



## JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER

### KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

We are almost at the end of another school session. We are also at the end of an era as Scottish Ministers have upheld the council's decision to close both King's Meadow and Haddington Infant Schools and reopen them as one.

Although it will take some time for the schools to fully become one, we have decided to have a common School Improvement Plan. This plan focusses on developing shared practice across and includes:

- Developing writing progression from P1 to P7 through the use of a common approach, Big Writing
- Extending the use of Cooperative Learning from P1 to P7
- Ensuring that all children are taught using a Numeracy Academy approach
- Continuing our work on Visible Learning
- On-going work using the Pupil Equity Fund. In KMPS, this will continue to focus on Nurture; however, some additional support will also be provided in literacy and numeracy

A copy of our School Improvement Plan and our Standards and Quality Report will shortly be available on our website or, if you prefer, you may request a paper copy.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents/carers who have taken the time to support the school by helping out with Friday Clubs, tidying the library, paired reading, sporting events, educational outings, work in class, PTA, Parent Council etc. We could not manage without you!

### REPORTS



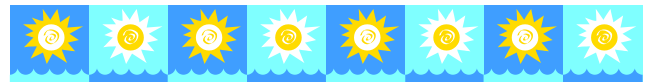
End of session reports will be coming home on the Friday 8th. Please remember to check your child's bag when they return home that day.



### SUMMER HOLIDAYS

School closes at the usual time on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June and reopens for pupils at 08:45 on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of August.

Please check our website for the Session Dates for 2018/19.



### CLASSES 2018/2019



Next session we will have 14 classes; however, the class structure will remain the same:

- P4A P4B P4C P4D
- P5A P5B P5C P5D
- P6A P6B P6C
- P7A P7B P7C

We will be holding a 'moving up' day on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June when your child will spend the day in her/his new classroom with her/his classmates and, hopefully, her/his teacher for next session. At this point in time, we are unable to say which teachers are allocated to specific classes; however, we would hope that your child/ren would be able to tell you this on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

## STAFFING NEWS



As we head towards the end of session we, once more, find ourselves saying "Good-bye" to a number of staff. Mrs

Murray, Mrs Reid are moving on to pastures new. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both ladies for their hard work and the support they have given to pupils, parents and staff during their time with us. I know that they are both sad to be moving on but are looking forward to new challenges. Miss Lyon, Miss Smyth and Miss White will also be moving on to the next stage in their careers and we wish them all the best.



Mrs Dale has taken the decision to retire after 8 years of working in King's Meadow. During that time she has supported a number of pupils and staff, all of whom are the better for it. I know that you will join us in wishing her a long and happy retirement.



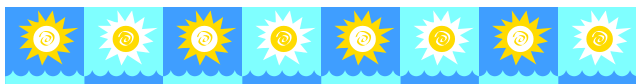
On a different note, congratulations and welcome are extended to Mrs Esamal who, following her probationary year, has secured a permanent teaching post at King's Meadow.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM



Whilst we are in the early stages of becoming a new school, we would advise parents/carers whose children have outgrown their current uniform to purchase a plain blue sweatshirt/cardigan that could be worn outside school. If you wish, we do have a small supply uniform available to purchase from the school office. Alternatively, we always have a number of pre-owned sweatshirts that you might be interested in.



## P.E.

King's Meadow has been a hive of sporting activity and I know there were a number of

exhausted young people at the end of last week.

This is a fantastic time of year where we all come together to celebrate many aspects of our learning.

Sports Day was amazing (and the sun shone)! The P6s and 7s were supported by Knox Academy's S3s in an authentic Track and Field team competition. The P6s had been learning about fitness and analysing and describing quality movements as a tool to assist them in their athletics performance. The P7s were focussing on many different aspects of leadership skills to support one another and P6s in their teams. I was blown away by the team work and the effort all the boys and girls put into their performances on the day!

I was instantly struck by the smiles and enthusiasm the P4s and 5s had on their Sports Day afternoon. They were fantastic, cheering and supporting their classmates as they raced together and demonstrated their sporting skills.

Sports Day was not the only event last week. P4's are currently developing their skills and techniques with Striking and Fielding games and they all had a visit from one of the East Lothian cricket coaches.

P5s celebrated their learning in Clubgolf by visiting Haddington Golf course. This event was very kindly supported by parents from our school, Haddington Ladies, Haddington Golf Course and Kate Green, E.LC.'s Golf Development Officer.

P6s were by far the busiest in the school! They attended Haddington Cluster Hockey festival with Susie Walker, received Orienteering sessions from Anthony at Outdoor Education and participated in Rugby Taster sessions with Thomas Salkeld from Haddington Rugby football club.

Last but by no means least..... Our P7 Hockey Team won the Regional finals with the support, commitment and encouragement of Haddington Hockey Club's head coach, Suzanne Laing.

Our last major sporting event of the session was the East Lothian Athletics Championships in which 32 of our pupils competed against athletes from other large schools in East Lothian. Our athletes were amazing and the team came third!

Many thanks to everyone who has supported me and the children throughout 2017/18, much of this would not be possible without your help!

Have a great summer.

Mrs Arnold



## NATURE DETECTIVES

Spring is always a busy time for our Nature Detectives as nature produces its finest display of new life. We have discussed signs of animal activity and how we can identify different species through droppings, plumage and larvae etc.

Our greatest discovery so far has been a nest of Miner Bees that were found burrowing next to an old tree stump. The children learned that, although these bees do not produce honey, they are important pollinators.



These snails were found high up in a drainage pipe, well hidden from any potential predators.



## HEAD LICE



Once again, 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.



## MOBILE PHONES



There is no need for children to have mobile phones in their possession during school hours. Children who require a phone for use outwith school hours should hand their mobile in to the office at the start of the day. Any child who is found to have a phone during school hours will have it removed. The school takes no responsibility for children's mobile phones.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>: P7's enterprise afternoon.
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup>: P4C Assembly. Parents of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup>: End of session reports come home.

- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>: P5B to John Muir's birthplace.
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup>: P4D Assembly. Parents of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup>: Dress down day in aid of Meningitis Research. More info to follow.
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>: P7 transition day at Knox Academy.
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>: P7 transition day at Knox Academy and **Move Up Day** for P3 to P6. 18:00 - P3 parent/carers' meeting
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>: P7 Leavers' show for parents
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup>: Special Assembly. End of session.



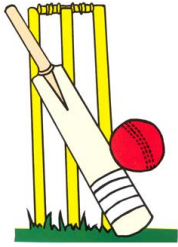
## AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A were absolutely delighted that so many parents, carers and relatives made it along to our superb assembly! The children, Mrs Roberts and Mrs McKeachie put a lot of hard work, care and attention to detail into showing off their learning from terms 3 and 4. Judging by their own reflections, big speaking parts will be hard to come by in P5 as nearly everyone is keen to take on a more significant role next year! We also had a great time at Sports Day; supporting each other and competing against the other P4 classes. Our cricket sessions with the Development Officer will continue into June so we hope the gorgeous sunshine smiles down on us.

We have just concluded our 'Healthy Me' topic and the highlight seems to have been the doctor - patient role play we took part in when exploring symptoms, treatments and preventions for common diseases. We may have a few budding doctors in our class! Our final topic, 'Food Experience' will give us the opportunity to enjoy investigating, preparing and eating a diverse range of foods. We will also explore nutritional needs, cleanliness, hygiene and safety and food journeys, seasonality and sustainability. The literacy element of the topic will see us create recipes and adverts related to our food experience.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to the children, parents and carers of P4A. They have had a super start to their time at King's Meadow and I hope you all have a brilliant summer holiday when it comes.



**P4B** are continuing to learn about fractions, moving on to trickier ones such as thirds and fifths. The children are encouraged to keep practising their times

tables at home as well as in class, as quick recall of times table facts will help them a lot with fractions. In Maths, we are learning about different types of measurement, such as weight and volume.

In Literacy, we have been doing regular reading comprehension activities. This has really helped with not only checking our understanding of the text, but also with the written aspect of writing in full sentences, with correct punctuation, and proof-reading and self-editing to improve the outcome.

In Health and Wellbeing, we have been looking at the correct names for body parts and having discussions about having respect for our own and other people's bodies. We have really been enjoying our block of 'Kwik Cricket' on a Monday with Mr Weatherhead, as well as our weekly PE lessons with Mrs Arnold.

We are just finishing our 'Healthy Me' study and are moving on to 'Food Experience'. As part of this, we will be utilising our maths knowledge of measurement and will be making, and tasting, a variety of healthy foods.

We can't believe it is June already and that we have nearly finished our first year at King's Meadow. Where has the time gone?!



**P4C** have been enjoying their food preparation lessons. We have made healthy sandwiches, guacamole, fruit kebabs, fruit salad, and frozen yogurts. We have really enjoyed eating our

snacks out in the garden as the weather has improved. Everyone looks forward to Thursdays!

As we are focussing on food for our topic this term, we are also learning French food vocabulary. Mrs Bagnall is asking us our French vocabulary every day she is in! Once we know a little more, we will have a French café in class. We were very lucky having a French visitor for a few weeks and she helped us begin to learn our French food words.

We have enjoyed planting up our class vegetable bed. Our seeds have sprouted and we hope to have plenty to harvest, if the sun helps us out by shining a bit more!

Over the next few weeks we will be busy preparing for our class assembly on the theme of food. Four boys from the class will be doing a cooking demonstration for the school and we will be teaching everyone about the importance of washing our hands properly. We hope lots of parents and family will be able to come to our assembly on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June.



**P4D** continue the topic, Healthy Me! Moving on from investigating the food we eat to a more in depth study of the internal organs which are

essential for our growth and fitness. We will continue to explore the finest ways to become the mentally and physically strongest we can be.

In maths, we will explore probability and chance and, in numeracy we will explore fractions and use them to find fractions of whole numbers by calling upon and consolidating our division skills.

In writing, we will have a personal choice on the content our imaginative stories. I know we have a few budding authors here in class and I am looking forward to reading the adventures written. Written work will continue daily until the very end of term so it is essential that your child has a well-equipped pencil case available to support their learning.

Our sport's day was a great afternoon. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers come to share the afternoon with us. We had a fantastic time and hope you enjoyed it too.

We are about to begin working on the props, words, songs and art work which will all play a major part in our class assembly. Pupils are likely to have a key part to learn over the coming weeks and I thank you in advance for your support at home.

My goodness! What a very quick and amazing year this has been. P4D - you have been simply awesome! Have a fabulous summer.



**P5A** find it hard to believe that we are now in the final few weeks of the school year. It seems to have flown

past, yet we also seemed to have achieved so much. We are nearing the end of our current topic which was looking at Food Web, Food Chains and Ecosystems. The children have been sharing their understanding by creating animations to explain an aspect of our topic. Unfortunately, some technical blips have meant that we have been unable to save them but I managed to video their progress instead. We will be rounding off this topic a little later with our Pond Dipping outing which will allow the children to see an ecosystem up close with their new knowledge about abiotic and biotic elements, roles and niches and lots more. The Pond Dipping on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June will also see the end of our John Muir Award programme.

In numeracy, we will continue to look at different aspects of measure. So far, we have covered length, area and weight and will soon move onto learning about volume. This should give the children lots of opportunities to learn in an active manner and, hopefully, be able to put to use their knowledge when we are pond dipping! Mrs Davidson is teaching angles in class maths and I know that the children are becoming very adept at using a protractor, finding angles in their environment and working out contexts that this knowledge would be useful for in everyday life.

In literacy, we will continue to work on our Rainbow words. These have been pasted into homework jotters and changed as the children achieve new levels. For homework, the children should continue to learn these words weekly. We have nearly completed our extended writing using a fictional genre. The class have used their learning in grammar and written some beautiful descriptive stories.

In French, we will continue learning about food vocabulary and practising writing simple questions and answers. We will also work on our confidence in talking in French.

Our last topic of the year will be based on East Lothian. With the summer holidays approaching, I am hoping that the children will choose a context of "Visit East Lothian" type theme where they will use a number of different literacy and social studies skills to persuade visitors of the attractiveness of our county.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers that have helped support the class this year and I wish the children every success for P6.



**P5B** will be focusing on our Visit East Lothian topic, studying the local environment, places we can go and jobs we carried out in the area. For this we will be looking at more map reading, creating leaflets, and carrying out presentations on towns

and villages as well as local attractions.

We will continue to work on our John Muir award, conserving our school woodland, and creating bug hotels to encourage and protect wildlife.

In maths, we will carry on looking at angles. In numeracy, we will be continuing to develop our knowledge on number, looking at number bonds, times tables, and the most efficient way to count or carry out a calculation. We will also be working on measure of weight, volume and length, along with studying area and perimeter. This will be carried out through both practical and written activities, during this we will be looking at both standard and non-standard units of measure.

In French, we will be focusing on weather phrases, as well as recapping all the new vocabulary learned this year. We will be focusing on developing our confidence in pronunciation, and ability to write in French.

In RME, we will focus more on Christianity, as we have studied Sikhism, and towards the end of term we will share our knowledge with each other, as well as the other primary five classes.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June we will be taking a trip to John Muir's Birthplace in Dunbar as a continued investigation into his life and work as part of our Award. This also helps with our study of East Lothian.



**P5C** have been very busy again this term! We had lots of fun on our school trip to Haddington Golf Club, where we demonstrated the knowledge and skills that we learned in PE with Mrs Arnold. We also went to John Muir's Birthplace as part of the John Muir Award which we are working hard to complete. Through looking at pictures and artefacts, reading and playing interactive games, we found out lots of interesting facts about John Muir. Thanks again to the parents who gave up their time to help us on these trips!

We are finishing off our science topic on Ecosystems and will shortly be moving onto our new topic which is East Lothian. We will be focusing on learning about specific historical and

tourist attractions within East Lothian, as well as working in groups to research and create class presentations.

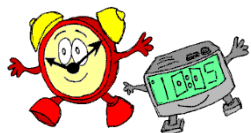
In literacy, we have been busy using our imagination to create fantasy characters and settings for our own fantasy stories. Miss Smyth has been very impressed with our creativity and can't wait to read our completed stories!

In numeracy groups, we have been learning all about measure. We have been using rulers, metre sticks and trundle wheels to complete lots of practical measuring activities and learning how to convert between different units of measurement.

In PE, with Mrs Arnold, we are having lots of fun outdoors by completing orienteering challenges.

We have also been revising the days of the week in French with Mrs Wood.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about all we have been doing in P5C! Thank you for your continued support.



**P6A** have been very busy learning about the importance of Fairtrade and looking at different

Fairtrade products. We had lots of fun planning and preparing our assembly on Fairtrade bananas. We hope you enjoyed watching it as much as the class enjoyed performing it! Miss White was very proud of the hard work and dedication that was shown by everybody when putting the assembly together.

In science, we have been learning about solids, liquids and gases.

In maths, we are learning how to find the total costs of items and calculate the change needed. We have been working hard in our numeracy groups to tell both the 12 hour and 24 hour time accurately. Some of us have also been looking at timetables and time durations.

Within literacy, we are gradually improving our written grammar; in particular, homophones, contractions, sentence openers and conjunctions. We hope that this will help us with our Fairtrade discursive writing.

#### STATES OF MATTER



**P6B** have been working very hard to develop their knowledge and understanding of Fairtrade. So far, we have investigated the

types of products that are Fairtrade and where they come from. We couldn't believe how far some of the food we eat travels. In our writing lesson, we investigated the features of leaflets and then created one to display our knowledge of Fairtrade. We investigated the journey of the banana through playing a game called 'The Banana Split'. This made us think really hard about how much each person is paid through the supply chain and why Fairtrade bananas cost more than non-Fairtrade bananas. We also enjoyed investigating Fairtrade chocolate and took on the role of different workers to model the different steps in the trading chain. It was a good way for us to consider the difficulties faced by workers in the chocolate trade. We have now moved on to identifying the features of a discursive report and are writing an article about whether or not supermarkets should sell Fairtrade products.

In our science lessons, we have been learning about different materials and their properties. So far, we have investigated solids, liquids and gases, dissolving, separating mixtures, chemical reactions and thermal conductors and insulators.

In French, we have been learning about African animals and are becoming more confident with our pronunciation. We enjoyed listening to a French story called "Alban, le petit éléphant d'Afrique" (based on the elephant child). Ask your child about the names of some African animals.

We continue to have lots planned before our summer holidays and the children are already feeling the heat so please remember to bring a water bottle and some sun cream to help us as we count down to the holidays.



**P6C** have enjoyed learning about Fair Trade and what this means for farmers around

the world. We have looked in more detail at the journey of chocolate and bananas and were surprised at the small portion of money a non-Fair trade farmer gets per item. We successfully took part in a simulation game which looked at the experiences of Ghanaian cocoa farmers in the cocoa trading chain. It showed us the role of international trade in the manufacture and marketing of chocolate and the way that the trading system affects the lives and livelihoods of the farmers. It also helped us to understand how

Fair trade helps its members and improves working conditions. We have been thinking about what the Fair trade logo represents and have designed our own logos using 2D geometric shapes. Last week we managed to transfer our designs and create them on the computer in ICT.

We have also been carrying out experiments as part of our science topic 'Properties and Changes of Materials.' Most recently, we have been thinking about soluble and insoluble solutions.

We are working our way through the Keeping Myself Safe scenarios. There should be a worksheet coming home most weeks that will enable discussion at home about the scenarios that the children are looking at in school.

We had a large number of children from 6C representing King's Meadow at the recent Meadowmill festival - what a sporty bunch! Well done everyone. We are now moving on to cricket in P.E. We will be playing Kwick cricket to help our understanding of attacking and defending. We have been enjoying the rugby tasters with Tom and are looking forward to the upcoming festival on the morning of Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> June.

When the athletes were away at Meadowmill, the rest of the class worked extremely hard to create Fair Trade products using paper collage. The results were very effective and everyone was pleased with their finished work- including Mrs McGinlay ☺

In class, we have also been enjoying learning some of the basic elements of African dance and are working hard to move our hips and link some movements together to form a short dance sequence.

Our class bank is up and running smoothly and the children have been working hard to earn cash for their tables. We have had two successful, winning tables so far. Well done everyone- keep up the hard work!



**P7A** have had a busy period of transition activities at Knox Academy. We have completed Literacy, Health and Wellbeing and Numeracy transition events. The children worked very well within their groups along with children from Yester and St Mary's Primary Schools and enjoyed working with their S3 mentors.

The class is also working towards an enterprise event in partnership with Virgin Money. They have formed into businesses within the year group and are busy planning how to make their £5 grow. The

enterprise event will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June. It will continue to run after the school day has finished in order to allow children from the Infant School to visit, as well as any parents or carers. Any support you can give the businesses will be appreciated.

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May, P7A visited the Risk Factory in Edinburgh. It was a challenging afternoon with many different scenarios covering things such as fire and road safety. The children were impeccably behaved and did their best to make the right choices in every scenario. They were also reminded not to share the scenarios with younger relatives so that everyone who goes in future years can get the same learning experience.

The class have also been working on the Friday Clubs that they will lead after we are back from Benmore. There are some great ideas and the rest of the school eagerly signed up to all the clubs. This is a great leadership opportunity for P7A and I am sure the class will put the effort in to make this a success.

There is only a short amount of time left before 7A complete their primary education so I would like to take this opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been to teach them and to wish them all the very best for high school next year.



**P7B** are exceptionally busy being engaged in several simultaneous and challenging activities. The first up is the Virgin

Money grow a £5 event in which the children are working in cooperative groups to invest their money. We will be having an enterprise event on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm - watch this space for further details closer to the time! The children are also busy working to develop their own Friday Clubs that they will be delivering to the younger children the weeks after Benmore. The children have been thinking hard about what they would like to run, how they will structure their lessons and how they will promote their club to the rest of the school. The children successfully ran their sign up morning at the end of May and it was great seeing the children organising themselves with maturity.

Benmore is just around the corner! I can't believe how quickly this has come around and the sense of excitement is really building across the whole year

group. There is an activity week for those children remaining in school, which is always enjoyable.

P7B have been very busy engaging in the many transition events that have been scheduled and it has been amazing to watch how well our children have conducted themselves whilst at Knox Academy. Half of the year group have attended the Risk Factory trip in Edinburgh and, again, showed themselves to be fantastic ambassadors for our school. The staff at the Risk Factory were hugely impressed with the way the children handled themselves in the many tricky situations that they found themselves in. Well done, P7!

Things are really starting to speed up in Primary 7 for this, the last leg of the year and, indeed, the last few weeks at King's Meadow Primary School.



**P7C** are half way through their last term at King's Meadow Primary School and we are focusing on developing enterprise

and leadership skills. The children have been involved in creating ideas and business plans for a Virgin Make £5 Grow topic. As part of this, we will be holding a fayre on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of June and the children will be responsible for running their own stalls. P7 have also been given the opportunity to run their own Friday Clubs. They have been busy creating their clubs and getting children from across the school to sign up to them. We look forward to them starting on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

We will be focusing on preparing the children for starting high school with the aid of transition work before they have their move up days on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of June.



For P7 parents, this would naturally have been your last King's Meadow newsletter as your child/ren move on to high school. We would like to wish pupils and their parents best wishes as you move on to the next step of your educational journey. Good luck!

As P7 move on to high school, we look forward to welcoming our new P4s in August. This will be the last year that we will have such a formal transition as, once the schools become one, there should be

more opportunities for the children to experience both of the buildings on the campus and meet a variety of staff.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of King's Meadow for the support I have received during my five years as head teacher. In particular, I would like to thank Mr Smith. His great knowledge and experience of King's Meadow have been a great help to me throughout the years.

I hope that everyone has a restful and relaxing summer break and wish you all well as you work to bring both school communities together.

Best wishes

*Donald M. McCullivray*

