



## MARCH/APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

### KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are almost a quarter of the way through the year. Time flies when you are busy!

It was good to see so many parents/carers at our January meetings and we are looking forward to welcoming you again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (see below).



#### CHILD-LED PARENTS'/CARERS' MEETINGS



The next opportunity for parents/carers to share in their child/ren's achievements takes place between 4 and 7pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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, in due course, with the oldest or only child in a family.



#### EASTER HOLIDAYS



School closes, for pupils, on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**, at the normal finishing time. The new term will begin on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April**, at the normal time.

Please note: School will be closed for the **May Day holiday on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**.

#### FRIDAY CLUBS

We will be starting a new round of clubs on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, and these will run for 6 weeks. If you are available to help we would be delighted to see you. The Tutorial Room is available for parents to meet, have a coffee and a chat before or after Friday Clubs.



#### PE AND SPORT



I have been very busy this term, not just teaching but also preparing teams for a number of sporting events. 2016 began with children from P5 to 7 taking part in the

East Lothian swimming gala at the Mercat Gate Sports Centre, Prestonpans. Our pupils did very well with the team coming 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. The P6 girls relay team took first position and the P7 girls, comprised mainly of P6 girls, took third position. Stella Stewart from 5A came third in the P6 freestyle, Robyn Cameron and Emma Guy came first in their event and Emma McGavigan and Callum Donohoe both picked up a 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

There was also the East Lothian Badminton Quich tournament in January and again the team consisted of boys and girls from P5 upwards. The standard of play was extremely high and this proved to be an enjoyable evening.

The P7 football team also performed amazingly well in the John Home Cup where they came second. They drew in first place and a decision was taken to take a count back and they lost out due to goal difference.

Throughout February boys and girls from P6 and 7 were training hard for the Regional Sportshall Athletics final.



We took a squad of twenty four children to Meadowbank on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> and the team finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of the nine Lothian schools who attended. We had many successes, notably the boys' relay team who came second. As always behaviour and sportsmanship was exceptional and the children were a delight to be with.

This week children from Primary 7 will compete in the East Lothian Schools Basketball tournament at Meadowmill and they too have been working hard in PE and a basketball afterschool club.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March six boys and girls will attend the East Lothian Schools Cross Country competition at John Muir Country Park. This is the first time the event will be held at the country park and I know competition will be fierce!

A huge thanks to Mrs Cameron for her ongoing support with swimming and athletics and Mrs Liddle for her support with badminton.

Wishing all children the very best in future competitions!

Mrs Arnold



### PARENT COUNCIL

In a change to the usual arrangements, the next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at

**9.45am on Friday 13th May.** All parents/carers are welcome to attend.



### HEAD LICE

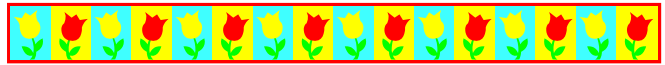
We would like to ask all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week. Parental vigilance plays a vital



The best way to keep us off your head is to have a 'brown-up check' you often.

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role in keeping the spread of this problem under control.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March: P5B assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup>: P5C assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>: P5 Movie and Duvet Night
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup>: Sport Relief Day
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup>: Special Assembly. Parents to attend by invitation only.
- **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>: Child-led Parents'/Carers' meetings.**
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>: Last day of term.



### AROUND THE CLASSES



**P4A** enjoyed our recent topic and have now begun working very hard on our new one - 'The Vikings'. We plan to incorporate our topic across the curriculum and have already begun

by looking at a timeline of the Vikings. We would also like to investigate Viking life and compare this to life in Scotland today. In our writing, we plan to write Viking poems and stories and create our very own Viking myth or legend. We are also going to investigate Viking travel and, hopefully, design and create our own model Viking long ships. In our maths lessons, we are focussing on position and movement and will develop our use of movement vocabulary to record routes and journeys. We are going to tie this in with our ICT lessons and use programming software (SCRATCH) to create our own maze games. In our expressive arts lessons, we plan to design and create our own Viking jewellery and take part in drama activities around the Vikings. In P.E, Mrs Arnold will continue to teach us on a Monday and Wednesday. This term she will be teaching us gymnastics. Swimming continues on a Wednesday for some of the class whilst the others do some P.E with Miss Grantham. Please remember to bring your P.E kit to school each week. A key date for your diary is Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March - Primary 4 will be taking

part in an Athletics festival. It would be helpful if your child could come to school in their outdoor P.E kit on that date.



**P4B's** interdisciplinary topic for the remainder of this term will be the Vikings. We will form Viking clans and learn about life as a Viking, both at home and at sea. As part of this topic, we will be learning through Expressive Arts, Technology, Maths and Writing. We are looking forward to sharing what we have learned with you at the Child Led Parent Consultations on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Our work in Maths will focus on position and movement. We will be learning to describe, follow and record routes and journeys using signs, words and angles associated with direction and turning. Our final challenge in Maths will be to use the skills we have developed to create a Viking map and describe the journey the Vikings took from Scandinavia to Britain.

In ICT, we are going to be developing our programming skills using Scratch. We will design and create our own interactive maze game using directional language, sound and images. 4B will then play and peer assess the completed games using two stars and a wish.

On **Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> March**, we will participate in the P3/4 Transition Dance. Primary 3 children from HIS will be visiting KMPS in the afternoon to learn and perform a variety of traditional Scottish dances.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March**, Primary 4 will be taking part in the Sportshall Athletics Festival at the Aubigny Sports Centre. Please could 4B come to school wearing a PE kit, school jumper and have appropriate indoor shoes.



**P4C's** Adapting to the Cold topic has been a smashing success and we have all enjoyed the research involved in finding out about the animals, plants and people who live in extreme cold. What a great response too, to our reading research homework. An incredibly high standard of poster, leaflet and power-point presentations were enjoyed and peer assessed at the end of the topic. Well done, everybody!

We look forward to welcoming family to share in our learning at the end of our next very exciting topic about Vikings. We hope to have models, stories, drama and much more to share with you on the child led parents' evening on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. In the lead up to this event we are going to be very busy!

Our topic investigations will enable us to compare Viking life to that of our own. Looking closely at the reasons why they travelled from their home lands, how they travelled, what their homes were like and how their communities functioned; such as jobs, crafts, recreation and religion.

We will approach our learning about Vikings across many areas of the curriculum. In literacy, we will write about Viking Gods and Goddesses to improve our cursive handwriting. In writing, we will look at writers' craft, finding out about the content and structure of Sagas before having a go at writing our own. We have a fantastic class novel called 'Saving the Unicorn's Horn' by Julia Edwards - its vivid text will undoubtedly raise our awareness of Viking day to day life.

In expressive arts, we will use role play and a variety of drama techniques to follow the story of Bjorni and Astrid in 'Grim Gruesome Viking Villain - The Cursed Sword' by Rosalind Kerven. We will put ourselves into the shoes of these brave Viking children to solve problems and complete quests. Our art will reflect Viking crafts as we look at the delicate designs used on their coins, jewellery, weapons and shields.

Our maths will also have a Viking flavour as we look at compass points, direction and angles. This will be closely linked to our technologies work where we will be challenged to use the information we have learned to create models of long houses and long ships. We will also be using a programme on the computers called 'Scratch' to create our very own Viking treasure Quest games.

We really cannot wait to get our teeth into this fantastic project and look forward to sharing our learning with you at the end of March.



**P5A** have a lot to fit in between now and the Easter holidays.

We have picked The Scottish Wars of Independence as our Scottish History topic and we will be learning all about the people, the places and the battles of this time. Our writing is linked to the topic and we will be going into role as a person from medieval times to write a recount. We will also be

acting out and trying to script some scenes involving two famous characters from the time - William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. We are hoping to go on a visit to Stirling Castle at the end of the topic to see where a lot of the fighting took place.

We had a very successful walk to Amisfield Walled garden before the February break and met June Tainsh who told us lots about the history of the garden. June is going to come into school over the next few weeks to help us plan what we are going to do to achieve our John Muir Award. On the 1st of March the Dance Development Officer will be coming in to do our John Muir Dance Workshop and on the 28th of April we will be visiting John Muir's Birthplace in Dunbar to learn more about him. After Easter our topic will be Classification of Living Things. This will link nicely with our John Muir project as we will be looking at types of plants and animals and food chains and food webs.

Our Golf Development Officer is going to set up games for us to play in mid-April when we can apply all of the skills we have been learning with Mrs Arnold. In PE, with Miss Smith, we have been testing our fitness. Having good speed, stamina, strength and suppleness is tough, but we are going to be trying to improve in all areas over the next few weeks.



**P5B** have enjoyed studying the life and legacy of John Muir. The class is still working on achieving the John Muir award. There are three more visits planned to the River Tyne - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Monday

21st March and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June. We will be looking for parent helpers, please let the school office know if you are available to help.

The Forth Fisheries Trust have delivered the trout eggs and the class are doing extremely well looking after them. Other classes around the school have taken an interest and have been visiting the trout. The tank should be around 10-15 degrees therefore frozen bottles of water are replaced daily to help retain this temperature. The trout will not be released until the Easter holidays.

The class will be sharing their knowledge of John Muir and their progress towards achieving the John Muir award at our class assembly. This will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Parents and carers are welcome to join us at 9.00am and we would be delighted to see you there.

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The class chose William Wallace for our Scottish history topic. We will be researching and finding out about his life and displaying our information in a class museum for the Child Led Parents' night. We are also planning an excursion to discover more interesting facts about him.

The class is continuing to work on the three swings in golf. They are developing their skills for a mini golf game on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April. The class is also working on measuring and building their fitness in P.E. The children are taking part in a number of different activities; recording then comparing their results. They are competing against themselves.

In maths, we are starting to work on fractions, fractions of a quantity, equivalent fractions and fractions on a number line. In numeracy, we are working on written methods of multiplication and division.



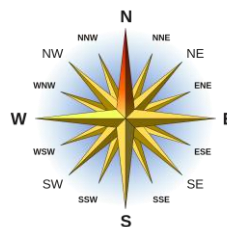
**P5C** will be continuing their work towards their John Muir Awards over the coming months. This includes another railway walk on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of March. We need adults to come along so please get in touch if you can

help. After the Easter break, the topic will be classification. They will be learning to identify flowering and non-flowering plants and animals, as well as learning about food webs and chains.

This block the class chose Mary Queen of Scots as their Scottish History topic. We will be learning about her life and we will be creating a museum in the class to show our work. The class assembly on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March will be all about Mary Queen of Scots and parents and carers are welcome to come along.

The class has been building up their golf skills in preparation for playing a game with the golf development officer in April. In PE, with Mrs Arnold the class will be measuring and improving their fitness.

In numeracy, the groups will be learning the written methods for multiplying and dividing. In maths our focus will be fractions.



**P6A** will be going hill-walking on Tuesday April 12. This will be led by Mrs C Reid (P6C's teacher) and staff from Outdoor Education. They will be spending the day in the Lammermuir Hills and a letter about this will be sent home before the Easter

holidays. To prepare for hillwalking, our new topic is called "The Great Outdoors". The outcomes we will be looking at will cover Maths, Health and Well Being and Social Studies.

In our class Maths, as well as working on tables recall, multiplication and division through mental maths and written activities, we will be finding out about compass points and the size of the angles between them. We will look at position using clockwise, anticlockwise, direction and degrees. Some children will also be working on 3 figure bearings to extend their knowledge.

Our spelling continues on a weekly basis. Forthcoming patterns are: plurals, double letters, -ful, ph, are, ure, and ie. These words will cover the period from now till the week beginning April 25.

The class has been participating in Rugby Tasters and will be attending a P6 Rugby Festival on Wednesday, March 16 from 10.00 till 12 noon. This will take place at Neilson Park and parents/carers are welcome to come along.

Please let me know if you would like any more information about our work in class or if you would like to meet to discuss anything.



**P6B** have an exciting few months ahead! Their health and wellbeing learning includes: Conscience Alley, the art of being mindful, outdoor rugby taster sessions with a specialist, culminating with a rugby festival, as well as our daily mile and our new Fruity Friday Smoothie stall. The whole class supported our first stall prior to the February holidays and in 15 minutes we sold an incredible 117 smoothies! Our health and wellbeing learning will also include a trip to Lammerlaw as part of our interdisciplinary learning topic-The Great Outdoors. Through this we will learn to assess and manage risk, keep ourselves and others safe and how to respond in a range of emergency situations.

In music, the class will continue with their singing and guitar until the Easter holidays, after which, they will spend time with our art specialist Mr Connell.

Our French learning will cover everyday foods and treats as well as 'les magasins'. Following on from the children's fantastic French assembly, we will start to work on short role-plays.

In literacy we will continue with our focus on a minimum of 20 minutes reading per day with regular <http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

AR quizzes to show our understanding. P6B has responded well to Mr Smith's request for more AR effort and our 100% Club Hall of Fame is groaning under the weight of names of those children who are getting full marks in the quizzes. Bravo! As well as Accelerated Reading, the children will be reading their group novel. Set reading, as well as a homework task based on the novel, will be given every week, in addition to spelling and either topic or maths homework.

In maths, we will be looking to extend our knowledge of angles by looking at points of the compass and 3 figure bearings, which will help equip us for our outdoor learning experience in the Lammermuirs. Our numeracy learning will cover the use of percentages and the links between fractions and decimals. I'm sure you'll agree it will be a busy but exciting period.



**P6C** are just beginning our new topic The Great Outdoors looking at maps of the world, Scotland, East Lothian and Haddington. We are learning about the features of Scotland's landscape and how these are formed. We will be hill walking at the end of the topic to use the skills we've learnt across all areas.

Linking into this, in art, the children are working on landscapes.

In language, we are listening to and reading the stories of Beatrix Potter and in writing the children are creating characters and stories inspired by her work. We will also be looking at creative dance based on these Beatrix Potter style characters.

In maths, we are learning about compass points and directions which will ultimately help us on our hill walk. The maths groups are working on percentages, decimals and fractions and how these are linked together.

In French, the class are working on numbers to 100, the weather and colours.

In P.E., the children have been working on athletics and trying different activities. They are continuing to work on their rugby skills in preparation for the rugby festival in March with Tom.



**P6D** have now embarked on a Great Outdoors topic which leads up to a day hillwalking in the Lammermuir Hills with Mrs Reid on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. In class maths, we are building on our

angles work to learn about compass points and directions which we will put to good use during our hill walk. We will be further developing skills and knowledge learned last year as part of the John Muir Award to carry out our own risk assessments. In art, with Mr Connell, the children are working on a drawing of East Lothian landscapes.

In numeracy groups, we are working on percentages, decimals and fractions and the relationship between all three. In literacy, we have begun to bring together ideas for our books in the style of Beatrix Potter. We have enjoyed revisiting familiar stories and discovering some new tales.

In PE, we have moved onto athletics with Mrs Arnold after a rewarding sequence of gymnastics lessons. In preparation for the March tag rugby festival we have been working with the Haddington Development officer Tom.

#### **P7A news**



#### **SKY TV**

We had a fabulous visit to SKY TV in Livingstone and enjoyed lots of new experiences as you can see

from Erin and Ella's report.

#### Preparation and Research

*To prepare, we all worked as a team to produce a script, we also rehearsed on and off the camera to practise and we watched last year's video to help us understand what it would look like.*

*Our topic was 'The Rubbish Equation'. To research we used a computer/laptop to find out information. We were given key questions to find out certain information about different areas such as food waste/recycling and household rubbish. To learn our roles we practised what we were going to say and where we would be (on location/in the studio). We planned scripts to support us talking about what we would **recommend doing** to help and also what we **do** to help.*

#### On the day

*We had an early start- we had to be here by 8:15am for the bus. Once there we watched a video at the start - the video was a promotional video about how SKY works. When we were in the studios we finalised our scripts in our groups and typed them up on an iPad/autocue. Next we got to work. We chose*

*a background for the 'green screen'. We filmed our reports more than once until we were happy with the results. At break time, we got our snack and sat down at a table and watched some cartoons (if you wanted). At lunch we did the same.*

#### Opinion

*We thought the trip was amazing we learnt so much about SKY TV. The studio looked so cool - it had amazing lighting and effects. The tour was really good but we think they could have shown us some more and given us some more facts about SKY TV. The cinema room was so cool and interesting. The whole day was an amazing experience.*

Currently, we are increasing our knowledge of Scotland as we are assisting with an investigation. This may take a few weeks depending on what we are asked to do!

Our focus in Maths at the moment is money. We are particularly looking at money problems, adding bills, best buys and some work on profit and loss.

After the Spring holiday we are going to be working with Virgin Money. Virgin Money will lend us (P7) £250 which we can use to fund an enterprise activity. Once we have organised our activity and (hopefully) made a profit, we repay the £250 to Virgin and as a year group decide how we want to spend the profit in a way that will support the school.

We will also be beginning a block of work on 'Keeping Myself Safe'. This will include 'Keeping Myself E safe'. We hope to continue with our outdoor PE on Wednesdays though we will be changing to a different activity. Please remind your child to bring outdoor PE clothing on a Wednesday!



**P7B** thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the SKY Skills Studio in Livingstone. We were amazed at the huge operation that takes place there and enjoyed being shown around and finding out a little more about it.

The children worked extremely hard on their news report, with each group taking responsibility for a different section- reporting from the studio, being "on location", talking to an eye witness or member of the public and interviewing an expert.

Those children who were not in front of the camera had very important roles too - Producer, Director, Camera operator and Editor.

Each group displayed super teamwork and cooperation throughout. We hope that you enjoyed watching their News Report at home ☺

This term, we are currently familiarising ourselves with the map of Scotland as we have been asked to help with an investigation. We have currently identified the main towns and cities in the country, where the main airports, hospitals and ferry ports are and looked for famous landmarks and at geographical features of the landscape. What we cover next will depend on where the investigation takes us and what we are asked to do.

In Maths, this term our focus will be money. We will be looking at bank cards, credit (and working out APR), solving problems involving budgeting, working out basic profit and loss and discounts. After the spring holiday, we will be working alongside Virgin Bank who will give us £250 as an initial sum to plan, organise and run an enterprise event. This will be paid back and we will decide how to spend any profit made.

In PE, this term we are looking at developing our skills in basketball. We have already had some successful mini games and a tournament which we all enjoyed being a part of ☺

After Easter, we will be working through the "Keeping Myself Safe" programme and also looking at how to ensure that we are "E-safe".



**P7C** have just had a very successful visit to Sky Skills Academy in Livingston. Here is a report:

*On the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, P7c went to Sky Academy Studios in*

*Livingston. We have been learning about fossil fuels and global warming and at Sky Skills Studios we made a news report about it.*

*Sky studios are very big and modern with a lot of rooms. One room had a lot of rainbow-coloured chairs and a HUGE TV. Next door to that was a room with lots of lights and four doors to a different studio. It was a bit intimidating and very modern.*

*We worked in teams of 6 and 7 to make news reports. There were four studios: 1. The Studio Report, 2. The On Location Report, 3. The Eyewitness Interview, and 4. The Expert Interview. There were several jobs. The editor would edit the report and pick things such as the backdrop for it. The scriptwriter worked with the team to write the*

*script, the camera man would film and the director would sit in a chair and count down from five then signal the camera man to start filming. In my studio - studio 2, the on location report, - the first thing we did was write the script. It was about fossil fuels and how they are damaging the earth and how we can stop it. Then we decided on what the backdrop would be. We were supposed to be in Grangemouth power station so we picked the one most like it. The people for the news report picked out the clothes they would wear so they didn't look like school children. Then we practised filming it for a bit then we filmed it for real. When we filmed it for real a light lit up in the corner and it said "recording".*

*The best part was filming the report. It was challenging but an amazing experience. We did not like the chairs though. They were very uncomfortable. I think the trip was very good. I would definitely go back to Sky if given the chance.*

by **Mia** and **Paul**

Since the February holiday the children have been put into new maths groups. The topic we will be looking at over the next few weeks is money. This will lead us nicely onto our enterprise project after the Easter holidays. At this time we will be working with Virgin Money on a project called "Make £5 Grow". The P7 year group will be given £250 and this will be split across the three classes. Each class will try to raise as much money as possible to support the school through their own fundraising ideas.

We have also begun an exciting investigation which should take a few weeks to complete depending on what we are asked to do next.

In P.E. Mrs Arnold has been working on basketball with the children and is now moving onto a block of gymnastics. We are also continuing with the daily mile and will be looking to select children for the Hallhill cross country running event in the next few weeks.

I would like to remind everyone that their A.R. book should be going home every night after school and that the children should be aiming to read for around 45 minutes per day. The class is monitoring their progress every week with regards to their individual wordcount, their engaged time reading and also the average score from the A.R. quizzes. They are also collecting stickers for every quiz that they pass.