have a very exciting month because of our new topic 'Animal Rights'. We have already done so much on endangered animals and animal cruelty. We have had a lot of fun doing debates each week. We have been debating whether animal testing should be allowed and if fox hunting should be legalized; we are going to be doing two more debates related to animal rights! We are also currently taking part in an Alan Sugar enterprise activity where we are working in teams of 5 or 6 to make a lunar theme park on the moon. We have to plan and design the theme park, figure out the money we need to spend. At the end, we will do a presentation to the class to win a prize for teamwork, creativity and the best lunar theme park! We have just started learning the songs for

the end of term show and some of us have taken part in auditions for speaking parts, which was very exciting. We also have our Knox transition days this month and are looking forward to a visit to what is going to be our high school for the next 5 or 6 years. So many of us are looking forward to our end of term trip to Dunbar pool and we are going to have fun!

By Rachel and Isla in P7B



**P7C** and **7A** are buzzing with excitement because we are going to Sky Academy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June to make a TV news report. We worked very hard to raise funds to pay for two buses to get there. We

organised a school funfair on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May. We had to raise enough money to pay back a £250 loan from the Virgin Money Enterprise Project and cover the cost of the buses. And, as we said at the start of 7C's news paragraph, 7C and 7A are buzzing with excitement! This is going to be fun!

In class, we have been learning about "Keeping Myself E Safe" which involves us watching videos and discussing what happened. The video topics involve cyberbullying and social networking which we will be doing our Sky report on. It also involves safe and unsafe secrets and things to do with social networks, peer pressure and assessing risks.

In music, we have been learning to play the ukulele. We have been learning the song "Count on Me" by Bruno Mars. We have been working very hard to learn all the notes and we are now learning to sing along to the words. We are also starting work on our end-of-term concert.

By Charlie G and Samuel S



Best wishes go to Primary 7 as they move on to the next step of their educational journey.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of King's Meadow for all the hard work they have put in this year on behalf of your children and to wish pupils, parents and staff a very restful and relaxing summer holiday.

*Leonard M. McCallum*