



Innerwick Primary School Newsletter

Dear families and friends of Innerwick Primary

Our first few weeks of term already seem to have flown by, the children are enjoying lots of learning around our theme of Scotland, looking at castles and Scots language through stories and poems. As I am of English descent I do try very hard to get the Scots pronunciation correct but inevitably it leads to laughter from the children!

Thank you all so much for your continued vigilance around COVID 19 and your adherence to the changing guidance. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school if you are in any way unsure of any of the guidance and we will be very pleased to support. So far we have been able to maintain staffing levels and teaching and learning in school which is fantastic, but of course we may have to make the difficult decision to revert to remote learning in individual classes for a short time.

I cannot believe that I have now been part of Innerwick and Stenton school communities for a whole year. I have been privileged to work with all the children and staff during this time and to get to know parents and families and I thank you all for your support for myself and the wider staff.

I am very aware, however, that as a result of all the restrictions, the usual connections and ways that we can engage with you have been limited. This has the knock-on effect that perhaps you are feeling less connected with us and with your child's learning. Going forward, this will be a priority, and I will be asking you for your valuable input on what we can provide for you to feel more empowered to support your child's learning at home.

This term we will be beginning some very important learning around 'Differences and Diversity' with the whole school. As a staff we are committed to meeting the needs of all our learners and supporting our whole community to work and achieve together. We will, of course, share this learning with you.

Please do not hesitate to call or email should there be anything that I/we can help with, our 'virtual' door is always open.

Warmest Regards
Joanne Legge



The John Muir Award P5/6/7

We are delighted to share the news that we have been successful in obtaining over £3000 to support the delivery of the John Muir Award within our P5/6/7 class. This was through the Crystal Rig Community Grant scheme. We will be working in collaboration with Danielle Moore who is a qualified beach schools practitioner and who some of you may know through her 'Sea Otters' club. The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focussed on wild places, and we will be using Skateraw Beach as our wild place. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment. Our programme will use the novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo to bring our learning to life. This story centres on survival on an island. The children will participate in 7 sessions which will take place at Skateraw beach and will also include a visit to the John Muir Birthplace and a celebration event. We will share our learning with you, and although we may not be able to invite you in person, we hope that you will be able to get a sense of the children's involvement and participation through photographs and film clips. This will take place after the half term break and run up until Easter. Further information will follow. We hope to be able to facilitate this experience for all the children at Innerwick as they move up the school.



Wider Achievements: Sharing in Assembly

Through the Curriculum for Excellence, we want to empower our children to develop the 4 capacities. These are: **'Successful Learners'**, **'Responsible Citizens'**, **'Effective Contributors'** and **'Confident Individuals'**.

We know that much learning happens outside school and so wider achievement recognises the life and work skills that come from taking part in a wide range of activities. These could include sport and physical activities, music, arts and crafts, cooking, but the list is endless! We would like to shine a light on our pupils' achievements at assembly and so would encourage you to talk to your child about sharing their achievements with us, and to please send in any pictures or items.



School Development Activities: One of our focusses this session has been on developing our skills and pedagogy in the teaching of writing. We have taken part 3 sessions with Stephen Graham, who is a literacy consultant from Australia. His work to support teachers in literacy is world renowned. We have collaborated on the planning of our writing lessons across both schools in the light of our new knowledge and we are already seeing fantastic results and improvements in the children's writing. We will continue to work with Stephen to develop our expertise and to plan together so that we can support all our learners to make strong progress in their writing.



In the Early Years Setting staff and children have returned back from the holidays well, happy and ready to play and learn together. We offer a very warm welcome to four children and their families who join us this session: Mabel, Rocky, Emily and Lewis. These children have been coping very well with the settling-in process and we wish them and their families many happy moments with us at nursery. This week we have been exploring a new resource sent to us by The Children's Parliament called The Tree of Life Activity. It supports children's understanding of needs and their rights to be safe, healthy and happy. The children have been listening to a story about taking a journey on a boat through a storm, to visit a special tree on an island. The children have made their own trees and were asked to remember what was needed on the journey to stay safe, healthy and happy. When making their own trees, the staff scribed children's thoughts on these needs. We have been asked to send the trees back to The Children's Parliament, but we will copy the trees for children to take home. Next week we take this learning further and explore which Articles from the UNCR link with each need, covering that these are children's rights.

Parent Council THANKS SO MUCH! A HUGE thank you to our parent council for organising the food, crackers and gifts for our Christmas parties. The children had a fantastic time (as did the staff!) Thank you also to everyone who supported by purchasing the Christmas shopping bags. As you are aware, our focus is to be the development of a Friendship Garden, and whilst we are still very much in the early stages of this, the children have started to think about their plans and we know this will be a very exciting project for the warmer months!

We are looking forward to finalising details of our After School Club, to be run by Danielle of Wild Minds. This is a pilot scheme kindly supported by the Crystal Rig Community Benefit Fund. Watch this space. The Parent Council would like to thank all our parents for their continued support.

