



## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy start to the session and the next couple of months look as if they will be much the same. The children are now back into the school routine and classroom walls are beginning to bear evidence of the variety of work being covered.

You will shortly be having your first formal chance to meet with your child/ren's class teacher/s. This is a time for the two-way sharing of information. We look forward to meeting you.



### OCTOBER HOLIDAY

The school will close at the usual time on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October and re-open for pupils, as normal, on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>.



### PARENT COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**All parents/carers are welcome to attend**



### PTA



Many thanks to all the parents/carers, who supported last session's PTA events. We currently have a very healthy bank balance and all the money will be used for the benefit of our pupils. One of the ways this will be achieved will be by contributing £5.00 per child towards the cost of buses for educational excursions. This is very welcome as it should help keep down costs for parents/carers.

The children have busy designing and creating Christmas Cards for Cauliflower Cards. Orders must be returned, with payment, by Friday, October 2. Cheques should be made payable to KMPS PTA.

Our next major event will be the P4 Hallowe'en Disco on Tuesday, October 27. Further details will be sent home next week beginning October 5. Over the session each year group in the school runs a Bake Stall. Baking is provided by parents/carers and is always very popular. The first Bake Stall will be run by P7 on Thursday, October 8, at morning break. Primary 7 parents/carers will be asked to contribute baking, which will then be sold throughout the school. Cakes are priced at around 30p. We raised nearly £450 last year through the generous contributions and support of parents/carers. Hopefully, we will be equally successful this session!

The PTA meets regularly and new members are very welcome. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 3 at 6.30pm.



### FRIDAY CLUBS

We would really like to have some additional support when we start our Friday Clubs on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. This session's clubs are: Animation, Art, Board Games, Chill Zone, Digging up the Past, Drama, Embroidery, Food Preparation, French, Games Design, Invasion Games, Portrait Drawing, Nature Detectives, Paper Craft, Problem Solving, Quiz Club and Table Tennis. For our first block of clubs, you would only need to make a commitment to 7 x 45 minute sessions or you could just come along when you can. A room is available for parents to meet, have a coffee and a chat before or after Friday Clubs.



### BOOK FAIR WEEK



Our annual Book Fair will place from Monday 2nd November to Friday 6th November. All classes will be allocated a viewing time for choosing books and a purchasing time later in the week. Parents/carers should not feel obliged to make purchases but any money raised will be used to buy books to top up our sets of group novels.



### NUMERACY

As you will know from our Development Plan, we are taking another look at progression in maths. As part of this, we now pre-test children prior to grouping them, either at class or year group level, according to their needs. This means that we can more easily target learning and teaching in particular concepts to suit their needs. We are also placing a focus on mental agility and this is something we would encourage parents to support their child with at home. The following link may be useful in assisting with this:

<http://www.mathsontrack.com/About/The-Numeracy-App>



### BIKES AND SCOOTERS



Children who bring bikes or scooters to school do so at their own risk. We would encourage children to secure them to the bike shelter with a padlock and make sure that they take them home at the end of the day.



### LUNCH MONEY



Please ensure that your child has the correct money to pay for their school lunch. We have seen an increase in the number of children who either have no money or not enough to pay for their meal. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to make arrangements to ensure that their child has something to eat at lunch time.

### 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 2nd October: P7B Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup>: Special Assembly - invited parents only.
- 9<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> inclusive: HOLIDAY
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>: Friday Club (1 of 7)
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup>: Friday Club (2 of 7)
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November: Friday Club ( 3 of 7)
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>: Whole school flu vaccination
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup>: P7C Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am. Friday Club (4 of 7)
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup>: Friday Club (5 of 7)
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup>: P6A Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am. Friday Club (6 of 7)



### AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A enjoyed our superhero topic and have produced some excellent work. We are very keen to share some of our personal writing with you about a superhero we know. We are now looking forward to our new topic of the Longest Reigning Monarch. We plan to investigate the life of the queen through carrying out some research online. We are going to use the information we learn to write a congratulatory notelet to the queen and even write an imagined personal response about what we would do if we were king or queen for the day. In numeracy and maths, we have finished our place value topic and are moving on to addition and subtraction. We plan to use mental maths, number games, practical activities and written work to develop our understanding and skills.

Please continue to use the Mathletics website if you wish to practice number work at home. We have enjoyed using this in class to reinforce our understanding of some concepts. We are continuing to read our group novels in class with Miss Grantham each week and have begun using book detectives to help develop our knowledge and understanding of what we read. We all enjoyed completing the illustrator task in class based on our class novel and are looking forward to completing some of the book detective's jobs as part of our homework. We are continuing to enjoy music each week with Mrs Roberts where we have been taking part in singing games and rhymes and playing melodies on glockenspiels and xylophones. We are developing our ability to use musical and graphical notation to play simple melodies. Our rugby tasters have been very enjoyable and then we are looking forward to the rugby festival which will take place on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of October from 9.45-12.00. Please put a note in your child's diary if you are available to come along and help out.



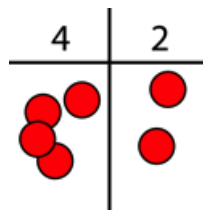
**P4B** are looking forward to starting our new topic about Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch. The topic will focus on developing knowledge and skills in Literacy, Social Studies and ICT. The children will work in groups to research and create a poster about a chosen aspect of the Queen's life. We will also write a congratulatory letter to the Queen and complete an imaginative piece about a day in the life of a king or queen.

In Numeracy, we have now finished learning about place value and are going to be moving on to addition and subtraction. We will be using both mental and written strategies and enjoy learning through a variety of games, teacher led activities and completing written calculations. If you would like to work on your mental maths skills at home you can play Mathletics live as much as you like, in addition to your allocated Mathletics homework tasks.

We are enjoying our group novels and are beginning to use book detectives to develop our understanding of what we are reading. Over the next few weeks the children will be asked to complete a book detective task each week as part of their reading homework.

In our weekly music lesson with Mrs Roberts we have been learning to play simple melodies on glockenspiels and xylophones using a form of musical and graphic notation. P4 have also been participating in fun singing warm ups, games and rhymes.

Our first rugby taster session at Neilson Park was a great success and we are looking forward to our next sessions on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October. P4 will take part in a rugby festival at Neilson park on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 9.45 - 12.00. P4B would like to thank all the parents who gave up their time to come and help at the rugby sessions.



**P4C** have impressed me greatly with how quickly they have settled into new surroundings and routines - it has been a real pleasure to get to know the individuals in my care. It is also heartening to see the fantastic

efforts being made across reading, spelling and maths homework. Thank you to all involved in the support you are giving us.

Our class has recently been teaming up with the other P4s to rehearse our assembly songs and we are raising the roof each Friday with our enthusiastic and confident singing. We will get the chance to invite you to share an assembly with us in the Spring.

P4C have been busily designing and completing Christmas cards for ordering soon. Every card is of very high quality and will be a "must have" on your shopping list for Christmas, I'm sure!

Our comprehension, writing and cursive handwriting tasks continue to build momentum as more of us achieve improved results. It is great to see so much enthusiasm and success in literacy! We have just completed 'Mr Stink', written by David Walliams, as our class novel. This was a very popular story and I look forward to finding out what the class votes in as our next good read.

In numeracy, we have just completed our place value revisit and are about to jump head first into a super addition and subtraction topic. We will be firming our knowledge and speeding up recall of number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 and solving problems using formal written and mental calculations.

We took part in our first rugby taster session last week. Tom was very impressed with the skills and enthusiasm we presented on a bit of a Scottish

'murky' afternoon. Thank you to Mrs MacDonald for volunteering her time to accompany us, you are very much appreciated!

If any parents of P4C have any available time in the week to volunteer in class there are always rich and rewarding ways you can support the work we do, including; playing maths games, supporting reading or writing tasks. You would be made very welcome. Please let me know through our home-school diary if you can help.

In the coming weeks our topic will be The Queen and her record breaking reign as monarch. The class will have an opportunity to share what they already know about the Royal Family and ask questions which, when answers are explored, will broaden our understanding of such a fascinating historically significant subject.



**P5A** have had a busy start to the school year. We have had great fun learning the different aspects of orienteering and have spent a huge amount of time outside in the school grounds.

Our new inter-disciplinary topic is going to be Space and Time, incorporating earth science, measuring time and imaginative writing. This is topical as a British astronaut, Tim Peake, is going to be leaving us for a 6 month stay in space at the end of the year. We will be looking at all of his preparations in the lead up to his big adventure and writing about some imaginary adventures of our own.

In PE, we will still have Mrs Arnold and Miss Smith making up our 2 hours a week and we will be focussing on target games. We will also be doing dance where we will be deconstructing popular Scottish Country Dances before putting the pieces together in our own way to create our own dances to share with others.

We are swapping from art to music on a Tuesday and will have the benefit of Mrs Roberts' expertise.

The 16-20 of November is Anti-bullying week and we will be taking time that week to focus on Health and Wellbeing outcomes. We will look at different forms of bullying, how we can help and support those involved and how we can build more positive relationships.



**P5B** have been extremely busy this term. We have enjoyed our orienteering topic, which has required us to use our navigational skills using maps and compass points. We have also been learning directions, grid reference and coordinates in maths which have helped us to locate from point to point. In numeracy, we are extending our knowledge of place value, addition and subtraction. We have been running a mile around the school pitch, three times a week. We have been timing ourselves using stopwatches and trying to beat our personal times. It's a good idea to bring a water bottle into school as these can be taken outside. A lot of our learning has been based on our class novel, James and the Giant Peach. In ICT, we researched information about the book and author and created a PowerPoint. We extended our knowledge by writing a biography on Roald Dahl. We are currently working on fact files about one of the insects from the story. Roald Dahl Day was a great success and it was fantastic to see so many children dressed up as characters from Roald Dahls' stories. There were some very imaginative and creative costumes. Thank you to everyone that dressed up. Well done to Lucy, who is our class rep on the School Parliament, and Orla who is our Eco rep. Homework is due on a Thursday. Let's keep up the great work!



**P5C** has been very busy over the last few weeks. In PE, we have been learning about invasion games and our focus is now turning to the game of netball. We are learning about the positions and where and how each player is allowed to move.

In numeracy, our focus has been place value and whole number. In maths, we have learned about compass points and giving directions using degrees and turns CW and CCW - our ICT work has linked well to this by using the Crystal ICT package. The class has been developing their orienteering skills and we will be moving on to using maps and following routes in the playground.

Our Roald Dahl Day was a great success and thanks to everyone who made such a fantastic effort with their costumes! The children have been writing biographies

about Roald Dahl and creating fact files about the insects in James and the Giant Peach.

Homework has usually been coming home on Mondays and due on Thursdays. Thank you for helping your child to complete and return this.

For the next while we plan to continue with our whole number work, our orienteering and our work around James and the Giant Peach.

A wee reminder about water bottles - Please make sure your child has one in school every day, thank you.

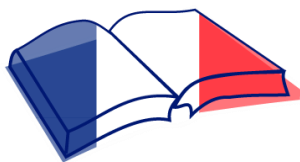


**P6A** are very busy at the moment preparing our case for the Mock Court Project. The class has been split into two groups - Pursuers and Defenders. The Pursuers have prepared and sent a writ to Bruntsfield Primary; the Defenders have replied to the writ sent by Newtongrange Primary. We still have a lot of work to do in preparation for our visit to Edinburgh Sheriff Court in November. More details of this will be sent out after the October holiday.

In spelling, we are currently working on one pattern each week. The class is introduced to the pattern and definitions on a Monday, when homework is also given out. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the children participate in a mixture of written and active tasks. Finally, on a Friday, they have a spelling test or a dictation exercise.

Our RME topic after the October break will be Hinduism, with a focus on the festival of Diwali, which takes place between November 11 and 15 this year.

Our next topic in Maths/Numeracy will be looking at simple equations. I am aware that some children in 6A have already spent some time on this outcome as part of their project about Ancient Greece. Therefore, I will be taking account of this in my planning.



**P6B** has had a busy start to the year. They have been learning to speak French and as well as doing l'appel (register) every day, they have also covered greetings, simple instructions, colours, numbers 1-20 and parts of the

body. They have been learning a few French songs and have thoroughly enjoyed using their new linguistic skills in some class games such as 'La salade des fruits', 'Plus grand ou plus petit?' and 'Loto'.

Our science topic has allowed the class to conduct fun and interesting experiments with sound and with light and colour. They have then used their notes and knowledge to write up their experiments in writing class.

The class is now fully involved in our new interdisciplinary learning topic - 'School Mock Court Case Project'. We have recently enjoyed our Speciality Day where the children were provided with lots of background knowledge from guest speakers from Police Scotland, as well as a telecoms company, gown makers, Scottish courts and solicitors.

Our class spelling is going well. Active spelling is done daily in class before the spelling test on a Friday. Spelling homework is given out on a Monday and consists of writing out each spelling word 3 times and then writing 5 context or definition sentences. I would ask that you check your child's spelling homework (which is due in on a Thursday) and sign it.



**P6C** are now well and truly immersed in the Mock Court Case project. Our class has been divided into pursuers and defenders and so far the pursuers have had to submit their 'initial writ' and the defenders have lodged their 'defences'. We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to The National Gallery to take part in the Mock Court Case's Speciality Day. Here the children learned more about the case and about the different roles in the trial process. We heard from Shana Mohammed (Scott Moncrieff) who spoke to us about VAT; Tony Miller (Highnet Mobiles) who spoke to us about mobile phone contracts; Stuart Robertson (Ede and Ravenscroft) who showed us some lawyers' gowns; and Lady Dorrian (Scottish Courts) who spoke to us about the trial process itself. The children will now have a better understanding of the case and the different roles involved in the trial process. We will now allocate each child a role (e.g. lawyer, gown-maker, journalist etc) and the children will start to work in small teams on their particular role in the trial process. We are all very excited about our visit to the Sheriff Court in November. More details will follow soon.

In numeracy, we have been working on whole number. We will be moving on to look at simple equations next. In maths, we have been doing some real life problem solving. We have been learning to use the terms profit and loss and working out how to make the most amount of profit at a fundraising event.

In reading, we have been working our way through our group novels. We have been using our reading detective skills to deepen our understanding of the novels.

In P.E., we have been learning about sports education through hockey. The class has been training and playing in teams. The teams will also get to play against teams in other classes.

We have been extending our French vocabulary by learning how to count to 10 and say our age. We have also been learning the days of the week.

It's been a busy first term in P6 and I'm sure the children will be ready for the October break when it comes.



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P6D are now underway with our very exciting Mock Court Project. Having received an Initial Writ from St George's School for Girls and serving one on Forthview Primary we will be preparing our case, evidence, witnesses and gowns

so that we are ready to appear before a real Sheriff at Edinburgh Sheriff Court in November.

In numeracy, we have been working very hard to improve our knowledge and skills of whole number. Place value, addition, subtraction and rounding are just a selection of the areas we have covered. In October, we plan to tackle algebra and are keen to get to grips with new terminology and ways of working.

Our daily spelling sessions have been paying off with lots of us maintaining a 100% record in our weekly tests this term. P6D can't decide whether they prefer wordsearches, hangman or Kim's Game as enjoyable and active ways to learn spelling patterns and how to use them.

In literacy, we have been experimenting with a variety of techniques to engage our readers. Perhaps the most creative session we had was using alliteration to create a new Peppa Pig character. Chucky Chicken, Maddie Mouse and Frank Frog all joined us!

P7A would like to thank everyone for being so supportive with our WW2 homework tasks. It has been fabulous to see the range of activities that have been undertaken. We have so many talented bakers in 7A and have been fortunate to sample many recipes from war time cooking - carrot cookies, eggless chocolate cake and gruel to name a few.

We have been using our knowledge of life at the 'Home Front' to inform our imaginative writing. We have written character biographies and evacuee letters detailing what life would have been like in WW2.



*Savannah: When you left me at the train station I was terrified. The noise of the huge trains passing was frightening and the smell of smoke was really strong and disgusting. I couldn't even see you to wave goodbye, it was too packed.*

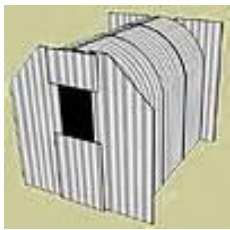
*Ella: It was such a shambles when we arrived at our destination. Everyone was pushing and shoving but eventually it calmed down when everyone was off the train.*

*Kirsty: When at last we were all on the platform the Billeting Officer came out of a little door. He was a big, burly man with a thick smart moustache covering his upper lip which was cracked and red from being chewed. I was suddenly standing straight and not saying a word. He didn't say a word either, just led us to a cosy hall.*

*Ryan: We had to sit on uncomfortable wooden benches. I was a bit scared but my brother comforted me. The billeting officer was a tall man with a loud voice. We stayed there until someone picked us. We were one of the last ones.*



Our assembly was all about life at the Home Front. Everyone worked really well together developing ideas for this - powerpoints, drama, dance and even a fashion show. It was hard work but lots of fun. Thank you to all parents who came along to watch.



**P7B** have been working extremely hard since the start of term and have enjoyed finding out lots of information about WWII. We have been amazed at the amount of effort the children have put into their

homework tasks and would like to thank you for your help with this. We have had some super propaganda posters and acrostic poems, some very detailed models of Anderson shelters and have been lucky enough to enjoy tasting many food treats, such as shortbread, eggless cakes and cookies☺ P7B have certainly shown their creative side through this task. Well done, everyone!

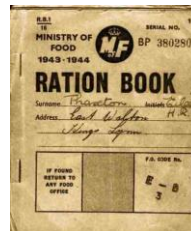
As our topic comes to a conclusion, we will be visiting the John Gray Centre on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> October to take part in their WWII themed interactive workshop.

We have begun to think about what it means to have a Growth Mindset and this is something we will be learning more about as the year progresses. For the moment, we have created a positive quotation to inspire the class- "If you don't believe, you won't achieve!" This was suggested by Rachel and was voted the class favourite. I'm sure you will agree it is very fitting to the attitude we want to see in 7B from everyone.

We were lucky to have a visit from professional rugby players Damien Hoyland and Murdo McAndrew who answered many questions about their careers. Hopefully, the visit helped inspire 7B to pursue their own interests in sport.

We will be taking part in rugby taster sessions on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Please send a suitable outdoor PE kit in to school on these days.

We are also developing our French vocabulary and will be encouraging the children to give and follow basic instructions in French. We hope to see the children showing increased confidence in using previously learned vocabulary so any support you can give at home would be great.



**P7C** have made a great start to the year. We have nearly reached the end of our World War 2 topic and the children have recently been enjoying researching an aspect of their own choice. They have researched a range of subjects

including the Holocaust, weaponry, rationing, evacuation and school. They worked in pairs to produce a display of their knowledge and then presented this to the rest of the class. We have also been looking in more detail at evacuation and the children are in the middle of writing a letter from an evacuee. To help us look at the subject of evacuation we have been reading the novel 'Carrie's War' in class. When we return to school after the October break we will attending a workshop at the John Gray Centre about spies in WW2. This will take place on **Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of October**. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children for the hard work and effort that they put into their WW2 homework tasks. Thank you, also, to the adults at home who supported them to produce some excellent work.

Our next topic will be linked to WW2 and is titled "Conflict". We will be looking at how conflict is affecting the world we live in today.

In maths, we recently finished a block of learning and teaching on whole number. The children have now been regrouped and will be learning about coordinates and negative numbers over the next few weeks.

Next week some of the children in 7C will be representing the school at a hockey tournament. They have been working hard to develop their hockey skills with Mrs Arnold in P.E. and at lunchtimes. Well done to those who have been selected for our school team.