



# Macmerry Primary School Newsletter

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## This Term's News

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are well into term 2 and are gearing up to Christmas which will be a busy time in school. We have a number of Christmas events and dates to let you know about so please see below for further information.

### Christmas Fayre

Our fayre will be open from 9.15am until 11.30am. You are welcome to visit anytime but the classes will be visiting in this order and will have the opportunity to buy things if they wish:

9.30 – 9.45am – P1/2

9.45 – 10.00am – P2/3

10 – 10.15am- P4

10.15 – 10.30am - P5

11 – 11.15am P6

Miss Yarwood's P7 class will be there all morning to support.

### Pantomime

This year's pantomime is Goldilocks. Children should wear school uniform for the trip. We will have a slightly earlier lunch with coaches departing at 12.40pm and hoping to return at around 5.30pm (we will text). Panto snack and drink is kindly provided by PTA. Please do not bring your own. Please collect all children from school.

### Christmas lunch

Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school or to decorate their sweatshirt with tinsel or baubles on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### Nativity

Separate info will be sent out about tickets and times. Payment can only be made online for tickets.

### Christmas Parties

Nursery – P3 will have their party from 11-12 and can bring clothes to change into after break. P4-P7 children can bring their clothes or go home at **12pm** to get changed if they wish, but parents must send in a letter giving permission and children must be back for the bell at 1.15pm.

### Head Lice

We have had a few cases in school. Please check regularly. We are unable to notify if there is a breakout in school and rely on parents to check this.

### Board Games for Wet Breaks

We are keen to get children outdoors in all weather. Unfortunately, however, there are some breaks and lunchtimes where the weather is too bad for this. If you have any spare/old board games e.g. Connect 4, Battleships etc. that are no longer being used, we would welcome donations to the office for wet weather use. Many thanks.

### School Office

A reminder that the school office hours are:

Monday 8.45am – 3.30pm

Tue, Wed, Thurs 8.00am – 3.30pm

Friday 8am – 12.

There will also be limited cover between the hours of 12-1pm, Mon-Thurs.

Out with these hours the office is usually not staffed and phone calls will go to answer machine.

### PE Kit

A number of children continue to come to school without an appropriate PE kit. Please ensure your child your child has a kit in school, thank you.

### Indoor shoes

Not everyone is coming to school with a change of shoes and with the current damp weather a lot of mud is getting spread all over the school, this puts an additional burden on the cleaning staff. We will always endeavour to get the children outside and on the grass as often as possible so a change of shoes is very important. Thank you.

### Homework

I will be issuing a short homework survey next week and would appreciate your thoughts on what you feel is the best approach.

### Reminder

Please remember that our online payment system is now our only method of payment. If you have not yet registered, please see the office to get your unique code as you will not be able to buy Nativity tickets etc. without this.

<https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/schoolpay>

### **Class news P1/2-Ms Power/ Ms Forshaw**

P1/2 are enjoying their topic *Toys - past, present and future*. Thank you to the parents who shared memories of their favourite childhood toys and games. More memories are very welcome. The class will work together to draw some designs of toys for the future. I'm sure they will have some incredible ideas.

In literacy the P1 children are reading CVC words and ditty sheets and learning how to spell simple green words phonetically. P2 are really enjoying their current RWI reading books and making good use of their developing reading skills across their learning which is fantastic to see. In numeracy the class is developing confidence with forward and backward counting and jumping up and down number lines. You could try this at home.

P1/2 are nearly finished a super block of singing sessions with a music specialist. The class have been developing their singing voice and the ability to keep the beat. Ask them for a demonstration!

### **Class news P2/3-Miss Hughes**

This term in P2/3 we have been looking at Weather and Climate. This has included discussions such as; why is the earth hotter and colder in some places than others? Where does rain come from? How do we measure different types of weather and why bother in the first place? The children have been thoroughly enjoying the art and music that can be made inspired by such scientific enquiries! After exploring making equal groups of numbers (beginning to learn our times tables) we have moved onto doing calculations and problem solving with much bigger numbers. We have also been working diligently in literacy and enjoying plenty of time to play too! We have also begun to rehearse our Nativity with our friends in P1/2. We are all working very hard on it and cannot wait to show to parents/carers. Look forward to seeing you all there! As always my door is open if there is anything you wish to specifically discuss about your child's learning or school experience.

### **Class news P4-Mrs Burgess**

During outdoor learning P4 learned how to safely light fires in different conditions. We used the storm kettles to make hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows. Yummy! Some of us even tried eating mealy worms, very crunchy!

We are enjoying our new topic on 'Magical Mapping'. We have learned how to plot co-ordinates, make and follow pathways using directional language and how to draw simple maps. Next we will be learning how to use an O.S. map and we will test our skills on our walks to the woods.

We have set a class target to read for 30 minutes a day and are watching our word count scores on AR increase. One pupil has already reached 100000 words, a fantastic start to our reading challenge!

### **Class news P5-Miss Weir**

P5 worked really hard on their learning last term. We loved doing the Romans! We learnt about the soldiers, emperors, entertainment and even enjoyed a Roman breakfast lying on the floor. We made Roman shields and learnt our Roman numerals using a catchy song.

This term our topic is South America. We have already started by looking at the country names and flags. This week we wrote brilliant reports on the Amazon rainforest and learnt where it is. We researched the facts using ICT, recorded them on mindmaps and put it all into a report. We will have lots of opportunities to write reports this term as this is our writing focus. In numeracy we have been working on our addition and subtraction. In maths we are learning about money to help us prepare for the Christmas fayre. We have started a new novel called the Christmasaurus and the Winter Witch

which we are all really enjoying! And finally, we are really looking forward to going tree planting on Thursday the 28th with our community partners. Please remember to bring warm clothes, a snack and appropriate footwear that day. We are looking forward to another busy term!

### **Class news P6-Miss Todd**

Primary 6 are focussing on the rainforest for this term. We have been looking at different locations as well as learning the key features of rainforests. We are looking forward to sharing our class assembly on **Friday 29th November** and all parents are invited for 9.15. In literacy we are developing our use of vocabulary to up-level our sentences and hook our reader within imaginative stories. We have been using non-fiction books to find information relating to our topic. In numeracy we are developing our addition and subtraction skills using a range of strategies and are focussing on time within Maths. We will be starting PE with the new PE teacher on Tuesday 26th November and will continue to have our second PE session on a Wednesday afternoon.

### **Class news P7-Miss Yarwood**

P7 have been enjoying their new class responsibilities and experiences this term by raising money to support worthy causes such as the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need and contributing to the wider community by learning songs to perform for the over 50's club at the Macmerry Miners Welfare. They are also looking forward to our talk about the value of STEM, what to expect from the College experience and carrying out investigations. This term we will be studying Natural Disasters when the class will explore the Earth's greatest natural disasters and extreme weather phenomena, from raging tropical storms to violent erupting volcanoes to terrifying towering tsunamis across a range of subjects. The class will be developing their finding and using information skills through a variety of activities linked to the class topic. In numeracy, the class will develop and extend their mental strategies and perform written formal algorithms to solve addition and subtraction calculations. In maths, we will focus on money through a variety of practical activities to buy items and know how much change they should receive. We will also explore profit & loss and budgeting. This term P7 will have PE on a Tuesday and Thursday and we will be learning a variety of social dances leading up to the festive period.

### **The Nest – Mrs Phillips**

After a lot of discussion, the pupils who are working with Mrs Phillips have decided to name their classroom -**The Nest**. At the beginning of this term we were learning about Sea Creatures and Autumn. Alongside our core learning we are currently investigating Space. We are also very excited about creating lots of Christmas crafts for the Fayre!

**Kind regards**

**Jonathan Revell**  
**Head teacher**

**Social Media**

Follow us on Twitter **@MacmerryPrimary**

**Dates for your Diary**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>
Christmas Fayre in the School hall 9.30 – 11.30 am	06/12/19
Panto @ Kings Theatre Children are back about 5.30pm	10/12/19
Christmas lunch in school Wear a Christmas jumper!	11/12/19
P1-3 nativity performances 1.30pm & 6.30pm – tickets on sale soon.	16/12/19
Christmas Parties Nursery – P3, 11am-12pm P4-P7 1.30pm – 3pm	19/12/19
Christmas Service @ Gladsmuir Church 9.30am – parents welcome to meet us there	20/12/19
Christmas Holiday – all pupils break	20/12/19
In-Service day	07/01/20
All pupils return to school	08/01/20
Scot's Night P4-7 6.30 – 7.30pm	23/01/20
February holiday	10/02/20
In-Service day	17/02/20
All pupils return	18/02/20
Parent's Evening 3.30pm – 8.30pm	26/03/20
Easter Holidays	06/04/20
All pupils return	21/04/20
May Day Holiday	04/05/20
Proposed VE day holiday - TBC	08/05/20
Macmerry Outdoor Day	14/05/20
In-Service day	18/05/20
Sports day-whole school	18/06/20
P7 End of year celebration	24/06/20
Reserve Sports day	25/06/20
Last day of term	26/06/20
Pupils return	19/08/20