



FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that everyone had a good festive season. As I look out the window there is snow on the ground so it might seem too early to be thinking about Spring; however, as you will see from the Around the Classes section, P5A are thinking about new life as part of their John Muir topic. All the other classes are busy with their new topics.

Thank you to all those who attended our recent Parents'/Carers' meetings.



STAFFING NEWS

Our best wishes go to Mrs Roche who will be leaving us shortly to start her maternity leave. We have a preferred candidate for this post and will give you more details as soon as we can.

We also have a preferred candidate for the vacancy in P6A and, again, will give more details as soon as we can.



PARENT COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 21st February. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**

HOLIDAY

The school will close at 12:20 on Friday 9th February and re-open for pupils at 08:45 on Tuesday 20th.

ATTENDANCE



Parents/Carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child/ren attend school regularly. If, for any reason, your child is unable to attend school please inform the office by telephone, preferably between **8.30am** and **9.15am**. Failure to inform us of your child's absence will initiate a text/phone call to you so that we can check on your child's safety. If we are unable to contact you the absence may be passed to ELC's Children's Wellbeing Team. **ON RETURN, YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD BRINGS A LETTER CONFIRMING THE REASON FOR THEIR ABSENCE.**

Planned absence eg holidays, should be requested as far in advance as possible, preferably two weeks before.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Is your child eligible for free school meals, and if so, have you registered? Schools receive additional funding of £1,200 from the Scottish Government for every pupil in P1 to S3 who is registered for free school meals. This is called Pupil Equity Funding, and schools use this additional money to help fund a wide range of initiatives to support achievement and provide the best possible opportunities for children's learning.

How do I know if my child is eligible for free school meals?

Please visit our website www.eastlothian.gov.uk to check your eligibility and download an application form.

Even if your child does not wish to take up the option of having a free school meal every day, we would encourage you to register so that your child's school will receive the Pupil Equity Funding allowance to support their learning.



LUNCH MONEY



Perhaps linked to the above, we have seen an increase in the number of children who either have no money or not enough to pay for their meal.

Parents/Carers have a duty to ensure that they have made arrangements for their children to have lunch.



HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDERS



Indoor shoes: All children should have a pair of indoor shoes to change into upon entering the building. These shoes can also be used for indoor PE.

Aerosols: These should not be brought into school. Where required, roll-on or stick deodorants should be provided.

Water bottles: We would ask parents to ensure that children are sent to school each morning with a filled, named water bottle. This can be refilled, if required, during the day. **Please note** - only water should be provided as sipping fruit juice, fresh or diluting, can lead to tooth decay. Fizzy drinks are not allowed in school.

Head lice: We would remind all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week.

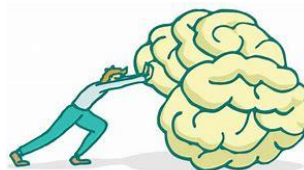
DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 2nd: P7C assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Wednesday 7th: Public meeting re consultation on proposed closure of King's Meadow Primary and Haddington Infant School. 19:00 at Knox Academy.
- 12th to 19th inclusive: HOLIDAY
- Wednesday 21st: Parent Council
- Thursday 22nd: P4 Athletics Festival, Aubigny
- Friday 23rd: P6C assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A has had a busy start to 2018. As part of our Adapting to the Cold topic, we have already explored food chains and climate zones. We are building up to a personal presentation on February 7th or 8th on an animal of our choice. To prepare for this we have been learning to retrieve key information using skimming and scanning skills. We are recording this in simple note form using headings and sub headings.

Our focus in Health and Wellbeing has been on how we develop a Growth Mindset. The book, 'Your Fantastic Elastic Brain,' explained the science of brain development in an easy to understand way and we are now enjoying interpreting and applying the growth mindset moral in story books including, 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and 'How to Catch a Star'.

In numeracy, we have been learning how to group and share in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s and how to use multiplication and division facts to solve problems. In a very busy term, we are also exploring compass directions, co-ordinates and time, which links to our upcoming topic about the sun and the moon. Well done P4A and keep up the hard work!



P4B are working on multiplication and division with the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables in Numeracy. The children have also been learning about time with Mrs Davidson.

In Literacy, we are working hard on our Rainbow Spelling words - the 500 most common words. We are also continuing with our grammar work and this is helping us to improve our weekly writing sessions. For Health and Wellbeing, we have been learning about Growth Mindset, including 'the power of yet' - don't say "I can't do it", say "I can't do it YET!" We have been enjoying PE outside, learning about different elements of gymnastics, such as jumping and rolling.

Our IDL topic this term is Adapting to the Cold. We will be learning about climates and how animals and people have adapted to living in extreme weather conditions. We are using our research skills to find out lots of interesting facts about an animal from the Polar Regions and using this information to create a presentation.



P4C has been focusing on their new IDL topic 'Adapting to the Cold'. We have been learning how animals adapt to different environments and climates. The class has been given a reading homework challenge to present a small piece of research about an animal from a cold land. In class, we have been working on research skills, taking notes and presentation. The pupils are very excited about sharing their new knowledge with the rest of the class. I look forward to hearing them on the 7th and 8th of February.

The children have started their swimming lessons on a Wednesday morning. Mrs Anderson has been very impressed with the class. Please remember to send your child with their swimming kits (swimming suit, towel and goggles) as we do not want anyone to miss out.

In maths, we have been working very hard on reading and writing the time. This has involved practising o'clock, half past and quarter past/to. Our next step is to focus on five minute intervals.

There will be a Primary 3 and 4 transition dance on Wednesday 7th February.



P4D's interdisciplinary topics have a science focus this term. We plan to participate in, and record, a variety of practical activities, experiments and investigations to increase our understanding of adapting to the cold, then shift our focus to the earth and its place in space.

Our focus on reading for information and extended written work will complement our experiments as we look for facts and record our findings in reports. Please continue to share your child's A.R reading book on a regular basis, ideally for 15 minutes every school day.

The link between multiplication and division, recording sums in written form and increased mental speed and accuracy in a variety of tables will keep us very busy in our numeracy times. Our focus in maths is on all things time - calendars, timetables, analogue, digital, 12 and 24 hour! This links nicely with our Earth in Space topic in the latter part of the term.

In music we shall listen to Holst's the planets. The class will be assigned the task of creating a piece of percussion to represent Earth in space and I look forward to hearing what our budding composers invent. The class has made an excellent start to their arctic foxes and emperor penguins in Mr Connell's art class. Their sketching, tonal and shading skills are stunning and I can't wait to display finished pieces all over our classroom.

We welcome Miss Lamb to our class for five weeks from Jan 29th as she embarks on her middle years teacher training placement. I know she is looking forward to working with such an enthusiastic, supportive and hardworking class.



P5A's new interdisciplinary topic is Scottish history based and we are using the context of William Wallace to learn about this period.

We have already been learning about the Ragman's Roll, swearing our allegiance to Edward I and creating replica models of Stirling Bridge. The cooperative learning team that comes up with the best mini model will then have their model scaled up and created in wood as part of a class project. One element of our topic is learning to distinguish between fact and opinion and the children are already becoming much

more aware about questioning the reliability of the facts that they are researching.

Our John Muir Award work continues this term. We have taken delivery of our fish tank and shortly Forth Fisheries will return with our fish eggs that we are going to nurture and raise in the classroom. The children will be taking on the responsibility of caring for the eggs, maintaining the fish tank and monitoring the progress of the project on a daily basis. Around Easter time we will be releasing the brown trout fry into the River Tyne as part of a restocking project. We are very lucky to have received funding from the Friends of the River Tyne and the East Lothian Angling Association to undertake the project. As part of our JMA we will also be canoeing on the River Tyne, which will give the children a unique insight into the life of the river and its flora and fauna.

Our focus in maths and numeracy this term is fractions and then we will move onto the study of time. The class has been put into groups, as is the normal practice, across the 3 classes so that your child will receive the appropriate level of support and challenge. Please keep up the times tables practice at home to help their understanding and point out fractions in context when you are out and about. It would also be useful if you talk about time and using clocks, both analogue and digital. There are lots of interactive games on the internet at sites like www.topmarks and www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk that support all aspects of maths and numeracy. Most are table friendly.

In Literacy, we will be going back to basics with regards to punctuation. The children will be learning about different aspects of punctuation from consolidating the use of capitals to writing direct speech. Reading workshops will continue each week and your support in ensuring that your child has done their reading and associated written task each week would be appreciated.

We have the expertise of the Art Specialist, Mr Connell, this term and he is working with the children on portrait painting. In French, we are currently learning vocabulary for animals. In PE, Mrs Arnold is currently teaching gymnastics and later in the term the children will be learning the basics of golf, which will culminate in a mini tournament at Haddington Golf Club supported by Kate Green the Golf Development Officer for East Lothian.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss or if you would like to volunteer your expertise to support the class.



P5B are looking at The Jacobites and will be focusing on social studies, music and drama. We look forward to seeing you at our assembly on the 2nd of March where we will showcase what we have been working on. After the February break we will be looking at Fair Trade, and studying Fair Trade countries.

In literacy, we will be writing diary entries from the perspective of a Jacobite or Red Coat soldier; we will also learn how to write in a persuasive style. In numeracy, we are working on fractions- identifying fractions of a shape, a quantity and working out equivalent fractions. In maths, we are looking at data handling and incorporating ICT into this. Our current focus in French is animals, and we will finish with foods before Easter. We will be continuing work on our John Muir Award and encouraging the children to be continually aware of conservation.

February is an exciting Month for 5B as we have canoeing sessions. On Tuesday the 6th of February or Tuesday the 20th of February, the children will be canoeing on the River Tyne. Please ensure that permission slips and payment are returned to school. Please also ensure that your child brings clothes suitable for outdoor activities, particularly for getting wet, as well as school uniform.

The evening of the 6th of February brings P5's PTA event. Our Movie and Duvet event will be held in the school hall. If your child wishes to attend please return the permission slip and payment.



P5C has been working hard since returning from the Christmas holidays. Our new topic is the Scottish Wars of Independence, with a focus on Social Studies, Literacy and Expressive Arts. We have already discovered the key dates throughout the Wars of Independence and used these to create a class timeline. The class has been learning about the steps England took to gain control of Scotland and created a Ragman Roll with our own seals. In Music, we created a super sound story about the death of King Alexander III; using our bodies to make different sounds.

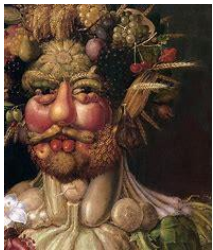
In Class Maths, we have started learning about data handling and worked in our cooperative learning groups to create and carry out a simple survey. We then collected our data using a tally chart and displayed it in a frequency diagram and pictograph. The children have also been exploring how to input data into a spreadsheet and use the data to create and customise different types of graph.

Jamie - This term 5C are enjoying Art with Mr Connell. We are drawing Robert the Bruce and Edward I using pencil to add shade and tone. So far I am pleased with the shading on Robert the Bruce's helmet.

John Muir Update by 5C

On Monday the 22nd January we had a John Muir Dance Workshop. We used animals for inspiration and descriptions of how they move to create a dance. 5C really enjoyed the workshop because we got to work with different partners and join different movements together before performing to rest of the class.

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching 5C and would like to thank the children for all their hard work throughout the session. I would also like to thank all parents/carers for the support they have given both myself and the children. Mrs Roche



P6A began their Food Education topic with a visit from a parent who is a chef at the Prestonfield House Hotel. We enjoyed his demonstration and talk about making fajitas. He spoke about the importance of seasoning for bringing taste to food. He told us about his experiences as a chef. This week we have been looking at seasonal foods and inventing our own seasonal menus, suitable for the restaurant of our dreams. We will be investigating the journey of foods including chocolate, tasting new foods, and having a go at cooking! Yesterday we enjoyed Russian meatballs which Kaye brought in for us to try. They are called Tifftelki. In art, we have been drawing Fruit Faces and we learnt about Giuseppe Arcimboldi, who made portraits of people out of fruits and vegetables.

Mr Durkin is helping us with our Maths. We are currently learning about all sorts of angles, how to

recognise, measure and draw them. We are also looking at information handling and coordinates.

We had an exciting day with Mr Smith preparing for our Scots assembly. Some of us learnt poems and we all sang Scots songs. We drew illustrations of the Gruffalo story to help Mr Smith with his Gruffalo in Scots story telling at assembly.

In PE, we are enjoying gymnastics. We learnt how to do different sequences. We have been making up routines with partners. We have learnt how to do different rolls including teddy bear and pencil rolls. If you don't know what these are, do ask us!



P6B are well under way with our new class topics. We are learning about the Great Outdoors as well as Food and Health this term. We worked together to plan our new topics

and have decided that we will learn about the features of Scotland's landscape and link this in with our maths; investigating angles, scale, compass points and co-ordinates. We plan to go on our own outdoor journey and will need these skills to navigate the way. We will also be looking at risk assessments and what to do in an emergency situation as part of this topic. We have already begun using an atlas to investigate hills, mountains, islands and rivers on a map of Scotland and looking forward to finding out about the Outdoor Access Code. In our health topic, we have been looking at the Eatwell Guide and designed our own healthy meal. We have also investigated seasonality and begun creating our own seasonal menus. As part of this topic, we plan to prepare a variety of foods and learn about some food preparation techniques. We will also be linking this topic with our writing and creating recipes and adverts about key healthy eating messages.

In our numeracy groups, we have begun learning about multiplication and division and are learning different strategies to use when working out times tables.

In French, we are enjoying learning about family members, pets and the body through taking part in different songs, games and activities.

Our P.E. focus this term is Gymnastics and we are enjoying using the different apparatus and sequencing together different movements. Please take a look at our website page where we will try to post a video from our P.E lessons with Mrs Arnold to show how well we have been working.



P6C has made a good start to the New Year with our two new topics. In our 'Great Outdoors' topic, we have been looking at the physical features of Scotland's landscape such as mountains and islands and

learning about how these were formed. We'll soon be moving on to planning our 'Great Outdoors' trip up Lammerlaw. We will be planning our route, learning a little bit of emergency first aid and even doing our own risk assessment before we go out.

In Food Education, we have looked at the different food groups and how these feature in the Eatwell guide. We used our knowledge of the portions to design a healthy lunchbox for a child our age.

We have started to look at where food comes from and the seasonality of different foods. We will then go on to design a seasonal menu for one of the seasons. We will also be learning about how to prepare food safely later in the term.

Our writing will be linked to our IDL work and will have a focus on pieces of functional writing.

In PE, we are concentrating on gymnastics. We will be using the skills of balancing, rolling, jumping and weight on hands in a sequence with a partner. We will also be doing some fitness work using the 'Jog Scotland' pack.

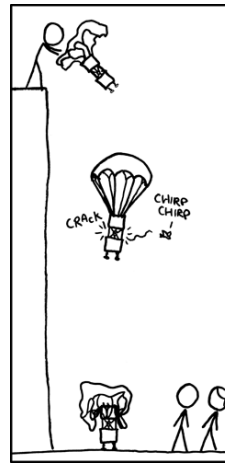
We will be looking at the visual elements in art. We will be looking at examples of artwork and using these as a stimulus for our work. We have started with George Seurat and are currently working hard to finish our pointillism pictures - they take a while!

In class maths, we have been learning about angles. We know how to recognise and label angles and also how to use a protractor to measure them. We will be moving on to looking at compass directions and scale to tie in with our Great Outdoors topic.

We have started working in our new numeracy groups and the focus this term will be on Multiplication and Division. Please feel free to keep practising multiplication tables at home 😊

Our work in French will focus on how to introduce our family and also how to talk about pets.

In reading, we will be practising the skills of predicting, summarising and clarifying amongst other skills through 'reading detective' work using our group novels. Please make sure you keep up to date with your reading homework!



P7A ended last term strongly with musical performances a-plenty, a class election to cap our democracy topic, a gardening session, and a comparative study on the nativity story in the books of Matthew and Luke.

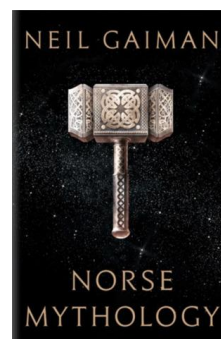
This term, P7A are looking at a number of different science outcomes. We have already started to investigate air resistance versus gravity by designing and building parachutes

to carry an egg safely to the ground. Our successes, and failures, are available on YouTube.

In numeracy, we are looking at fractions and will be moving on to decimals and percentages later this term. Good knowledge of times tables is essential to get the most from this topic. Class maths is currently focused on 2D and 3D shape but will take in number patterns and sequence later on. This will include the Fibonacci sequence and so we will be looking for this famous sequence in nature on a trip to Neilson Park.

Health and well-being this term will focus on drugs education. We will be looking at the common names of legal and illegal drugs as well as the short and long term effects these can have on your body and mind. Later on we will be discussing the development of a baby.

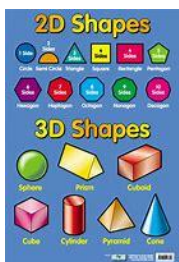
In writing, we are working on imaginative writing. Each week we have been breaking stories down into their component parts, analysing these and learning to create our own versions using language and ideas we have shared together as a class. This will eventually conclude with the children putting all of this learning together into one complete story which will be their own work and ideas.



P7B has made a great start in 2018, with a real focus on imaginative writing in literacy. The class has been looking at Norse myths and legends with an eye to using their knowledge to help them write their own Viking story.

We will be looking at how we can draft, edit and improve our writing so watch this space! To help support this, we have been watching some of the BBC short animated Viking myths and reading through Neil Gaiman's

fantastic 'Norse Mythology' book. It has been great to hear that some of our children have been going away and doing some finding out of their own about these often weird and wonderful stories. For our topic this term we are doing 'Mad Science' which will consist of the children investigating lots of different scientific questions and posing various ways in which they can either prove or disprove a theory. The key aspect will be looking at developing our 'working scientifically' skills - the skills real scientists use in the real world. We have also begun to look at the role some famous (particularly female) scientists have had upon society and the impact that we can see today. Ask your children what they have found out! In numeracy this term we are looking at fractions, decimals and percentages and investigating the way in which these are all interlinked...our knowledge of the times tables will really come in handy here! For maths we have started looking at 2D and 3D shapes, their properties and how we can identify them. This will cover such topics as symmetry, parallel and perpendicular lines, the various different types of angles and of course nets of shapes. Finally we will be looking at Christian parables, in RME, and what lessons we can learn from them and how they can translate to our lives today. A busy term!



P7C's IDL topic this term is Mad Science. We will be developing our science skills by learning about electricity, forces, vibration and sound, chemical reactions and inheritance. We will be using our functional writing skills to record our findings and working on using

scientific language when describing our experiments. Our writing focus this term is imaginative writing skills. We will be looking in detail at how to structure an imaginative story. Each week we will be learning about a different part of a story and using this knowledge to create an extended piece of writing.

In class maths our focus will be on 2D and 3D shapes. We will be looking at being able to describe and identify 2D and 3D shapes from their properties.

King's Meadow P.T.A.

February News

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2018!

Christmas Fair – a big success!

Our **Christmas Fair** held on Friday 15th December was a fabulous event and very well attended. The children sang beautifully, the Woodwind Warriors and P7 Orchestra both delivered stellar performances and festive spirit was in abundance!



The P.T.A. are delighted that the event raised a fantastic **£795** which will be used primarily to fund *bus costs for upcoming school trips*.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who supported the event – and particularly those who donated items to the raffle and helped out on the day!

Upcoming Events

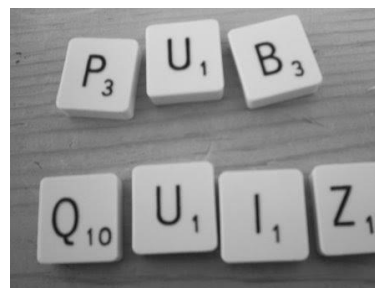
P5 Movie Night: Evening of Tuesday 6th February

This has traditionally proved to be a very popular event with our P5's. Come along in your PJ's, with your duvet and favourite teddy, and enjoy watching a film with all your friends! Drinks and popcorn on offer at half-time!



Flyers have already been distributed in school bags – make sure you return your ticket money and order form promptly so you don't miss out!

Pub Quiz: March 2018
Exact Date to be announced soon



Following the success of last Spring's Pub Quiz, the P.T.A. is busy organising this year's event.

Flyers with ticket info for this adults-only evening will be issued shortly.

Easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you book holidays and travel online – from your annual summer holiday to a winter weekend away – you could be raising a free donation for King's Meadow Primary School?

There are over 3,000 retailers including Expedia, Booking.com and Thomson who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to King's Meadow to say thank you for shopping with them. It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is:

1. **Register@**
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kingsmeadowps/>
2. **Sign up for free**
3. **Get shopping** – your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to King's Meadow. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and King's Meadow P.T.A. will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

How can I get involved?

Next P.T.A. Meeting: Tues. 27th February 2017, 6:30pm in the Music Room

New members welcome! If you can't make this date, please-mail kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com