



Woodlands' News Update

Hello from Woodlands!

Angus Council

November 2021

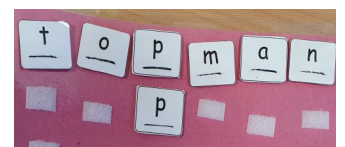
It's that time of year again when the leaves have fallen off the trees and the children are very excited by the games they can play and things they can create using them. It has been so wonderful to be able to have our children accessing the various areas of the playground and watching P7 pupils supporting our younger classes with their play. Sadly restrictions mean we remain unable to perform a Christmas show however each class is working hard to create an alternative to share with you and the other classes as a lovely way to bring our term to a close.

This year, based on feedback and our observations, our focus is on pupil health and wellbeing as well as reading and spelling. Mrs Connor is leading a new spelling and reading approach, whilst Mrs Ferguson is leading our review of our Vision, Values and Aims as she creates and implements our plan for becoming a Rights Respecting School. We have also used funds allocated to our school cluster to develop our resource room as a space to support children's wellbeing, with Mrs Christie being employed to work with those children identified by teachers as requiring some additional work with their emotions and/or social skills. We are also in the process of trying to create a further outdoor classroom. This will be situated within the inner school fence to provide ease of access to a sheltered area in the playground for supporting outdoor learning and could also be used as an additional nurture space. As these spaces are developed, we will update you with some photos—it is already proving to be a busy year and we remain thankful to have our children with us in school. Enjoy our newsletter. Suzanne Smith, Head Teacher

End of Term

Please be aware school finishes on Wednesday 22nd December at end of day for all children from nursery-P7.

School Improvement This session, our P1-4 classes and P6M have been engaging in a new reading and spelling approach. SRS, Sound Reading System, teaches children how to break down the English language into 'code' and use this to spell and read words. This approach supports children's learning in reading, spelling and writing. The children are finding this useful and their understanding of spellings has already increased. More teachers have recently been trained in using this process which will enable us to build on the classes implementing this approach as the session progresses. In addition, we are working towards our Reading Schools Accreditation, led by Mrs Wilson and have already surveyed the children about their thoughts regarding reading and are using this information to inform planning. We have also shared and discussed approaches to build on our shared expectations.



To support pupil Health and Wellbeing, we have developed the use of our resource room, turning this into 'The Den', a nurture space where the children work alongside our nurture SPSA, Mrs Christie and discuss topics such as: emotions, friendships, work on sharing and how to compromise with others. In addition, we are engaging staff in further training during Inset days in the use of outdoors as a space for learning and Mrs Ferguson is leading a review of our school's vision, values and aims as part of our Bronze Award for Rights Respecting Schools.

We are also continuing to build on our skills in STEM and digital literacy this year, with teachers looking at skill progression and sharing their expertise.

News from the classes...

Nursery Leading on from jungle animals last term the children have been learning about nocturnal creatures, and Scottish habitats, forests, beaches etc. , with lots of questions about what they eat, and where different animals live, hibernating, flying south for the winter etc. We learned about seasons changing for autumn and we have lots of sensory leaf and pine cone loose parts and are planning a visit to the Carnoustie House Grounds . We are revisiting our story telling with Pie Corbett, and we have been learning about Christopher Character, Sally Setting and Charlie Choose. We have also had lots of learning about the past – with castles and dragons. We visited the Brookfield Care Home for Halloween with card and songs for the residents, and we went down to the local library for a Bookbug session as soon as they restarted!

Primary 1

Primary 1 have been very busy this term! We are enjoying using our Bookbug stories in our learning and are looking forward to a visit from Bookbug. We have been learning all about 2D and 3D shapes and can talk about these shapes. We are using SRS to support our reading and spelling. In P.E we are focusing on balance and control and we have enjoyed using the apparatus in the hall. We can't wait to start rehearsing for our nativity and are looking forward to sharing it with our families at Christmas time.

Primary 2

In primary 2 we have really been enjoying learning all about mini-beasts and where they live. We have made our own bug hotels from recycled materials and have used bugs as a topic for imaginative writing. We have read 'The biggest story' and have, as a class, made up our own biggest story which we are using to create a class comic. We are really enjoying SRS and are making sure that we use these skills to break down words so that we can read and spell them. We have been learning about number sequencing and now are focusing on time and adding and subtracting. We have also been learning and discussing how we can be a good friend and remembering to be kind to everyone.

Primary 3

In P3 we have been learning all about dinosaurs and the time they roamed planet Earth. We used this topic to research and make interesting notes. We used the internet to investigate and collect facts and images of dinosaurs. In the final part of this topic, we made our own 3D diorama models. This allowed us to use our art and STEM skills. As well as this, we have been writing our own "Book bug" story based on the "last wolf". We used this story to write about how we can try to help care for our environment, it was great fun and we had lots of art activities to compliment our writing. We hope you enjoy reading our books. In maths we are developing our +/- skills by working with numbers up to and above 50. We are also reading and recording the time using both digital and analogue clocks. At gym time we are now using the apparatus to travel and show balance and coordination. It's been a very busy but fun term. We are now looking forward to all the fun of Christmas.

Primary 4 -

In primary four we have really enjoyed learning about Scott of Antarctica. We have been finding out all about his voyages to the South Pole and the ships. We have made cross-curricular links looking at diary writing in literacy and directions in maths and orienteering. We have created some fantastic art work looking at colour, line and shape and had fun with drama. In health we have been focussing on nutrition and were amazed to find some of the hidden sugars in drinks through our science experiment. We also looked at germs with our student, Miss Lorimer.

News from the classes...

Primary 4/5

This term we have continued our learning about The Scottish Wars of Independence and most recently have begun learning about Christianity. In our literacy work we have been learning all about homophones in grammar and have enjoyed using them in our written work. We have also been looking at different types of non-chronological reports and have begun to plan and write our own. In maths, we have learned how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000. We are now really good at this and have even started looking at different strategies for multiplying two digits by one digit. We LOVE playing around the world each week to help us improve our speed and accuracy with our times tables. We are excited for the festive period to start and wish you all a very Merry Christmas when it comes.

Primary 5

This term our learning context is Japan. This has come from our class novel Kensuke's Kingdom. We are beginning to compare Scotland with Japan and find out how school and daily life compare. In our number work we are learning more about written and mental methods of addition and subtraction. We are doing well at explaining our thinking. For November, it was our turn to link up with a local care home. We decided to make some cards and write messages to the residents, you'll have seen pictures of these on Seesaw. Mrs Connor has been leading outdoor learning with the children making pencils, headbands, drilling holes in conkers and making conker snails.

Primary 6

P6 have been focusing on Cop26 this term and have been learning about the Global Goals and why saving our planet is so important. We completed a STEM experiment to show the impact of the melting polar ice caps as well as the impact of deforestation. As the Eco class we are going to be sharing out learning with the rest of the school.

In Literacy we have been learning about persuasive techniques and built this into a drama script from the perspective of polar bears. We have also been learning non-fiction reading skills like identifying key information and summarising.

In maths we have been learning about different strategies to help us solve addition and subtraction questions as well as learning about money and measure. We have been using a digital learning pit to help us assess our learning.

In Health and Wellbeing we have been looking at discrimination and stereotyping and have started to look at Rights Respecting Schools materials. In PE we are working hard to improve our stamina as have been setting realistic targets and trying to stick to them while focusing on technique.

Primary 6M—

This term our learning context is COP26 and we will be learning different ways in which we can look after our planet and help to reduce climate change. In numeracy we will be focusing on addition and subtraction this term along with money and measure. In Literacy we are focusing on writing persuasive letters and how the media uses adverts to encourage us to buy their products. In November it is our turn to link up with a local nursing home. We have decided to write letters to the residents and are hoping that some of them will write back to us as we would love to find out about life when they were younger. Last week we harvested the potatoes that we planted before the Summer Holidays and we were very lucky to have such a large crop that we were able to offer them out to families in the school.

Primary 7 This term we will be looking at the COP26 conference which will lead on to the class looking at climate change and its affect on nature. In maths we will be looking at measurement of volume, mass and length, which will then link with our learning about area and perimeter. We will also look this term at multiplication of larger digits and long division. In literacy we are revisiting how to use the different punctuation marks including colons and semicolons and are using this in our imaginative writing. This term we have also had visits from Carnoustie High School and really enjoyed our visit to the high school this week.

Pupil Groups

Due to COVID our pupil groups have not been able to meet as they usually would. We have therefore identified an alternative approach to how they are run so that our pupils can still have a voice across our school. Older classes have been allocated the responsibility of leading a particular group and liaising with the rest of the school to gather and/or share information. This year our P7 pupils are our Digital Leaders, Young Leaders and Junior Librarians, P6M are our Pupil Council, P6 are our Eco Council, P5 our Fairtrade Committee, P4/5 are our Junior Road Safety Officers and P4 are our Reading Council.

Already our P7 pupils have linked with P1 pupils to read to them and have been organising playground games for younger children at break. In addition, P6M have completed a survey of pupils and support staff, collated the information and are ready to create an action plan for improving the school playground.

Dates for the Diary



December	1	Inset day—school closed to pupils
	2	Inset day—school closed to pupils
	3	St Andrews Day—holiday—school closed
	16	Christmas Lunch in school
	22	End of term 3—normal full day
January 22	10	Start of term 3
February	10	Inset day 5(school closed to pupils)
	11	Mid term holiday (school closed)
	14	Mid term holiday (school closed)
	17	Parent evening (letters to follow)
	22	Parent evening (letters to follow)
March	3	P4-7 Curricular afternoon (2-3pm—this is dependant on restrictions)
April	1	End of term
	19	Start of term 4 (Tuesday)
May	2	May Day holiday (school closed)
	3	Parent Council AGM—may be a virtual meeting
	12	P1-3 Curricular afternoon (2-3pm-this is dependant on restrictions)
	30	Inset Day 5 (school closed to pupils)
June	29	End of term 4 (full day)
August 22	15	Inset Day 1 (school closed to pupils)
	16	Start of term 1