



Innerwick Primary School Newsletter

A Message from Mr Taylor:

There can be very few places one would rather be than East Lothian when the sun is shining. Rather surprisingly it's been shining quite a lot recently, and this has provided opportunities for outdoor learning to take place, with the children responding very positively. The summer term is always a case of trying to balance making the most of outdoor opportunities with rounding off the learning for the year, and making appropriate assessments and evaluations. There is, of course, also the suggestion of change just around the corner as P7s step up their transition experiences, and the younger children also get ready to move on to a new stage. Staff also face these challenges, and we have spent time reflecting on the year, and preparing for the next academic session. There will be staff changes, more detail to follow, and new priorities which will reflect our new partnership status. The new School Improvement Plan is being worked on at the moment, and will be shared with you soon. If you have been unable to complete the recent questionnaire, please try to do so before the end of May.

The summer term also sees all the other traditional end of year events, such as summer fairs, sports days and end of year assemblies. A lot of work goes into these events, and I thoroughly enjoyed the recent 'Innerwick Extravaganza' where I got the chance to catch up with many parents and meet a few others too. It was a great afternoon, and a very good example of teamwork and good planning. I am hoping to spend time with more parents over the course of the final term during one of the noted activities. Please remember that I am always happy to meet with parents should they wish to arrange an appointment. I hope you enjoy a well-earned break over the summer, and I thank you for your continued support of the school.

Little and Large Cookery Competition:

Kelly and Oliver from P6 travelled to Dunbar Grammar School earlier in the month to represent Innerwick at the annual Little and Large cookery competition. They were linked up with a pupil from the Grammar school who helped them prepare a savoury and a sweet dish. We are delighted to say that Innerwick took first place on the day! Oliver and Kelly—accompanied by their Grammar School partner will now go on to Musselburgh to represent the Dunbar Cluster in the final. Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to Oliver and Kelly. Good luck in the final!!



Car Parking:

In the interests of the safety of all the children can we please remind you that the car park is for staff use and deliveries only—the car park is becoming increasingly busy. Also please do not park in the lay-by as this can cause issues with the buses. Thank-you!



Reminders

- As we are approaching the warmer weather please ensure that your child has suncream on if required.
- Please could you use the plastic wallets to send in notes or money from home—please try to include the correct amount as we do not keep petty cash within the school.
- Please ensure that your child brings a filled water bottle with them to school every day.
- Please keep an eye on our school blog to find out more about what is happening in school. The children look forward to reading your comments on their posts. We are now on Twitter and are posting regular updates on this. Follow us on @innerwickprim
- Children should always have their PE kit in school to enable teachers to include expressive arts in their daily lessons.
- Don't forget to telephone the school by 9am if your child is going to be absent—if no-one is available please leave a message on the answering machine. We have well-being responsibilities, and no contact may trigger emergency procedures.
- The school office is not manned during 12.30 and 1.30, if you need to contact the school during this time please leave a message and we will call you back

Nursery News:

It has been a very busy term already for the nursery children! We have enjoyed an outing to the local farm to see a new calf, and had a visit from a new baby, both linked to our topic of "Spring and New Life". The children are now learning about "Mini-beasts" and are looking forward to a visit from the Countryside Ranger next week to take us on a bug hunt. We are also observing 5 caterpillars in the nursery classroom, who we hope will eventually turn into beautiful butterflies. Please pop into Nursery and take a look at them as they grow and develop over the next few weeks.

Nature Play has started up again, and we are enjoying our weekly outings into our little woodland where we learn, play and explore together. Water play, den-building, swinging in the hammock, bug-hunting and eating snack are the current favourite activities!

The pre-school children have started their transition events to prepare them for moving into P1. Their P6 buddies are doing an excellent job of supporting them, and the pre-school children are requesting that they visit on a daily basis!

We will be holding our annual Nursery Improvement Plan Review on Tuesday 29th May from 11.30am. Nursery parents are invited to join us and enjoy coffee/tea and cake, whilst we evaluate the improvements we have focused on this session and what we can improve upon next year. Please read the notice on the classroom door for further information and let a member of staff know if you are able to attend.

Thank you once again to all our parent helpers who help us every week to allow a full range of activities and wonderful learning opportunities to take place. You are a valuable asset to our team and your time with us is much appreciated.



French Student:

Laetitia is a student teacher from Bordeaux, who is spending time teaching classes in all schools in the Dunbar cluster. She will be working with all the classes at Innerwick for the next 4 Tuesdays.



Diary Dates:

May:

23rd - Ranger to Nursery
23rd - P4/5 Swimming
24th—Little and Large final
24th—P6/7 Rugby
25th—Meadowmill Athletics (P6/7)
30th—P6 Enterprise Day
30th—P4/5 Swimming
31st—P7 STEM Day QMU

June:

6th—Information Session for new P1 parents
6th—Information Session for new S1 parents
7th—P4/5 Swimming
11th—14th—Cycling Proficiency
11th—15th—Health Week
11th—Fantastic Flying Forces P4-7 (in school).
14th—P4/5 swimming
14th—Sports Day
15th—Nursery Sports
15th—Open Golf talk
15th—P7 to Dunbar Grammar School
18th—19th—P7 to Dunbar Grammar School
21st—P4/5 Swimming
27th—Parent Council Barbecue
28th—Nursery Leaving Ceremony
29th—P7 celebration

Sharing Professional Learning

We are very proud of the many skills and talents which we develop as a learning community, and have been delighted that our Nursery team has recently been blazing a trail in good practice. Over 60 attendees from a range of local authority communities provided very positive feedback on the session on 'Loose Parts Play' delivered earlier this month. Much academic research has been done on this aspect of child-led learning, and we are rightly proud of the innovative practice in place here at Innerwick. The Nursery also recently hosted a 'Communities of Practice for Early Years Practitioners' which allowed the team to showcase a range of features including planning and self-evaluation processes, loose parts play, and how to get the best out of outdoor learning. Well done Nursery Team!



Goodbye and Good Luck:

At the end of this term we will bid a fond farewell to Mrs Tolladay who will be taking early retirement from a long and successful teaching career—we wish her all the best in this new stage of her life. Mrs Hood is also moving on, in this case to a new teaching challenge in the authority, and we wish her every success in her new post.

We will also saying goodbye to our 2 student teachers, Miss Lamb and Miss Govan, on Friday. They have been assets to the school in their short time here and we wish them all the best for their future careers!

