



MARCH/APRIL 2018 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 28th March.



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 28th 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 **Thursday 29th March**, at the normal finishing time. The new term will begin on **Monday 16th April**, at the usual time.

Please note: School will be closed for the May Day holiday on **Monday 7th May** with an in-service day on **Tuesday 8th**.

HT DROP-IN SESSIONS



A brief reminder that if you have any questions, comments or observations about your child or the school, we would like to offer you the opportunity to drop in for a chat with Mrs McGillivray or, if she is not available, Mr Smith on a Thursday morning between 09:00 and 10:00.



FRIDAY CLUBS



A big THANK YOU to those parents and carers who have supported us with clubs to date. Your help makes such a difference and we would hope that we are adding to your skills too.

We will be starting a new round of clubs on the 27th of April, and these will run for 5 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.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



As you may be aware, staff at both Haddington Infant School and King's Meadow Primary have been reviewing their behaviour policies. They have surveyed staff, parents and pupils and have now produced a draft copy of a joint policy. This has been shared with staff who have been asked for feedback. Once any amendments have been made, the policy will go out to parents for their feedback.

NAUTRE DETECTIVES



The Nature Detectives have been focussing on the importance of keeping our environment clean. We looked at the impact litter, plastic and other waste materials have on our wildlife. On a recent river walk we were delighted to spot a Kingfisher, which is one of the indicators of a healthy river eco system. Throughout the winter we have continued to feed the birds, encouraging a wide variety of species to our school garden.



PARENT COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at **7.00pm on Wednesday 2nd of May**. All parents/carers are welcome to attend.



HEAD LICE



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

We would like to ask all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week. Parental vigilance plays a vital role in keeping the spread of this problem under control.

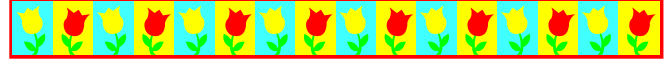


DATES FOR THE DIARY

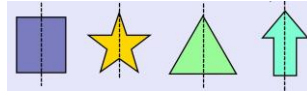


- Friday 2nd March: P5A assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 9th: P5B assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 16th: P5C assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 23rd: P4A assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- **Wednesday 28th: Child-led Parents'/Carers' meetings.**
- Thursday 29th: Special Assembly. Parents to attend by invitation only.

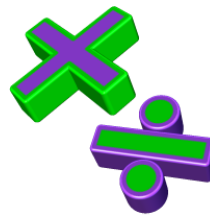
- Thursday 29th: Last day of term.
- Monday 16th April: Return to school.
- Friday 27th: P7C assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.



AROUND THE CLASSES



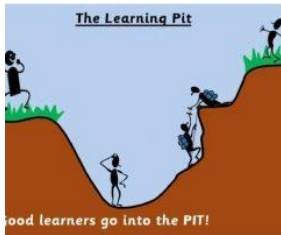
P4A have once again settled to giving their best across the curriculum. In maths, we have been re-capping and extending work with symmetrical patterns and pictures. In addition to the main science focus, our new topic, Earth in Space, encompasses the writing of newspaper articles and responding to and creating music. On Wednesday afternoons we will be learning about staying safe online and how to behave appropriately and responsibly when using the internet. Towards the end of the month we have a P4 Athletics Festival at the Aubigny Centre to look forward to, as well as our class assembly on Friday 23rd March. We are already putting ideas together for this and are keen to share our learning with as many parents and carers as possible.



P4B is continuing to work on multiplication and division with the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables in Numeracy. We have been learning about the commutative law, which means that 2×5 and 5×2 give the same answer. In Maths, once we have finished with time, the children will be learning about symmetry and compass points with Mrs Davidson. In Literacy, we have covered lots of different aspects such as Listening and Talking, Reading, and Writing in preparation for our topic presentations. The children are becoming more confident in assessing their own, and each other's, work to check they have met the success criteria, and thinking of 'next steps' to help them to improve their work next time. These reflective skills are vital to help the children to become more independent in their work and to help them to progress their learning. In Health and Wellbeing, we have been discussing the importance of a good work ethic and a positive attitude to learning and how this will help in the future. We are going to be looking at positive role models and discuss what skills and qualities have

helped them to achieve success. We are enjoying our outdoor PE lessons and are working on our athletics skills, which we will be able to use at the P4 Athletics Festival in March.

As part of our IDL project, the children delivered fantastic individual presentations on a chosen animal and we are in the process of putting the slides onto our Google Classroom - the children all have their log-on details for this so should be able to show you how to access it. Our Adapting to the Cold topic is coming to an end and we will then be moving onto learning about the sun and the moon and their changes over time.



P4C have been working on developing their gymnastic skills. This has involved exploring jumping, balancing and rolling and working out how to link these elements into a gymnastic sequence.

The class is very enthusiastic and enjoyed setting out their own work station designs using every bit of apparatus that they could lay their hands on! We are moving on to athletics and have made a start with running and baton changing. We are in the process of organising an Athletics Festival at the Aubigny Centre in March. Swimming will continue until the Easter Holidays with additional sessions available in term 4 for individuals requiring extra lessons.

As part of Health and Wellbeing, we have been discussing how to change a negative attitude into a positive one. Ask your child about the Learning Pit and what happens there. We have discovered that a FAIL at something that represents a First Attempt in Learning and we have had good discussions on how to learn from failing. With a positive mindset, you can learn from a fail by modifying what you do next and having another go. Often success isn't easy to achieve but with a positive attitude and some problem-solving techniques, you can get there in the end and feel really good about your achievements. It's about thinking "I can't do that yet!"

Included in the project about Adapting to the Cold, we have been finding out about climate zones around the world and looking at weather conditions and how to measure them. The class will use weather instruments to measure wind speed, humidity, rainfall, temperature and air pressure in the playground and record this information over a period

for discussion. They are very interested in finding out about extreme weather and the impact this has on environments. Using some real-life examples of weather reporting, everyone will write their own weather report and have the opportunity to present this to the class. Hopefully, they will include appropriate weather vocabulary, a forecast and how it will affect people.



P4D'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!

Our new topic investigates the Earth in Space. We will focus on the structure of the Earth and its relationship with the sun and how their position determines our seasons and time. We will also look at the moon as it orbits the Earth, learning about its shape and influence on the tides.

In literacy, we have resumed our weekly book clubs and pages will be set weekly to share with the group. This term we will focus on recognition of punctuation to promote expressive delivery when reading aloud. We will also be looking at many different purposes for writing including a news report, letter and imaginative piece inspired by music.

In numeracy, we will initially use concrete materials, games and art tasks to share equally among 2, 3, 5 and 10. This will progress into formal written division and link multiplication facts to solving division problems. In maths we progress from calendar dates and seasons to reading 12 and 24 hour clocks in 5 minute increments past and to the hour. We will use our developing knowledge and understanding to estimate duration of simple tasks such as daily mile and peeling a satsuma!

In expressive arts, Mr Connell continues to promote our topic with a fantastic night and day project. We will also listen to Holst's The Planets and create our own piece of percussion to represent Earth.

In Health and Wellbeing, we will continue to compare and contrast growth and fixed mind-set. Mrs Arnold will teach us the skill required for the differing

disciplines of indoor athletics and our swimming draws to a close this term with our last 4 sessions. In French, we have been working hard to learn the parts of our body and can now sing heads, shoulders, knees and toes and can have a go at the Hokey Cokey (Le Boogie Woogie) too! This term we will develop this vocabulary by taking a look at some French portrait artists and describing the features of their work using our French vocabulary.



P5A has continued to have a very busy time and have been making great progress in various different areas of the curriculum. We have now finished our William Wallace topic, which culminated in a challenge week where the children produced a story board to show their knowledge and understanding of everything that we had covered in lessons. The quality of the work was very high and I am sure that the children will share these with you at the forthcoming Child Led Parent/Carers' Night.

Our Fish in the Classroom project is going well and we now have hundreds of trout alevins hatched from our eggs. The children take it in turn to maintain and record the water temperature to ensure the best conditions for the fish. Soon, Amy, from Forth Fisheries, will return and we will be netting the fish to take down to the River Tyne for release. This will be part of our John Muir Award and Jen, the County Ranger, will also come with us to do some additional work. The children all enjoyed the canoeing on the Tyne and we only had one child (and our lovely Mrs Kelly) take an unscheduled dip into the river!

Our topic for the second half of this term is Fair Trade, which has started within Fair Trade fortnight. We have shared our current knowledge and what we would like to find out about this area. As part of the topic we will be undertaking food preparation, as well as a country study to compare with our lives in Scotland and the impact Fair Trade has on emergent countries. As part of our challenge activity - to show what we have learned - we are planning to invite parents to a "Fair Trade Breakfast" and a "Stay and Learn with Us" session so that children can demonstrate their new skills. I will send out a separate letter/invite soon to allow you to save the date.

In Literacy, our focus has moved on from capitals, full stops, commas and question marks and we are <http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

now looking at parts of sentences including prepositions, object and subject, conjunctions, etc. This will help us think about the construction of our sentences when we are writing.

In Maths and Numeracy group, we are learning about money. This will also help with our Fair Trade Breakfast challenge as the children will have to work out how much to charge for the food they prepare and sell to cover their costs. If you are out shopping, quiz your child on change from a £1, £5, etc. Point out prices, etc so that the children have more of an awareness of money in context.

The class continue with the art specialist this term and are moving on from gymnastics to golf in PE with Mrs Arnold. In French, our focus will move from learning animal vocabulary to learning about Spring and Easter.

As usual, if you have any problems or issues, or would like to help out in class or even share some achievements from home, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.



P5B are looking at Fairtrade. We are looking at the products and the countries where they are produced, the route from source to consumer, and the people that work within the Fairtrade community. We will also be carrying out some food preparation. If you could continue this at home, even in the smallest of ways eg helping to make breakfast or lunch, as well as the safety and the hygiene aspects of preparing food, it would help the children to extend their skills. This term we are also looking forward to our assembly where we hope to see as many of you as possible!

During numeracy, we are working on money; an awareness of what coins exist, and their value in comparison to other coins, addition and subtraction of values, working out what change will be given and the total of a number of values through working with word problems. In maths, we will soon be moving on to time. Again, if children were encouraged to practise telling the time at home and working out the minutes until a certain time it would be a great help to them.

Our literacy focus is on persuasive language. We will be carrying out debates about Fairtrade usage and we will be writing persuasive letters. We are continuing

to work on French - moving on from vocabulary associated with animals to that of food.



P5C and I, Miss Smyth, have had a lot of fun getting to know each other over the past week through various games

and activities, such as hot-seating. I have recently moved over to the East Lothian area from Northern Ireland and am looking forward to meeting you at our forthcoming parent/carers' session.

We have recently finished our topic on Scottish Wars of Independence and have spent some time discussing everything that we learnt. Our great work is on display around the classroom for everyone to see!

Our new topic for this term is Fair Trade. We have discussed everything that we already know about Fair Trade and what we would like to find out. We have spent some time discussing and researching different areas of Fair Trade in class. Currently, we are preparing debates for and against buying Fair Trade products in our cooperative learning groups. We have been busy spotting the Fair Trade logo on products while we are shopping and at home. As part of the topic we will be carrying out some food preparation and a country study to compare our lives in Scotland with people in developing countries who are positively impacted by Fair Trade.

In Literacy, we have just finished our diary entry writing topic. We wrote some brilliant diary entries on what we got up to over the half term holidays. We will now be looking at persuasive writing and will be linking this to our Fair Trade topic by forming an argument on why it is good to buy Fair Trade products.

In our Numeracy groups, we have just started learning about money. If you are out shopping it would be great if you could quiz your child on change from £1, £5, etc. Point out prices so that the children have more of an awareness of money in context.

The children are continuing with art this term and are doing some excellent portraits, with Mr Connell, based on their Scottish history topic. In PE they will be moving from gymnastics to golf. We are continuing to learn about animal vocabulary in French and will be looking at zoo animals next. As we get

closer to the Easter holidays we will begin learning some Spring and Easter vocabulary.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about everything we are doing in P5C. As usual, we are very busy! If you have any questions, concerns or just want to say hello, please don't hesitate to contact me.



P6A and I, Miss White, have enjoyed getting to know each other over the past week through various interactive activities, such as 'two truths and a lie' and 'roll the dice to break the

ice'. I have recently relocated to Scotland, having lived and worked in Northern Ireland.

In Literacy, we created some interesting 'I am' poems as a way to introduce everyone in the class. We have also been busy brushing up on our punctuation and grammar through learning about commas and creating 'adjective burgers'; this will help ensure our writing is up to scratch!

In class maths, we have been learning how to use compass points to give accurate directions and in our numeracy groups, we are developing mental and written strategies for long multiplication. I would encourage your child to continue revising the multiplication tables to help with their numeracy work. We have also been learning about the primary survey and the recovery position within our topic work. This helps us know what to do in an emergency situation and we will soon be practising the recovery position in pairs! We are currently discussing responsibilities within our community and learning about the Scottish Access Code.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about our first week together in P6A! As always, we will continue to be very busy! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.



P6B has been working really well on Great Outdoors and Food and Health topics. So far, we have identified different features of Scotland's landscape on a map and have been thinking of responsible behaviours when out and about. By investigating the outdoor access code, we know how to

care for, respect and take responsibility for the environment. We are looking forward to our own outdoor journey where we will be climbing Lammerlaw on the 26th of March. Recently we found out about simple First Aid procedures and how to put someone into the recovery position. We now plan how to find out how to give someone CPR. In Food and Health, we have enjoyed preparing some apple and pear crumble; making use of the claw grip and bridge hold when using sharp knives. We also had to demonstrate safe and hygienic practice after carrying out a glitter germ experiment. We have been writing recipes and instructions during our literacy time and are now moving on to investigate and create adverts around key health messages.

In French, we have been learning about different body parts and have been playing Jacques a dit as well as reading, writing and drawing some monsters to help us show different body parts. We are excited to be working with the Outdoor Education team on the 5th of March to complete outdoor activities linked to World Book Day. Please remember to wrap up warm for this event.



P6C have been working hard on both of our recent topics and enjoyed sharing their learning with everyone at our class assembly. The children worked very hard in a short space of

time and we thought they did a super job! Well done everyone 😊

We all enjoyed making our apple and pear crumble in food prep and are hoping to have another recipe to try out soon!

We will also be starting Health education this term and learning about the changes our bodies go through during puberty.

In Numeracy, we are working hard on our Multiplication tables and the relationship between multiplication and division. Keep practising these at home!

Maths, this term, has been linked to our Great Outdoors topic. We have been looking at angles, compass directions and scale. We will be putting these into practice when we climb Lammerlaw in March.

In PE, we have been putting together some gymnastics sequences. You will be able to see these at our Child Led Parents' Evening at the end of March. We will shortly be moving on to athletics.

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



P7A have continued their hard work this term. In writing, we have broken down a story and looked

at the individual parts. P7A are now pulling together all the individual components into an imaginative piece of writing. The class will be self and peer editing this piece of writing, using the editing features in Google Docs, to produce a completed story. These will be bound together to create a collection of short stories.

We are continuing to code with support from code.org. At the time of writing, the class had written 17,642 lines of code. I have been impressed with the children's ability to problem solve and support each other, as well as putting their growth mind-sets to the test.

On Friday 23rd February, 6 children from 7A went to meet the Lord Provost of East Lothian at his office in John Muir House. Originally we just went to drop off our entries for the design a flag for East Lothian competition but, on hearing we were in the building, the Lord Provost asked to meet the class representatives. We had our photo taken with him and he gave us something to take back for the rest of the class, as well as a flag from Haddington's twin town Aubigny to display in the school. The Lord Provost also gave the class a stuffed mammoth from Germany which may be making a trip home with some of the luckier children.

Lastly, we are going to be looking at the Cycle of Life in health and wellbeing. This includes finding out about reproduction and how a baby develops. We will also learn how a baby is born and what is needed to look after a baby once it arrives.



P7B are to work on their imaginative writing tasks. We have been exploring different Norse myths and learning about the characters and settings. The class has been investigating how the myths are commonly

structured and we are beginning to look at and understand the key story plots that we can use to make our own. We are building up to creating our own brand new myths to read to each other. As usual, we are continuing to develop our grammar and sentence level skills with an aim to applying these to our exciting new stories. In science, we are looking at 'Mad Science' with each week or two having a focus on

a particular scientific skill; whether that be predicting, observing, measuring or analysing the results of what we have explored. The class had great fun trying to develop a way to harness air resistance in a bid to help their fragile cargo when it was dropped from a height! In numeracy, we are looking at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages and the link to developing real world skills. The children have been ordering, comparing and simplifying fractions and we will go on to look at adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions as well as converting mixed numbers into proper fractions. In maths, we have started to explore the beginnings of algebra by looking at forward and backward linear number sequences. The children will be developing their understanding to identifying the Nth Term to help them identify much more complex patterns. In Health and Wellbeing, we have already been looking at different types of drugs - ones that are medical and that we can use to help us and non-medical, illegal drugs that are harmful to us. We have explored several different drugs, what they are called, where they come from, what effects they have upon the body and mind and the possible legal ramifications of using such substances. We are moving on next to look at how life begins; how babies are born and how our bodies change as we grow older and start to mature. We will, of course, be looking at using the correct and appropriate vocabulary around this topic. All in all, we have a very busy few weeks coming up including two transition trips to Knox organised by the P.E. department.

In Class Maths, our focus will be on patterns and sequences. We will be looking at being able to describe and identify number patterns and how to calculate a rule to solve them.

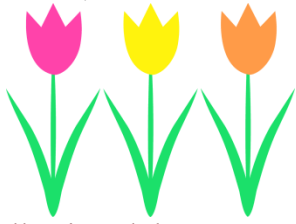


P7C is beginning to learn about Sexual Health and Relationships Health and Well-Being. We will be looking at how human life begins and how a baby is born.

In RME lessons our focus is on Christian parables. We are looking at the different Christian stories and reflecting upon these in class.

Our French focus this term is Families. We are learning key vocabulary about how to describe family members and how to put this vocabulary into sentences. We will also look at Easter vocabulary and comparing Easter traditions from Scotland to Easter traditions in France.

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



Hope you've all enjoyed the February holiday!

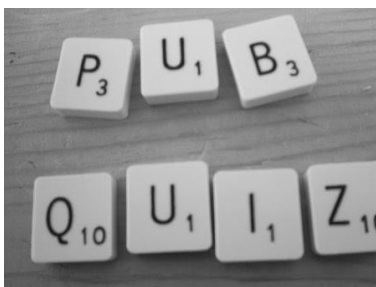
Round-Up of Recent Events

Our P5 Movie Night held on Tuesday 6th February was a big hit! In their PJ's, dressing gowns and slippers, cuddled up with their duvets, sleeping bags and teddies, our P5's enjoyed watching a film 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 healthy **£116.96!!!**



Upcoming Dates for your Diary

Pub Quiz
Friday 16th March, 7:30pm – 11pm
Haddington Rugby Club



Come along to our popular P.T.A. Pub Quiz and pit your wits against other King's Meadow parents, carers and teachers!

If you've not already received the ticket form, please e-mail kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com to request an event flyer and obtain your ticket!

Please note tickets for this adults-only event are priced at £4 each with teams a maximum of 6 people. Prizes and a fundraising raffle too!

We'd also be very grateful to receive raffle donations which can include alcohol – please hand into the School Office. Thank you.



Parents and carers can request to join our Facebook group by visiting **King's Meadow PTA**.

easyfundraising

Do you shop online? Do it through easyfundraising.org.uk and raise a free donation for Kings Meadow Primary School every time you shop!

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!

How can I get involved?

Look out for the date of our next P.T.A. meeting which will be advertised shortly.

You don't need to come along to every meeting or help at every event – any level of support is appreciated! For

further info, please e-mail us at

[**kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com**](mailto:kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com)