



## MARCH/APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

### KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

Spring has officially started and we are more than half way through the session. Doesn't time fly! Thank you to all those who attended our parents/carers meetings in January. We are looking forward to welcoming you again on the 28<sup>th</sup> March. During this session, there will be a presentation on Higher Order Thinking Skills from Mrs Arnold.



#### 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 Tuesday 28<sup>th</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 on **Friday 31st March**, at the normal finishing time. The new term will begin on **Tuesday 18th April**, at the usual time.

Please note: School will be closed for the May Day holiday on **Monday 1st May**.

#### FRIDAY CLUBS

We will be starting a new round of clubs on the 21st 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.



#### PARENT COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at **7.00pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**. All parents/carers are welcome to attend.



#### PE AND SPORT



We have had a very busy start to the year beginning with the East Lothian swimming gala in January in Prestonpans. As you can see from the photo, of the P7 Relay teams, the children were incredibly successful winning a number of ribbons.

The East Lothian Badminton Quaiach tournament in January proved to be another great team event, Kings Meadow was placed 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The P7 football team also performed amazingly well in the John Home Cup where they came second. They drew in first place; however, they got beaten on goal difference.

Ten Primary 7s, from the school Basketball Club, took part in the East Lothian inter-schools competition on

Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> where they came third out of eight schools. The standard of play was exceptional.

Throughout January and February, boys and girls from P6 and 7 were again in training for the Regional Sportshall Athletics final. We qualified for this event in November, last year, when we came second in the East Lothian Sportshall Athletics competition. On Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> twenty six children went to Meadowbank to compete, along with the team from Dunbar Primary School. Our team finished sixth out of the ten Lothian and Borders schools competing. This is a magnificent event organised by Scottish Athletics and we had a fantastic morning.

Mrs Higgins and I are looking forward to selecting six boys and girls who will attend the East Lothian Schools Cross Country competition at Meadowmill on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. This is the first time the event will be held in the grounds of the sports centre and, hopefully, the land at this venue will assist our runners who are used to running on similar terrain in Neilson Park on Friday mornings.

Our school has one of the highest attenders at school competitions in East Lothian where we participate in a large number of events throughout the school year. This is down to the support of the teachers, Mrs Bryson, Mrs Nimmo, Mr Smith and Mrs McGillivray who encourage and ultimately allow us to take part. They do this because the children in the school demonstrate great passion and skill for sport. The children are remarkable and I never fail to feel proud of them.

Huge thanks to a number of adult helpers: Mrs Cameron, for her ongoing support with swimming; Mrs Liddle, for her support with badminton; and Mrs Carruthers and Mrs Gill's support with athletics. I am always happy to have parent helpers in P.E classes, clubs and competitions - the more the merrier!!!

Mrs Arnold



### 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.

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

### DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March: P6C assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup>: P5A assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup>: P5B assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup>: P5C assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>: Child-led Parents'/Carers' meetings.**
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup>: Special Assembly. Parents to attend by invitation only.
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup>: Last day of term.
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April: Return to school.



### AROUND THE CLASSES



**P4A** gave some fantastic presentations on their chosen animals as part of our topic last term - Adapting to the Cold. The quality of posters and PowerPoint presentations was extremely high as were 4A's public speaking skills. Well done to all for their hard work and thank you to all parents and carers for your support.

This term our topic is Vikings. We plan to incorporate the topic across the curriculum and the children have been busy thinking of questions they would like to have answered about Viking life. The class showed a lot of interest in the role of children in Viking life as well as Viking clothes and especially Viking weapons! We will also be using the theme of Vikings to help develop our writing. We will look at Viking Sagas before attempting to create our own Saga and we will even be using the Viking alphabet for active spelling tasks.

In maths, we are learning about position and movement. We will be learning how to use movement vocabulary such as half turn and types of angles to record routes and journeys as well as creating our own maps. In I.C.T, we will start to learn basic programming skills using Scratch. We will also create our own maze games, which will link with position and movement in maths as well as build on the enthusiasm

for coding that 4A showed completing the Hour of Code before Christmas.



**P4B** have been enthusiastically planning our new IDL topic which will be the Celts. This topic will focus on learning through Drama, Social Studies and Literacy. The children

have chosen to research and make roundhouses, jewellery and weapons as part of the topic. We are also interested in finding out about Boudicca, the Warrior Queen, and why her role was so significant throughout the battles between the Celts and Romans. We are looking forward to sharing our learning with you at the Child Led Parent Consultations on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

In Maths, we will be learning to describe, follow and record routes and journeys using signs, compass points, angles and other language associated with direction and turning. Using this knowledge we will be making a maze game using Scratch. In numeracy groups, we will be developing our knowledge of expressions and equations.

The Sportshall Athletics at the Aubigny was a great success, with the children participating in a number of stations that included javelin, sprinting and jumping. We enjoyed having Knox pupils as our group leaders and worked well as a team to encourage and motivate each other. Well done, 4B!

Thank you for the wonderful presentations and posters that the children made as part of their non-fiction reading homework. The class thoroughly enjoyed listening to each presentation and giving quality verbal feedback. I definitely learned something new about each polar animal!



**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 families 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 parent/carers' evening on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

In the lead up to this event we are going to be very busy!

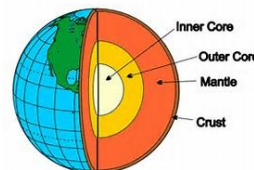
Our topic investigations will enable us to compare Viking life to that of our own. Looking closely at the reasons why they travelled from their home lands, how they travelled, what their homes were like and how their communities functioned; such as jobs, crafts, recreation and religion.

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 Edward - its vivid text will undoubtedly raise our awareness of Viking day to day life.

In expressive arts, we will use role play, putting ourselves into the shoes of 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 come back from their February break refreshed and are already working hard on their new topic on Landscapes and

Natural Disasters. The class have brainstormed how they would like to learn about this and have come up with great suggestions including teach each other, watch and make videos, make models, conduct experiments, collect newspaper articles, to name but a few. We have already been learning about the structure of the earth and the class has made a plasticine model from which they will cut out a cross section to show the different layers that make up our planet.



We will shortly be going on an outdoor field trip to the Haddington to Longniddry railway walk (10<sup>th</sup> March) with the County Ranger as part of our John Muir Award. In the run up to that we will be making organic bird feeders to position on the walk and we will also be identifying trees and the wildlife that we may see. I will shortly send out permission slips and a letter and will require 3 adult helpers for the excursion (AM only), so if you are able to help please let me know. We will also take part in a John Muir dance workshop in the same week.

In Numeracy and Maths we are studying decimals. All the P5s have been grouped and your child may be working with one of the other P5 teachers for maths. There are lots of great sites for a bit of home practice including [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) and [www.mathszone.co.uk](http://www.mathszone.co.uk). P5A particularly like playing "hit the button" which helps them speed up their mental arithmetic skills in number bonds and multiplication and division.

In PE, this term, Mrs Arnold will begin to teach the children the basic skills of golf. This will culminate in a trip to Haddington Golf Club in April, where Kate Green, the Golf Development Officer, will put a competition together for the class. The class will also continue to benefit from the expertise of Mr Connell this term in Art.

We have a class assembly on 10<sup>th</sup> March to which you are all invited to. We haven't yet decided on what learning we'd like to share but I'm sure we will start rehearsing very soon.

Recently the children have started a Rainbow Spelling Words activity and I am delighted with the progress that they are making. The majority moved on to the next level of common 500 words and they will be focusing on these in their literacy activities.

As usual, if you have any problems or issues that you would like to speak to me about, please do not hesitate to contact me.



**P5B's** February holiday zoomed by and we are now busy working on our new topic - Landscapes

and Natural Disasters. We had to decide ways that we would like to learn about this topic. Some of our choices included PowerPoint, video, creating lessons and teaching each other, experiments and models. Already we have made plasticine models of the Earth showing the core, mantle and crust. We even managed to add the north and south poles to our

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models. We have observed an experiment showing moving mantle - this was done by heating oil and food colouring. The food colouring rose to the surface of the oil and as it cooled it sank back to the bottom of the bowl. Our reports explain this in more detail! There is a fabulous buzz in class when we are working on this topic. Everyone is enthusiastic and we have shared some really interesting questions for discussion.

The 'Fish in the classroom' project is nearing completion. We were very fortunate that Mr Purvis was in school over the holiday week and took over the task of keeping the water chilled. Amy (from Forth Fisheries) is delighted with the success of our tank. The progress of our fish is shared in much greater detail on our web page. This is updated very regularly. You can follow it at <http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/category/p5b>.

We now have a release date for the fish. We will be heading to the beach area beside the Steven Bridge on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm. It will be sad to see them go, but the fish now need to be in their natural habitat. A coat and wellies / waterproof footwear are needed for this visit as it could be cold and muddy.

We are about to start First Club Golf. We will be having golf practice sessions in school. These will be led by Mrs Arnold. Kate Green, the Golf Development Officer will be coming in in April and creating a short golf course over at Haddington Golf Club practice ground for us to try out our new skills.

It is our class assembly on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March at 9am. All parents/carers are welcome to come along to this.



**P5C** have gotten off to a great start this term by looking at our new topic - 'Landscapes and Natural Disasters.' The children have been investigating just what

our planet is actually made of and they have used their knowledge to help them build clay models of Earth. They very cleverly created their models out of layers which, when cut open, revealed the inner structure of the planet! The children were very enthusiastic about their learning! In Maths, we have been looking at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and the children have been introduced to lots of new and exciting vocabulary - don't forget to ask them what they have learnt! In Numeracy, we have been exploring decimals and have been saying them, writing them and ordering them with growing confidence. Linked to our topic on Landscapes and Natural

Disasters, the children in Literacy have been looking at non-chronological reports and getting ready to write our own. We have been using dictionaries to help us understand the meanings of the many new words we have come across so that we can then use them properly within sentences. Later on this term, we have got a dance workshop booked in linked to our continued work on John Muir along with a trip to his birthplace in Dunbar.



**P6A** would like to thank all those who came along to our Victorian assembly. We really enjoyed sharing what we had been learning with you and were proud of what we achieved when we worked together. Our favourite part was making the teachers come up and do the drill!

Alongside preparing for our Victorian assembly, we also went on a class trip to Hopetoun House. We dressed up as different kinds of servants and were led round the house. We had the chance to explore the rooms and experience some of the jobs that servants had to do. In the afternoon, we played some Victorian games, tried some quill penning, had a dance in the ballroom and even got to go up on the roof. The day was excellent and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!

In the coming weeks, we will be starting a new topic. We will be learning about energy and sustainability. We will be exploring how to store energy and ways to reduce wasting energy. We will be investigating the use and development of renewable and sustainable energy and its importance in Scotland. We will also be considering ways to live in a more sustainable way.

In writing, we have just finished our biographies on famous Victorians. We will now be moving on to creative writing. In reading, we will be continuing to develop our reading comprehension skills.

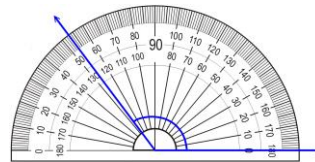
In numeracy we will be learning about percentages before linking our knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages together. In maths, we will be learning about angles.

Fraction	Decimal	Percent
$\frac{1}{100}$	.01	1%
$\frac{5}{100} = \frac{1}{20}$	.05	5%
$\frac{10}{100} = \frac{1}{10}$	.10	10%
$\frac{35}{100} = \frac{7}{20}$	.35	35%
$\frac{50}{100} = \frac{1}{2}$	.50	50%
$\frac{75}{100} = \frac{3}{4}$	.75	75%

**P6B** have really enjoyed learning about the Victorians and have worked extremely hard to create a Victorian assembly. Well done, 6B, for fantastic teamwork and

creativity!

We are now moving on to plan our science and technology topic together, where we will focus on energy and sustainability. In our writing, we will be developing our creative writing skills and continuing to concentrate on vocabulary and grammar in literacy time. We have now come to an end with our algebra lessons in maths and will be developing our knowledge and understanding of angles as we move through the term. We have all been working well during our lessons on decimal in numeracy and are continuing to link this with fractions and percentages. In French, we have been learning different colours, days of the week and months of the year and increasing our number knowledge. We are really enjoying the active tasks to practise our pronunciation. Mrs Arnold continues to teach us P.E.; we really enjoyed our lessons on gymnastics and will now be moving on to athletics.



**P6C** will be developing their creative writing skills whilst also continuing to expand our tools for writing in our grammar sequence. Having completed our initial exploration of algebra we will be working with angles in maths. In numeracy we will be linking our new decimals knowledge with percentages and fractions. In PE, we have moved onto athletics, with Mrs Arnold, after a rewarding sequence of gymnastics lessons. Our new topic will be science and technology based as we explore energy and sustainability. We will be learning how to express likes and dislikes in French. Finally, with Mrs Roberts, we will (hopefully!) be becoming proficient ukulele performers.



**P7A** have been learning about sustainability. We have been researching different types of renewable energy and writing up what we have

learnt about them through note taking. We also made posters about 3 fossil fuels - coal, natural gas and oil. In P.E, we have been doing basketball with Mrs Arnold. We have learned a lot of skills including the layup. We have been placed in four teams playing games where the winning team stays on. We are moving onto gymnastic next week.

In art, we have been focusing on the Japanese artist Hokusai. We have been drawing Mount Fuji, which he

is most famous for. First we drew out Mount Fuji, and then we traced it onto tracing paper and poked holes through the tracing paper onto a polystyrene boards which we will then cover with paint and print it on to paper.

We have also started something called Keeping Myself E- safe, it is a program on how to be safe whilst using the internet. We watch small videos looking at different issues and discuss how we would solve these.

Emma, Ruairaidh, Finlay and Kirsty

**P7B** have been working extremely hard on our Health Education topic and have found out more about the physical and emotional changes we go through as we begin puberty.

We used what we had learned to write factual responses and give encouraging advice to "agony aunt" style problems.

In pairs, we created a leaflet outlining our "Top tips for a first date". We included ideas of where you might go, what you might do, as well as, some ideas for conversation starters and how to be prepared.

Since the February holiday, we have been finding out about reproduction and how a baby develops. We will also be learning about how a baby is born and what is needed to help look after a baby once it is here.

In our Sustainable living topic, we have been looking at renewable and non- renewable energy sources. We also created a timeline of fossil fuels to show when they were formed. We started at over 360 million years ago and worked to the present day.

We have been out on walks as part of our topic with Andy Duff. On 21<sup>st</sup> February, we went to the woods to create our own animal Eco houses from the natural resources available. Each house had to have its own water buck, solar panels, a windmill and waste point. We also had to think about insulation and using energy saving items.

In PE, we have enjoyed learning about the skills needed to play Basketball. We have been working on our core muscles and trying to build up our strength by doing different stretches and planking!

In each lesson, we complete a skills practice first before getting in to games. We have been trying hard to improve our dribbling, shooting, and of course, scoring.

In Art, we have been finding out about Land art and how it is created in the environment. We started by having a go in the playground and creating something from the things we could find lying about. We then

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researched on the Internet to find out some more information. We discovered that Land art is fun and creative and can be done by anyone.

We have learned about some of the more famous Land artists, and in particular, looked at the work of Andy Goldsworthy. We then used his 6 step process to create our own works of art across at Neilson Park. We all had fun, enjoyed the task and were very creative in our groups.



"We have been learning about Land art. Some creations were very creative and inspiring"

Finn and Oliver 7B



**P7C** have had lots of fun learning about many interesting topics:

#### Sustainability

This term we have been learning about sustainability we have

been covering fossil fuels and their advantages and disadvantages. There are three main types of fossil fuels - coal, oil, and natural gas. We have found out how they have been formed and that they will run out in the near future as they take millions of years to form. We have also looked at renewable energy and we have found many renewable energy sources such as hydroelectric, solar wind and geothermal, which we all agree will be a better way to power our planet.

#### Maths and Numeracy

Over the past term, in class maths we have started to cover money and have been learning strategies to find change quickly and accurately. In numeracy, we have been looking into fractions, decimals and percentages and how to convert fractions into percentages etc. We have been working on solving word problems using these strategies. We have also worked on equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions.

#### Sport and PE

This term in PE, we have been playing basketball. We were put into equal teams and worked on different strategies for marking, shooting and passing. We have been practising lay ups to make sure we have an



accurate shoot. 3 children from our class participated in the East Lothian basketball competition where we placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 8 teams. Children from our class also competed in the East Scotland athletics finals and were placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of ten. We are currently moving onto gymnastics where we will look at the different elements of gymnastics and lots more.

### Spelling

In spelling, we have been looking at plurals. We have found lots of different rules for making nouns plural such as just add s, add es, change the Y- I and add es and many more .

### Art

In art, we have been recreating some of Hokusai's 36 views of Mt Fuji. We have drawn them, coloured them, traced them and we are currently printing them.

### Outdoor Ed

We have been studying land use in our local community and have been on a trip around the river with Andy Duff, an outdoor education officer, to look at the land use of our local area.

Written by Hannah and Gillian



**P7D** have been hard at work in term 3. In Health Education, we have been learning about reproduction and we will be learning about the development of a baby. This week we started

using a programme Keeping Myself E Safe which teaches the children all about the risks and benefits of the internet and how they can keep themselves safe. The class have been really engaged with this work and, as a class, we have had interesting discussions.

In sustainability, we have learnt about the advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. This information will result in the children writing a discursive piece of writing. We will also be designing an 'eco-friendly' house and thinking about how we can live in a more sustainable way. We have had a little practice at this already when Andy Duff took us out and we had to make an eco-house out of things we could find on the woods. We thoroughly enjoyed it!! At the end of the topic we will be visiting Ravensheugh beach for a challenge day.

In class maths, we have been learning about money, including looking at profit and loss, credit and debit

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cards. In numeracy groups, we are continuing to focus on fractions decimals and percentages.

In French, we have learning about fruits for example apple is 'la pomme' and a pear is 'la poir'. We have also learnt body parts and drawn a self-portrait of ourselves.

For Robert Burns Day, the class was given the task of learning and reciting a Scots poem of their choice. We had readings of: Up in the morning, Tam o' Shanter, To a Louse, A Dug, A Dug and My Love is Like a Red Red Rose. The class did a very good job, well done! A special well done goes to Gethin, Emma, Isla and Andrea for reciting their poems with excellent expression. Each received a special certificate.

King's Meadow P.T.A.  
March/April News



Hope you all enjoyed a relaxing February break!

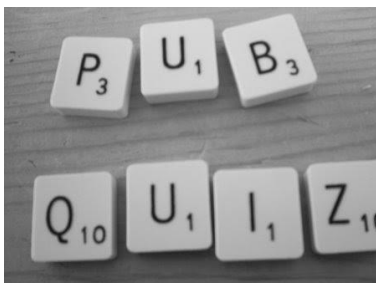
### RECENT EVENTS

Our P5 Movie Night, held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, was a big hit! In their PJs, dressing gowns and slippers, cuddled up with their duvets, sleeping bags and teddies, our P5s enjoyed watching the film 'BOLT' as a year group. At the half-time interval, the kids tucked into popcorn, crisps and drinks. A big thank you to everyone who supported this event - especially those who helped out on the evening. We're delighted to announce that the evening raised a fantastic **£179.29!!!**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Pub Quiz: Sat 11<sup>th</sup> March, 7:30pm  
Haddington Rugby Club**



Come along to our first P.T.A. Pub Quiz and pit your wits against other King's Meadow parents, carers and teachers! **Please e-mail [kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com](mailto:kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com) to request an event flyer and obtain your ticket!**

Please note tickets for this adults-only event are priced at £3 each with teams a maximum of 6 people. Prizes and a fundraising raffle too!