



Braehead School Newsletter



This term is absolutely flying past and it's hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of term.

Our rehearsals for the variety of different Christmas events and shows are well underway and we look forward to see you all in and around school over the next couple of weeks.



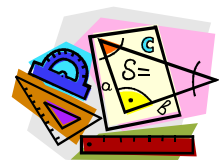
A very enjoyable evening was had by all at our Christmas Fayre last month. As always without the help of parents/carers and our dedicated staff these type of events could not happen - so a huge thank you to all who gave up their time to help or indeed come along and support the fayre. A grand total of £1800 was raised! This money will go towards paying for the buses to take the whole school to the Pantomime on the last week of term.

World Diabetes Day - Friday 14th November 2014

Another amazing day in school! All classes took part in a variety of different activities which helped raise awareness of Type One Diabetes. One of our P1 pupils - Amy, who has Type One went round some of the classes to help explain a little bit about the different things she has to do to live with this condition on a daily basis. She was very brave and is certainly an amazing role model for her peers. A grand total of £263.25 was raised and has been sent off to the charity. Thank you to all who donated on the day.

Explore Learning - Maths Competition

4 of our senior pupils recently took part in a very challenging Maths competition at Explore Aberdeen. Jack Begg, Sam Haig (both P6), Eliza Robertson and Ellie Cahoon (both P7) all competed in the competition together as a team trying to solve some very tricky challenges. They did brilliantly and were praised for their thoughtful and creative way in which they approached the problems and used each others skills to do the best they could. A huge well done to the team and a big 'thank you' for representing the school in such a positive way.



School Improvement



Throughout the term we have continued as a school to work hard on making improvements in relation to the recommendations set out by Education Scotland just over a year ago. We have just had notification that Education Scotland will return for a follow through inspection in the new year. A team of inspectors will visit the school during the week beginning 12th January to evaluate the progress we have made since their last visit. Following the visit they will again publish a letter to parents with their findings. We will share more details in the New Year once we have more information on the format and structure of this visit.

Improvement Priorities

All classes have had the chance to input their ideas into our 'child friendly' school improvement plan which is displayed at our front entrance. The children came up with lots of ideas and suggestions to help us make improvements in the areas of reading and maths.



Reading

For example we now have Reading Champions from each of our P4-7 classes who prepare a story each week to read for their buddy class. P6 are in the process of organising a 'Reading Party' which they will set up and run in January for the whole school. All stages within the school are now fully implementing the Active Literacy approach to reading and we are already seeing children's confidence in discussing and exploring texts increase.



Our whole school homework challenge to redesign the library is ongoing - we are very impressed with the ideas and designs that we have seen so far.

Maths

Within the area of Maths the children wanted to 'get better at counting in their heads'. All staff have now been trained in a new programme called 'Big Maths'. Big Maths is a teaching method that makes progress in maths easy and fun for children and for teachers. Big Maths has been met with huge success across the UK and internationally. Thousands and thousands of children now learn through Big Maths everyday and take part in a 'Big Maths, Beat That!' challenge every week.



A working group of staff are in the process of creating information leaflets for parents and preparing a workshop for the new year. Staff are currently exploring the resource and most classes have now started the Big Maths, Beat That challenge.

Curriculum Plan

One of the recommendations from Education Scotland was for us to develop a clear plan for how our curriculum will develop over time here at Braehead. Thanks to everyone who took the time to add your thoughts and ideas to the carousel activity which was run by some of our pupils at Parents Evenings last term. Working in collaboration with the children and staff we have now collated all responses into a 3 year plan which will be displayed in the school and on our website very soon.

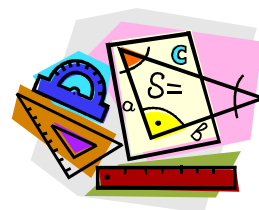
Our Standards and Quality Report 2013-2014 has now been quality assured and is available from the school office if you wish to read it. We will also upload it to the website.



November In-Service Day

During the November in-service day some of our staff attended a 3 day course on co-operative learning. Co-operative learning is the instructional use of small groups so that pupils work together to maximise their own and each other's learning. Staff returned from the course full of motivation and excitement to try out this new approach in the classroom. We aim to have all staff trained on a rolling programme over the course of the next session.

The rest of the staff spent the day in school where we took part in some training from the Autism Outreach Team. We were also able to spend some time auditing our current maths resources.



Sparkle Day

Thanks to everyone who came along to join in the fun at our Sparkle event last week. It was great to see the children having fun with their family creating a variety of different Christmas crafts.



Kick Boxing

At the end of last week our P3-7 classes all had short taster session from Nemesis Kickboxing Academy. The children all seemed to enjoy the session and have been invited to join in weekly sessions at the Bridge of Don Community Centre. Flyers were handed out at the end of the session however please get in touch if you have any questions.



Lateness

We appreciate that this is a very busy time of year, however the number of children arriving late for school has increased significantly this term.

It is a parent's responsibility to ensure their children arrive at school on time. Lateness can disrupt the learning of others and can result in a pupil feeling greater stress and achieving poorer outcomes.

If pupils are late:

They miss out on important learning, which could effect their achievement

They don't have the social time to settle into class

It can be embarrassing for them

They may disrupt the rest of the class

We ask that if pupils are late that they sign the 'late book' in reception. All lateness is recorded and monitored by the authority. We appreciate your support in this matter.



Parking

Once again it has been brought to our attention that parents continue to park / stop in the bus lane and the disabled spaces. It is obviously a very busy area at the start and end of the school day but a big plea for everyone to use the area sensibly. We want all of our children to be able to come in and leave the school safely. Thank You.



School Lunches

Following feedback on the recently published lunch menus the local authority have made some changes - some of you will be delighted to see that sandwiches are back on the menu!

We have attached the new menu to the end of this letter.

Please provide us with any feedback you have on the new choices.



Pantomime

Not long now till we go to see Beauty & The Beast at His Majesty's Theatre. By the time we return to school after the show it will be dark outside. Undoubtedly some of our pupils will wish to walk home. Please can you send in a note on the day of the Panto to the class teacher if you allow your child to leave and head home on their own. If you are collecting your child then please wait in their classroom area and they will be dismissed from there.



P1

The boys and girls have been busy learning the songs for their Christmas concert. In Maths, they have learning to add to 10 and 20. For their topic they have been learning about places Pete Bear has visited - France and London.



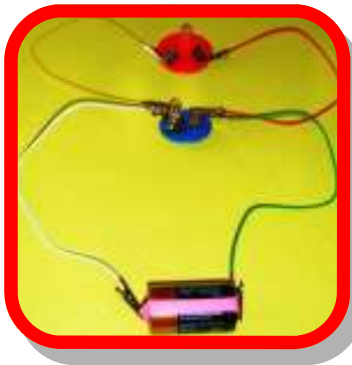
P1/2

Our P1/2 class have been very busy in Writing. They have written thank you letters to George because he put up their giraffe picture in the class. The giraffe is so tall he has to bend his neck in the classroom. They have also written postcards to Brenda from Pete Bear.



P2/3

The children have been learning about circuits and electricity. They used lights, batteries, crocodile clips and buzzers to make a circuit. In writing, the children have written to pupils at Fishermoss School to ask them about what they are learning in their school. They are looking forward to receiving a reply in the New Year.



P3

In writing, the children have written different styles of letters - a formal letter to a company, a research letter to their grandparents asking them about Christmas long ago and a letter to Santa.

The boys and girls presented an Eco Assembly to the whole school. They told us lots of interesting facts about recycling and presented short plays about litter. They even have a Braehead Clean Queen!



P4

Primary 4 have been learning about how we learn and what makes a good lesson. They visited all the classes as a team of school inspectors and got a snapshot of good learning around the school.



Their role play area is set up as an airport where the children are practicing telling the time in 12/24 hour format as well as calculating durations.

P5

The children have entered a short Christmas story writing competition for the Brig O' Don restaurant. The winning prize is an i-pod touch and a voucher for Toy R Us or Argos! Good luck P5!



P6

Our P6 class have been very busy with their Enterprise groups. There are four groups— organising a variety of different events from Christmas plate decorating workshops, a class café, a Nursery café and planning a whole school reading event.



P7

The children have been comparing technology from the 1960s to today's technology. They have been working in groups to research about the 1960s and will present their findings to the class.



The P7 tuck shop will start again tomorrow - **Wednesday 10th December**. Items for sale will cost no more than 50p



Nursery

The Nursery boys and girls have been very busy learning about Winter. They have painted in the style of Van Gogh's and created Starry Night paintings! We have been delighted to welcome some of our Nursery parents in to read stories to the boys and girls.



LEARNING
IS
FUN