



Woodlands' News Update



Seasons Greetings!

Angus Council

December 2020

Term 2 has felt quite different this year as we continue to find alternative ways to learn and share our learning. Instead of a school show each class is engaging in their own Christmas themed activity which they will share with each other and with home— I am looking forward to seeing what they each produce and thank all the staff for being so creative!

Thank you for your continued support since our return in August. We were all delighted when we were informed we could resume learning in school, albeit with certain safety measures in place. I know that this has not always been easy on everyone however to ensure our safety it has been necessary.

Part of supporting the children in their return was to identify the children could wear either their uniform or their outdoor PE kits—this will remain in place for term 3 to continue to enable us to access the outdoor spaces as often as possible. Do please ensure your child continues to have a sense of Team by wearing black sweatshirts and joggers/leggings and white T-shirts as their outdoor kits.

The staggered entry, exits, playtimes and lunch times will also remain in place to reduce contact across the school and promote the ability to socially distance when dropping off/picking up children. Do please continue to ensure you leave as soon as your child enters the playground to enable other parents to then drop/collect their child as safely as possible and avoid waiting/standing at the nursery fencing. Please also ensure your child(ren) arrives at the correct time.

I hope you enjoy reading about the learning taking place across our school in this newsletter and that you all have a wonderful holiday when it comes. *Suzanne Smith, Head Teacher*

End of Term

Please be aware school finishes on Wednesday 23rd December at lunch time for all children from nursery-P7.

This will mean that those classes who start at 8.55 finish at 11.55am; 9am will be 12pm and 9.05am will be 12.05pm.

In nursery: 8.55 will finish at 11.55am; 9.05 will be 12.05pm; 9.15 will be 12.15pm and 9.25 will be 12.25pm.

This is to continue to ensure everyone can leave school for the end of term as safely as possible. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your continued support for the systems we have in place.

School Zen Garden—As you will be aware for some years we have promoted healthy minds through mindfulness approaches which started with weekly sessions for each class with Jane Clarke. This then led to each teacher taking forward and developing approaches appropriate for each class including cosmic yoga and mindful colouring. To build on this, our Eco Council discussed the possibility of adapting part of our school garden to create a zen garden that children could access as a quiet and calming space. With the help of Colourful Carnoustie and RFM, this space started to take shape over the months leading to lockdown. To add to this area, Mrs Ferguson has recently ordered a bird bath and some solar powered butterflies. We hope to be able to continue to develop this space and see its completion over the coming months, should restrictions change/ease.

News from the classes...

Nursery As our starting point this term we picked up on rockets and space from last term, and of course we learned about the traditions of Halloween. Some of the children wanted to learn about harvest again, we extended this by planting acorns and pumpkin seeds in nursery for the spring. We are learning to listen and talk and all the groups are sharing the Talk for Writing stories and Teaching Children to Listen activities. We are learning about the different beliefs people have and how important they are in people's lives; we learned about Diwali and made some Diva lamps, and we are now learning all about Christmas. We will continue to learn about our emotions and feelings, friendships and resilience. We are also learning about how things were in Granny's Day; investigating things that were the same/different in the past, like our old rotary dial telephone in nursery, dinosaurs and volcanos, and castles and knights.

Primary 1

We have been busy this term using our Bookbug stories to plan our learning. We have enjoyed learning about 2D and 3D shapes and have recently started learning how to tell the time. We are practicing for our nativity and are excited about this. We are going to be telling the Christmas Story and we all have a part to play. We are looking forward to different Christmas craft and getting organised for Santa coming! Miss Mulliss is so proud of how well primary one are doing.

Primary 2 We have been working really hard this term. We have been learning about the Rainforest linked to our Read, Write, Count books. As part of STEM we are going to be learning about bird houses and hope to make one. As part of this topic we also wrote our own non fiction books on the Rainforest. In numeracy we have been learning about measure, time and addition and subtraction too. We have also been learning how to upload our own work to Seesaw and will be learning how to complete activities on this to support with homework. As part of Health and Wellbeing we have been learning how to stay safe when crossing the road and also when it is dark. We are looking forward to creating some Christmas cards and doing craft activities before the end of term.

Primary 3/4.

Primary 3/4 have been very busy this term. Our topic has been Ancient Egypt. We have explored the role of archaeologists in finding out about life during this time. We have created our own Egyptian Shaduf (irrigation system) where we used our STEM skills to plan, create, test and modify our models. We are looking forward to investigating the mummification process using fruit! In Literacy we have been working on imaginative writing and are focusing on characters and settings. We look forward to sharing something special linked to this with you soon! In Numeracy we continue to work on addition and subtraction strategies along with shape.

Primary 3 -In class we have been busy researching the life and times of the Vikings. Its amazing some of the things we found out, I hope the children have been sharing lots with you. We used this information as the basis of our BookBug books. The books turned out amazing, we hope you enjoyed reading them. STEM played a big part of this topic; it allowed us the use of the school computers to research and collect information. We also used STEM to investigate the construction of longships. We found out about how things sink and float and are designing our own ships. With Christmas in sight, we are using our maths and creative art skills to create decorations and Christmas cards that we hope to share with people in the wider community.

News from the classes...

Primary 4

Primary 4 have been learning about Vikings this term. It has been very interesting finding out who they were and what they did. We are now undertaking a STEAM challenge (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) to design and make a Viking longship. It must look authentic and be able to hold a load, move and stay afloat for a period of time. We are going to observe how well our longships perform and record the results. In literacy we have been writing newspaper reports and imaginative stories. In number we have been working on calculation using a range of mental strategies and in maths we have been looking at shape, tiling and angles. We are looking forward to having some Christmas fun.

Primary 5B

This term we have been learning about the Vikings. We have learned about their way of life by watching videos and researching using the internet. We have been working in cooperative groups to plan, carry out and evaluate a number of STEM activities including creating a pumpkin picker and pneumatic pop up Vikings. In maths we have been learning how to display data in a variety of ways including graphs and tables. In Literacy we have been learning about the features of a newspaper and have been typing these on the Chromebooks.

Primary 5

We have also been learning about the Vikings this term. We have been watching some informative videos and developing our note taking. We have also linked this learning context to STEM and have designed and made Viking helmets and next will be Viking ships. In maths we have been learning about displaying information in a variety of ways and now know the features we need to include to create a quality graph/chart. In literacy we have been creating news reports, some linked to fairy tales and others to our learning context. We really enjoyed our lessons with Miss Thomas, which focussed on developing running skills and stamina in our running. We managed to build up to an 8 minute run. Some of us could've kept going!

Primary 6—

Primary 6 have been learning about The Victorians this term. We have been comparing their lives to ours and how there are many differences, but also some similarities too. We have been developing our understanding of chronology by working through the timeline of the Victorian era. We have also been applying our learning to other curricular areas, such as Literacy by planning and writing reports about our topic. In Numeracy, we have been learning new strategies for addition and subtraction to help us solve problems mentally and have also learnt about the use of scale to help us make our Victorian home models.

Primary 7— This term, P7 have thoroughly enjoyed learning even more about WW2. We painted rocks for remembrance day and laid them at the War Memorial to pay our respects for the Carnoustie soldiers who fought in WW1. We have also loved reading our Goodnight Mr Tom class novel and are now looking forward to watching the movie. December is going to be a busy month for us as we have been given the responsibility of planning the Christmas activities for the last 2.5 days of school for the whole school. We have been coming up with ideas for the different classes and thinking about what would be suitable for the different ages of children. We hope you all have a lovely and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year.

Parent Council

Thank you to our Parent Council who have continued to support us by providing each child in each class with a pack of books—which the children loved and by continuing to work hard and be very creative in raising funds to add to our chromebooks. To date they have raised enough funds for 10 chromebooks! Special thanks to Bea for completing sponsored marathons and to the members of the Parent Council who spent large amounts of their time sourcing, wrapping and writing quotes on the packaging of every single book pack as well as making all the sweetie cones—we really appreciate all you are doing!

Head Lice At times head lice becomes an issue in schools. On advice from NHS, we no longer send home letters but NHS do advise to check your child's hair regularly. Further information can be obtained from the Health Centre or NHS online and treatment can be obtained free using the NHS Minor Ailments service at local pharmacies.

Dates for the Diary

December	17	Christmas Lunch in school
	23	End of term 3—see times on page 1
January	6	Start of term 3 (Wednesday)
February	11	Inset day 5(school closed to pupils)
	12	Mid term holiday (school closed)
	15	Mid term holiday (school closed)
	18	Parent evening (letters to follow)
	23	Parent evening (letters to follow)
March	2	P4-7 Curricular afternoon (2-3pm—this is dependant on restrictions)
April	2	End of term
	19	Start of term 4
	27	Parent Council AGM—may be a virtual meeting
May	3	May Day holiday (school closed)
	13	P1-3 Curricular afternoon (2-3pm-this is dependant on restrictions)
	24	Inset Day 5 (school closed to pupils)
June	24	End of term 4 (12 noon)
August	10	Inset Day 1 (school closed to pupils)
	11	Start of term 1
	23	P1 start full days
October	1	End of term 1
	18	Start of term 3

