



MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now well into the final term of the session. Already classes have been on visits to John Muir's Birthplace, Lammerlaw and Knox Academy and we would like to thank the parents/carers who helped to make these a success. There will be other opportunities this month for parents/carers to support the work of the school eg Friday Clubs and we would be delighted to have help with any of these. If at any time you have a spare hour or so we would be delighted to welcome you into school.



HOW ARE WE DOING?

Thank you to all who came along to our recent child-led parent/carers' meeting. The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive.

We would like your views on a number of other areas and would be delighted if you could support us by completing the following survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T92HYVH>

The survey will close on Friday 6th May.

If, at any time, you have any feedback for us please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



HOLIDAYS

The school will be closed to all pupils and staff on Monday 2nd May. It will reopen as normal on Tuesday 3rd May.

There is an in-service day on Monday 23rd May, which means the school will be closed to pupils. It will reopen as normal on Tuesday 24th May.



PARENT COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at 9:45 am on Friday 13th May. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDERS



It is the time of year when we need to start thinking about School Uniform Ordering for Session 2016/17. We will be continuing with the same ordering process as last 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 13 May.**



LOST PROPERTY



As in previous years, we continue to find that far too many items of clothing are 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.**

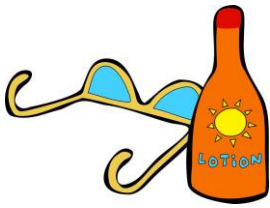
ROAD SAFETY



Once again, staff from John Muir House have raised concerns about children being dropped off in the car park. First thing in the morning is a very busy time in this area and children who walk through the car park are putting themselves, and others, at risk. The safest route for children to access the school grounds is either by walking on the pavement in Neilson Park Road or using the entrance from the Butts path.



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 2nd: HOLIDAY
- Monday 9th: P7 Leavers' photograph
- Wednesday 18th: School sports
- Friday 13th: P4A class assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Monday 23rd: In-service day
- Friday 27th May: P4B class assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A have started the term with our new Food Education topic. The class has enjoyed learning about food groups so far and have used the Eatwell Plate to consider how to plan a balanced meal. We have planned to incorporate our topic across the <http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

curriculum and will be learning how to write recipes and instructions as well as seasonal menus. In our maths lessons we are learning about weight and volume and will put these skills into practice in our food preparation lessons. We are all very excited about trying some new foods and learning how to prepare them. Primary 4 would also like to investigate where their food comes from and we plan to track some foods from farm to fork. We have even decided to design our own food product of the future and create some packaging and advertising for this. This term we will receive the art specialist and have begun drawing some excellent portraits made up of a range of foods. Mrs Arnold continues to teach most of our P.E, we are focussing on creative dance and ball skills whilst Miss Grantham is working with us on our hockey skills. P.E days will continue to be on Mondays and Wednesdays, please ensure your child has an appropriate P.E kit as we will be both in and outdoors for our lessons. Our class assembly will be on Friday the 13th of May, we look forward to seeing you then.



P4B have made an excellent start to our new Food Education topic and have been learning about the five food groups, the Eatwell Plate and composite foods. We are moving on to learning about the importance of food hygiene and food preparation skills prior to completing some cooking activities.

In writing, we have completed a 'free writing' activity where the children were able to select the type of text they were creating and choose how they wanted to present it. We then peer assessed each piece, based on our agreed success criteria, and gave quality feedback to each other using two stars and a wish. We have also been learning about imperative (bossy) verbs and using them to write clear sets of instructions. Over the next few weeks we will be creating our own seasonal menus, recipes and advertisements, all linked with our Food Education topic.

On **Thursday 5th May** we will be having a visit from the SSPCA who will be leading a workshop on food and farming. The class will learn about the role of the SSPCA within Scotland's food and farming industries; highlighting where food comes from and the importance of farm animal welfare.

We have art this term with Mr Connell and the children are enjoying completing pencil portrait

drawings of fruit and vegetables. These are based on portraits by the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo.

Our class assembly is on **Friday 27th May** from 9.00 - 9.30. Please come to see what we have been learning.



P4C are to be congratulated on completing a very successful Vikings topic last term; the classroom display evidences work accomplished

to a very high standard - well done everybody!

Thank you for all of the support 4C received at home when completing their Viking homework last term. The work produced about Viking Gods, longboats and longhouses was truly magnificent and a real pleasure to see coming in.

We are now diving into a topic about keeping ourselves healthy. We will consider diet, hygiene and exercise in our study. We hope to make healthy snacks, undertake experiments to test our resting and active heart rates and trace the journey some of our favourite foods make from farm to our fork.

Our writing focus will be linked to our topic; instructional language and the use of imperative verbs to write instructions, recipes and keeping clean and healthy posters.

In class maths, our focus will be on measure, information handling and probability and in group maths we will learn about time, fractions and equations. Our measure will be closely linked to the healthy me activities planned, weighing ingredients for healthy snacks.

We welcome the input of our music specialist, Mrs Roberts, this term and look forward to the fun activities in singing and percussion instruments that she has planned for us.

Our class novel is called Deadman's Cove and it's written by Lauren St John. If you like the story there are more in the series that you can read independently. Our reading homework will begin with Accelerated Reader - the name of the book we have chosen from the school library on a Monday will be written into our school diary so that adults at home can see what we are reading on a weekly basis. This reading will be followed by an individual novel study later in the term.

P.E, on a Monday and a Wednesday, may involve outdoor work so please wear weather appropriate clothing and sun cream when required. Sports day has been arranged for Wednesday 18th May and we

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

warmly welcome you all to come along and cheer us on that afternoon in Neilson Park.



P5A are enjoying their first topic for this term, Ecosystems. We have been classifying animals using our own criteria before finding out how scientists do it and learning about the life

cycles of plants and animals. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at the energy flow within ecosystems and how a small change can make a big difference. At the end of the topic, Miss Smith will be setting us a challenge to see what we have learned!

As part of our topic we are each researching an endangered species and will be sharing what we have learned as a personal talk to the rest of the class.

We will be going back to Amisfield Walled Garden in a few weeks to complete the 'conserve' part of our John Muir Award. We have also agreed to create a leaflet about the garden with a map for visitors to follow as not everyone knows where it is.

Our next performance as part of our 'Pitch, Pulse and Magic' work in music is on the 12th, which we are looking forward to.

In PE, with Mrs Arnold, we are doing problem solving and we are learning to work as a team. Miss Smith is teaching us tennis skills. We are hoping to go across to the tennis courts in Neilson Park later in the term. Hopefully, the weather will improve and we'll get some sunshine! At the end of the month the Rugby Development Officer will be coming in to work with the children leading to a festival nearer the end of term.



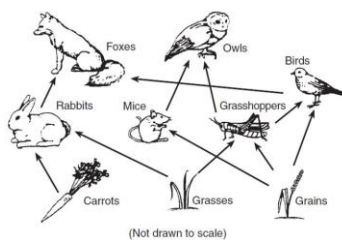
P5B recently visited the John Muir Birthplace Museum in Dunbar, as part of their John Muir Award. We spent the morning working in groups finding out

interesting facts about John's life and then shared this with the rest of the class in a plenary session. Did you know that when John was a little boy, he had to have a bath in a rock pool in the sea, in amongst all sorts of sea creatures and that the playground used to get flooded at high tide? We had lunch in the Town House and then had a short walking tour around Dunbar to see some of the places significant to John's

life. A lot of the old houses and streets are still there. In the old churchyard we visited the family grave and told stories about body snatchers stealing children for medical research.....the same stories that would have terrified John when he was a boy! Finally, we walked back along the shore to the old harbour where we saw two hungry seals pinching fish in the harbour amongst the boats. It was a lovely sunny day and a great day out.

We have nearly completed our John Muir Award project and only have one more visit to the River Tyne in June. Just before the Easter holidays, the class successfully released the trout that they were rearing. Only some survived to swim to freedom, as we experienced quite a few technical difficulties with the tank in the classroom. The main problem was keeping the temperature down during the weekends. We also found that the fish matured quicker than expected so needed feeding which became a problem when we were not there. However, each child was able to carry a trout to the river and sing their trout song to send them on their way.

This term, the class are working on finding out about ecosystems and the classification of plants and animals. We are focussing on tennis and outdoor problem-solving activities and the postponed golf session with the development officer will take place in May.



P5C are well into our final term of P5 and we are as busy as ever. We've already had two outings (John Muir Birthplace and to the railway) and we

have three more to look forward to.

On Monday 16th, all of P5 will be going to Haddington Golf Course to play a round with Kate Green (Golf Development Officer) - hopefully the weather will be kind to us that day! On Thursday the 19th, we are going to visit Craigmillar Castle in Edinburgh - the visit is called "A Queens Progress" and is about Mary Queen of Scots. Our third trip is back up to the railway on Wednesday the 1st of June. As always, we need parents to help us, so if you are available please let me know.

Our topic for the first part of this term is Ecosystems. We are learning about classification, food webs and lifecycles. This links very nicely with <http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

our ongoing John Muir Award work at the railway. The children have been given a homework task to prepare a personal talk about an endangered animal - they have a booklet to help them plan and the talks will begin on Monday the 9th of May.

Later in the term, we will be learning about the Olympics and, in particular, about the country of Brazil. This topic will also include work around healthy eating and dance. We have the third part of Pitch, Pulse and Magic in school on Thursday 12th May.

In class, we are learning about Buddhism and hope to have a visit from a monk. We are going to be looking at the Reading Detective skills in reading and in writing our focus is writing through art. Our numeracy work looks at length and money. The children have been learning to use Scratch in their ICT time and they have been creating a simple maze game.



P6A are now in the final term of Primary 6 and it is hard to believe! It promises to be as busy, if not busier, than the previous ones.

In class maths, we are currently working on negative numbers, with particular reference to real life uses such as thermometers and bank overdrafts. Our next topic will be volume and we continue to work on tables recall and accuracy through a variety activities. The current topic in group maths is multiplication and division, including word problems, and the next will be patterns and sequences.

In spelling, we are focusing on using a dictionary quickly and effectively, as well as our usual active and written tasks. We will be using a mixture of spelling tests and dictation exercises to test words on a weekly basis. At the moment we are working on *ie* words and will be moving on to *cei*, *sc*, *soft g*, *or* and *ore* in the next few weeks.

The children are very interested in the upcoming Olympic Games in Rio. During a class discussion, we agreed to spend some time this term on a personal topic related to the Olympics. This will allow the children to apply the skills they have learned in research, functional writing skills and ICT. The topic will also form a homework task for the term ahead. The children will be given a sheet containing information, tips and diary dates for this. I am looking forward to seeing what they produce.

The class were fantastic on their hillwalking outing - even though it rained! Mrs Reid was very impressed with their positive attitude in less than ideal

conditions. Well done, 6A! We are going to be using our mapping skills again on an outing to Vogrie Park on Wednesday, 4th when we will be participating in an Orienteering Festival for East/Mid Lothian Schools. We are hoping for a dry day this time! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



P6B have been busy since their Easter holidays! In maths, they have been using their times-tables knowledge as they work on multiplication and division word problems, as well as learning about negative numbers within the context of temperatures and bank overdrafts. We will soon move on to BODMAS and patterns and sequencing. As always, please keep encouraging the use of Mathletics at home to help cement their knowledge.

In writing, we are looking at self and peer editing, as well as fact and opinion, in preparation for our new writing topic on Discursive Writing. Our push for more Accelerated Reader activity has started to show real success. Our children are reading more, doing more quizzes and our 100% club is expanding daily! P6B has the 2nd highest word count in the whole school and we have 2 children in our Word Millionaire Club. Bravo P6B!

Outside, our daily mile continues, and the children have been honing their athletics skills in P.E. as well as developing their orienteering skills in preparation for a whole year group trip to Vogrie Park on the 4th May to take part in the East and Mid Lothian Orienteering Competition. Over the next few weeks we are looking forward to 'striking and fielding' with Mrs Arnold as well as Hockey Taster sessions and a Hockey Festival. Our Health and Wellbeing learning is continuing within the classroom with our 'Keeping Myself Safe' topic.

Our latest topic is Food. We will be developing an understanding of different foods for different life stages, as well as food practices and preferences being influenced by factors such as finance, culture, religion and sustainability. The topic will include a design challenge where the children will need to use problem-solving strategies including discovery and imagination!

In RME, we will continue to develop personal beliefs, and thinking skills with some Philosophy for Children, as well as looking at Christianity and the morals and

values contained within the Parables of the New Testament.



P6C have had yet another busy start to the term. Our topic this term is food! We will be thinking about what we eat and which food groups the food we eat fall into. We will also be thinking about food journeys - where does the food we eat come from and how sustainable are these journeys? We will also have the opportunity to do some cooking; both in school and at the Little and Large Cooking Competition at Preston Lodge High School in May.

In class maths, we are learning about negative numbers. We have been learning that negative numbers are used when reading a thermometer and when thinking about bank accounts. We now understand the terms 'deposit', 'withdraw' and 'overdrawn'. In group maths, we have been revising our multiplication and division skills.

We have made a start on our independent novel studies in reading. Everyone has chosen a novel and we will be completing several tasks both in school and at home. We will be thinking about the setting, characters and theme of our novel and also trying to make links between what we are reading and our own experience.

In P.E., we have been practising our orienteering skills in preparation for our exciting orienteering competition at Vogrie Country Park on Wednesday 4th. We will be joining with lots of other schools to put our orienteering skills into practice at this fun event.

In French, we have been expanding our French vocabulary to include food and drinks. We have read 'The Hungry Caterpillar' in French, which also revises the days of the week. We will be learning the parts of the body next.



P6D are really looking forward to using our orienteering and map work skills at Vogrie Park on Wednesday 4th; this is a follow on from our very enjoyable Great Outdoors topic last term. We will be amongst 800 children from East and Mid Lothian competing at the festival!

During May, we are delighted to be working with Mr Conroy from Moray House. Mr Conroy's background is

in languages so we will be sharing our newly acquired French vocabulary and look forward to learning lots more with him.

Our food topic has already brought together maths and health and wellbeing and we are now moving on to designing a food related product in technology and preparing and cooking food to go in it. In literacy we are focussing on discursive writing and will be working towards a successful piece connected to our food topic.

In PE, with Mrs Arnold, we have been experiencing different aspects of athletics such as high jump and relays. We hope to put these skills to good use in our teams for Sports Day on the 18th. We are thrilled to be working with Mrs Roberts and P6C in music once again and have already learnt how to sing beautifully in rounds.



P7A have a busy time ahead this term.

On Monday 9th, the school photographer is coming to take our 'Leavers' photo' - smiles and school sweatshirts needed!

We have already been to Knox Academy for a maths event and have more transition visits planned. On Tuesday, 10th, we are going over for our Transition Sports and later in the term we will be spending two days getting to know the school.

In the morning of Wednesday, 11th, we are off to a rugby event at Meadowmill. Outdoor PE kit should be worn please.

7A are having three badminton sessions at the Corn Exchange - this was a request from some of the class and we are fortunate that the Corn Exchange has some available times. Hopefully, our badminton players will be happy to suggest, and possibly lead, some activities.

At the moment we are working on personal safety topics and drug education. Some of the 'Keeping Myself Safe' stories are very detailed and make us think about the best way to avoid, or get out of, risky situations. Part of this topic also looks at 'Keeping Myself E safe' which focusses on using the internet, chatrooms, cyberbullying and sharing information. We have had lots of very good discussion.

Apart from these activities we have a lot to do in school. As you may know we are working with Virgin money on an enterprise topic. Virgin money has given <http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

P7 a loan of £250. We are using this to organise stalls and activities for a Fun Afternoon (date to be confirmed!). We repay the £250 to Virgin money and keep the profit. We have not yet decided what we will use the money for.

The Benmore week is fast approaching. We have given names for room sharing and also for working groups. It looks as though it will be a very exciting time. In school Mrs Higgins has been busy planning activities for those not going to Benmore.

So far this term.....

By Iona and Millie

The past few weeks P7 have been learning about Keeping Myself Safe which is all about personal safety and what to do if you are in a risky situation.

We took a trip to the Risk Factory and found out more stuff to do when in a risky situation. It was so scary and we didn't think it could happen in real life.

Our other topic is about drug education, we have completed several tasks which involve what drugs you should take (usually prescribed by a doctor) and shouldn't take (illegal drugs). We have made posters which tell you why you shouldn't smoke, and what it can do to you. We have also been finding out what is in a cigarette. There are about 4000 chemicals in a cigarette!

Already this term we have had our first transition event. We went to Knox Academy and had a big maths competition with help from the S3s. We can't wait till we go up to Knox!



P7B have been learning to assess and manage risk, to protect ourselves and others, and to reduce the potential for harm when possible. To do this, we have worked through the

personal safety programme Keeping Myself Safe. This provides pupils with learning experiences presented in short, animated stories. The children are encouraged to discuss the issues raised in each story and assess which personal safety strategies are the most appropriate to the situation. 7B have demonstrated maturity in their approach to each story and have responded very well to the questions asked in discussion.

As part of this topic, the class enjoyed a visit to the Risk Factory in Edinburgh. This is an interactive safety centre where everyday risks are manufactured in a safe environment for pupils to experience. The

children had fun learning how to deal with or avoid risks, how to stay safe and help others to do the same.

We have also started looking at Keeping Myself e-Safe which teaches pupils how to stay safe when using the internet and other digital technologies. It follows the same format and has been designed to raise awareness of e-safety, Internet safety and cyber-bullying.

Alongside our personal safety work, we have been working through the BBC Active programme on drug education. The children have identified what is meant by a drug and have developed an understanding of the effects a range of substances can have on the body.

This term, we will be enjoying many transition events at Knox Academy in preparation for moving up. The class really enjoyed working in teams at the Maths event last week and it was lovely to see so many displaying super team work skills. It was a great opportunity to spend the day in Knox Academy and meet some of the staff and pupils. A highlight for some was spending lunchtime in the canteen and seeing what is available to buy! ☺ We have a sports event still to look forward to.

In Maths, we are currently working on Probability in class and will move back in to groups for a block on Time.

In PE, we are currently working on our athletics' skills and have so far enjoyed high jump! We will have one session a week with Mrs Arnold this term.

P7 have had a visit from Anita, from Virgin Money, who spoke to the children about how we can make our money grow. We have had £250 given to us as a loan for an enterprise event which we are currently planning. We have been split up in to groups and are trying to decide on what activity we will run. Once we have organised our event and, hopefully, made a profit, we will repay the £250 to Virgin Money and decide as a year group what we want to spend the profit on.



P7C have had a very safety conscious start to Term 4 with our trip to the Risk Factory. The children greatly enjoyed the trip which used real life scenarios to make them think about the risks involved in everyday situations. The learning from this trip has been built upon through our work on Keeping Myself Safe and Keeping Myself E-safe.

We have also begun drug education. We have been looking at the effects and dangers of tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs. The children have been very interested in the topic so far and we have had lots of interesting discussions.

This term, the children will be involved in an enterprise project funded by Virgin Bank. The project is called "Make £5 Grow" and the children are working in small groups to devise a business plan that will make a profit for them. Each group will have a stall as part of a P7 fun afternoon. It is entirely up to the group to organise and run the stall and their ideas so far range from popcorn making, to lucky dips and a raffle. The fun afternoon will be held on Thursday the 19th May and will be for school pupils only. The profit from the afternoon will firstly be used to pay Virgin Bank back the money they are lending us and any remaining profit will be used to fund something for the P7 year group. We will be taking the children's ideas on this very soon.

As many of you are probably aware, we have been taking part in Woodland Workout for P.E. so I would like to remind everyone that the children should have outdoor P.E. kit with them on a Tuesday until the end of May.

Some other dates for your diary:

- Monday 9th - P7 leaver's Photograph-
- Tuesday 10th - P7 sports transition event at Knox Academy
- Wednesday 18th - Sports Day at Know Academy Playing Fields

It is going to be a very busy final term and the children are really looking forward to all of the exciting events that are coming up.



**EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL
RESOURCES AND PEOPLE SERVICES
SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2016/17**

TERM 1	Staff In-service Day 1	Monday	15	August	2016
	Staff In-service Day 2	Tuesday	16	August	2016
	Pupils Resume	Wednesday	17	August	2016
	Autumn Holiday (schools closed)	Friday	16	September	2016
	Autumn Holiday (schools closed)	Monday	19	September	2016
	All Return	Tuesday	20	September	2016
	All Break	Friday	14	October	2016
	Staff In-service Day 3	Monday	24	October	2016
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	25	October	2016
	Term Ends	Thursday	22	December	2016
TERM 2	All Resume	Monday	9	January	2017
	All Break	Friday	10	February	2017
	Staff In-service Day 4	Monday	20	February	2017
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	21	February	2017
	All Break	Friday	31	March	2017
	Good Friday – 14 April 2017 Easter Monday – 17 April 2017				
TERM 3	All Resume (Staff and Pupils)	Tuesday	18	April	2017
	May Day (Schools closed)	Monday	1	May	2017
	All Resume	Tuesday	2	May	2017
	Staff In-service Day 5 (pupils off)	Monday	22	May	2017
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	23	May	2017
	Term Ends	Friday	30	June	2017
2017/18					
	Staff Resume	Monday	14	August	2017