



# Saltoun Primary School

## February 2013 Newsletter



Welcome to our first newsletter of the year- although I am writing this at the tail end of January, already nearly a half of this short Spring term is gone. We break for a week on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February and when we come back on the 18<sup>th</sup>, there are only 5 weeks to go until the Easter holidays. We have already packed in quite a lot and there is much planned for the next few weeks. We are about to embark on a Fairtrade/Global Citizenship week and have a Literacy week planned for March. This will include a HATS Day and although this will have a literary theme, it will be designed so that the children, in house groups, will have to accomplish a task designed to develop skills in organisation, working collaboratively, problem-solving and creativity. It is also the day our QIO, Karen Haspolat, comes to visit, so she will be able to see both schools and the staff team in action together.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest member of our team- Fiona Stewart. Fiona has been volunteering in the school for some time and was the successful candidate for the Classroom Assistant post. She officially starts with us at the beginning of February and will initially work with the P1/2 class, allowing Beth Leslie to concentrate on the other two classes. We felt this was the most beneficial way to replace our Support for Learning time and makes most impact on the children.

Last term we had a focus on spelling as we were aware children were not transferring learned words to writing tasks. We concentrated on teaching spelling rules. Having just tested children again, there is a marked increase in spelling age- the tests were 5 months apart- the majority of children added much more than 5 months to their score and more importantly, spelling in written tasks is showing progress too.

As requested by parents, we have been sending home details of maths, literacy and topic work to be covered in each planning block. Has this been useful to you in planning work at home with your children? Would you like it to continue?

Also, in response to parents, we had a "drop-in" session to discuss profiles after they had been at home for the weekend. Take-up was low, more parents in the P1/2 class than the other two age groups. Is this something you would like us to continue with? Would it be more useful in another format?

Our Wider Achievement challenge for this term is centred around Health and Wellbeing- children have been asked to pick one of the outcomes from this area and challenge themselves.

Just a note on weather. Hopefully the worst of the snow is behind us, although it was lovely to see it and all the snowmen which sprouted around the village - I love snow.

The Council's policy is to open every building come what may, so school will always be open. However, if at any time you are worried about weather and travelling, please make your own judgement about whether you want your children to be on the roads. There is no pressure from me to get your children to school if you are concerned for their safety, This would apply to snow, high wind or flooding. The chances of the tarmac melting in the heat can, I think, be disregarded!

Have a good break,

Lindy Lynn



### **P3/4 News:**

We have been looking at the human body. Researching facts about the skeleton, the heart and lungs and some of the other organs.

Next week and after the holiday we will be looking at Fair Trade and where foods are produced and their journey to Saltoun.

In maths we are looking at adding and subtracting two/three digit numbers with and without carrying.

We have been learning Scottish poems and reading Geordie's Minging Medicine (in Scots). You will of course have seen the results of this on the afternoon of the 31st!

We presently have a student teacher, Kerstie Barr. She will have full responsibility for the class for a week after half term.

We do hope you are finding it useful to have correspondence sent by email as well as hard copy. Do remember to let us know if you change your email address. If any of you are NOT receiving emails from school please let the office know.

### **Reminders**

- Please send children to school dressed for the weather. In the recent snow some children came without adequate footwear, clothes etc. Children will NOT be able to go out to play unless they are appropriately dressed.
- Do remember to let us know if you change your email/phone number etc so we can update our records.
- Remember children should have PE kit in school at all times.
- Homework—whilst some children do their homework diligently unfortunately too many come to school with homework not completed. Please can you check your child's bag and ensure that any homework is done by the due date.

### **Saltoun's Scrummy**

#### **Fairtrade Café**

#### **Village Hall**

**Wednesday 6th February**

**11am to 12.30pm**

**Soup & Bread, Home Baking, Tea and Coffee**

### **P1/2 News**

Following on from our Body and Healthy Foods topic we have built a play cafe in the classroom. We have been busy paying for our meals, making graphs related to favourite foods and learning how to use new cafe themed software. We are just starting our Toys and Motion topic, we will also look at Fairtrade Toys during Fairtrade Week.

## Nursery News

This half term the nursery have been focusing on helping our new children to settle and on introducing/reinforcing nursery rules and good hygiene practices. Most are doing very well and are enjoying their new environment. We will send a sheet home to let parents follow up on hand washing routines. We have been encouraging our older children to become more proficient in writing their names and all children are encouraged to use their name cards to copy from. We have enjoyed snow play and making ice balloons, as well as exploring clay and creating our own Loch Ness Monsters. After the break we will be looking at different kinds of toys and would welcome any interesting wind up (or other kinetic) toys to show to the children. This will lead to a focus on forces, linked to a Generation Science workshop. We will take part in the school literacy week and would welcome any parent who would like to read to the children (one dad volunteer so far; this is always valuable for our boys especially). We have been invited to Humble for Hats day on the 6th March; the children loved their previous visit and we would love to repeat it if parents/carers are able to help out with pick ups from Humble. There will be parent consultations in March and we are already thinking ahead to our summer trip.



Remember that Mondays and Fridays are fruit only snack days (as per the wishes of the Pupil Council). If children come with items other than fresh or dried fruit they will be asked to take the snack home with them. Can we ask for your support on other days NOT to send sweets in for snack. There are lots of alternatives which are healthier and kinder to their teeth.

## NUT ALLERGY

Please remember we have children in school with severe nut allergies. DO NOT SEND ANYTHING INTO SCHOOL CONTAINING NUTS. Check all ingredients in snack bars, chocolate spread etc.

## P5/6/7 News

Along with the other classes we have been looking at the Human Body. We built the most amazing skeleton with lungs and heart. We are now working on our new topic 'The Brain'. We have also spent time looking at 'Tam O'Shanter and then we made a wall display showing Tam and Meg being chased by the witches! P5 have been looking at drugs, both beneficial and harmful and P6/7 have been having Sex Education.

## Diary Dates

### February

- 6th P3/4 Badminton Festival 
- 8th School finishes at normal time for half term.  
Swimming Continues for P3/4 until 22nd March.
- 18th All back at school.
- 19th Rugby for P5-7 each Tuesday until  
12th March  
Art Club starts for 4 weeks
- 22nd Ross High Pupils presentation to P7
- 26th Photographs, Class & Whole School 
- 28th Generation Science Workshops  
P3/4 Singing Competition in Edinburgh

### March

- 6th HATS day, Humble at Saltoun
- 7th World Book Day
- 15th Profiles home
- 19th Parents' Evening 
- 21st Parents' Afternoon
- 22nd Close for Easter Holidays  
Last swimming lesson P3/4.

### April

- 8th All resume
- 15th Closed for Spring Holiday
- 30th P3/4 Rugby starts 

### May

- 6th May Day Holiday
- 15-17th P4 Humble & Saltoun trip to Innerwick
- 20th Victoria Day
- 21st In-Service Day for staff
- 28-30th P5/6/7 Humble & Saltoun trip to Innerwick

## Attendance

If you are late in the morning, please check in with Mrs Baillie so that she can complete the register and ensure lunch is ordered for your child.

Families are asked to remember to phone the school when a child is absent on **01875 340318**. If we do not hear from you we will try ringing you and if we cannot track you down we are under instructions to refer this to Social Work so that they can then find out what has happened. Please also ring, if for some reason, you are going to be late dropping off or picking up your child.



Watch for date of  
Parent Council  
Barn Dance.

Get those dancing  
shoes looked out!