



# Woodlands News Update



Angus Council

June 2021

## It's Summer Time!!!

Our final newsletter of the year and what a year it has been! I wish to take this opportunity to thank our amazing staff who have all worked so incredibly hard to ensure our pupils have been supported and their learning progressed during the global pandemic. I am sure you join me in thanking them for all they have done for our school—from SPSAs, to office to nursery, teachers, janitors, cleaners, kitchen staff, Mrs Connor and Mrs Ferguson—thank you so much!

Thanks also to our wonderful children and you, their families—you have all been so supportive and managed this unusual time so well—thank you!

Finally, best wishes to our P7—whilst P7 was different, you worked hard and managed a lot of change—good luck at CHS.

I wish you all a lovely summer,

*Suzanne Smith*

**End of Term** Please remember school finishes on Thursday 24th June @ 12 noon for all children from nursery—P7.

### Donations to School Fund

As you know we have been unable to do our usual fundraising this past year, however we have raised £460.90 from our Christmas Card Project with Cauliflower Cards, £53.35 through Easyfundraising and £181.20 from the Ragbag collections so thank you to everyone who has supported us in these ways :)

### Staffing

It is that time of year again when we look towards our new start in August and with it comes fresh starts not only for our new Primary 1 pupils and our current P7s but also in terms of staffing. We have to say goodbye and thank you to a long serving member of staff, Mrs Todd who leaves us having joined Woodlands when we opened thirteen years ago. Mrs Todd was one of our staff who supported the school through it's infancy, helping to establish our wonderful school community and I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Todd and wishing her every success in her new position in Isla Primary. We also say goodbye to Mrs Wiseman in our nursery who joined our staff almost 2 years ago and now moves on to her a new post in Angus. Thanks to both of you for your dedication and hard work.

Currently Mrs Grant remains absent—we all wish her all the very best for her recovery and thank Miss Boyle and Mrs Knowles for all they have done for P6 this session.

As well as goodbye we also welcome a new teacher to our team, Mrs Thomson who joins us from Southmuir Primary. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Thomson when she starts in August.

### Fairtrade and Eco Committee

Due to Covid-19, we have not been able to hold our usual committee meetings however, the fairtrade committee worked with the eco-committee to make improvements to our vegetable plot. We are no longer permitted to grow veg in tyres and therefore they pooled funds and invested in planters made from recycled plastic and old palettes (a huge thank you to Bob Taylor) and we now have a flourishing veggie patch complete with scarecrows and carrot facts.



### Notes from the Office

Thank you to everyone for supporting the office by avoiding visiting unless you have to—I do miss seeing everyone but Covid safety first! Please continue to call or email if you need any information or support.

Pre-ordering your meals on lpay is hugely helpful & has saved our teachers & office lots of time each day so thank you & keep up the great work!

Just a reminder that the office is open Monday—Friday, 8.30am-3.45pm & closed 12.30-1.15pm for lunch.



# News from the classes...

**Nursery** This term the nursery children are looking after our plants and learning about how they grow. We are learning about their own bodies, from their skeletons and senses to their digestive system. We have been learning about diet, and healthy and unhealthy foods. We have been doing some transition activities with the Primary One class teacher for the preschool children; meeting their buddies and teachers and trying out the lunch tables in the hall for next session. We are currently learning about symmetry and butterflies, using The Very Hungry Caterpillar and exploring lifecycles of frogs too. The children are enjoying numeracy activities; using different resources to explore numbers in the nursery. They have been using their fine motor skills to work on their writing too. Our work on listening and talking is ongoing with lots of improvement this term.

## Primary 1

Primary 1 have really enjoyed term 4 and we have been so busy! We have been learning all about money. We have learned how to recognise coins, how to make amounts and to count various amounts. We have also been carrying out various Science experiments and these have been so much fun! We have liked learning about past and present. It was interesting to find out about schools in the past! We have met our nursery buddies and found out some information about them.

## Primary 2

Primary 2 have all settled well back into class routines. We have been learning about different coins and their values as well as making amounts and finding change. We have been learning to take notes and use these to write new sentences and have also been learning to use sub-headings in our writing to sort information. We have been learning about different forces and have really enjoyed exploring magnetism. We have all learned a dance sequence, thinking about our timing and counting in beats of 8. We have made up our own dance moves and added these on too! We also performed these dances for each other! As well as this we have been sharing news with the rest of the class which has made us more confident.

## Primary 3

We have all settled in really well to our class routines. We have been using the topic "The human body" as a main focus for lots of writing, and researching using the computers and books as a great resource. We found that it was really relaxing and great fun to take our learning outside as well. Part of our activities outdoors was to plant and grow bulbs. These bulbs grew into lovely plants which some of our class took to Willowbank care home for the elderly to enjoy. In maths, we have been learning some of our multiplication methods and practicing to read and write numbers up to and above 1000. Its been a challenging, busy term but great fun.

## Primary 3/4

P3/4 have had a very busy term 4. Our topics have been the Human Body and The World of Work. In numeracy we have been focusing on fractions and money, linking this to our topic. Our Primary 3 children enjoyed a trip to Braehill Lodge Care Home to deliver plants they had grown. In Literacy we have been linking factual writing to our topic and also learning how to write persuasively. In art we have been using different mediums to create colourful pieces including some delicious looking ice lollies.

# News from the classes...

**Primary 4** It has been a busy term learning about The Body. We did a lot of work with our student, Mrs Black. One of the highlights was looking at the bones and making a moving skeleton. For the last few weeks of term we are doing a mini topic through the context of Formula 1 focusing on skills from developing the young workforce. The children are really enjoying the topic and improving their skills in co-operation, communication, decision making and so on. In literacy our focus for writing has been imaginative writing where we have been developing our imaginations and creativity through stories and poems. Our reading has improved so much this year and we have become much more independent and responsible learners when completing our Daily Five activities. In numeracy we have been learning about fractions as well as measuring length, mass, volume, area and perimeter. We have also been revising our calculation strategies. We have been giving quality peer assessment and thinking about the next steps in our learning. We are looking forward to a relaxing summer holiday and are excited about primary 5.

**Primary 5** We have had a busy term learning about natural disasters for our topic. We learned about these and tried to create our own disasters by designing and creating volcanoes and earthquake proof buildings. We successfully erupted volcanoes and learned about the chemical reactions of the ingredients and then we assessed how safe our buildings were by placing them on a tray of jelly to imitate a shaking ground. We have also been learning about area, perimeter and angles and mastering different multiplication and division approaches in maths, including playing our new cool game called Table Bumps. We have been using Seesaw to help us with our talking skills and self assessment by adding voice comments to deepen our understanding of different areas of our learning. In PE we have been concentrating on jumping, running and throwing skills in preparation for our Sports afternoon. In Health we have been learning about the effects of different substances on the body and learning the correct body part names and their functions. We have been working on diary writing and adding similes and metaphors into our pieces. We have all worked very hard since returning to school and are looking forward to a sunny Summer holiday before heading in to Primary 6.

**Primary 5B** We have been working very hard this term in maths and have been learning about angles, area and perimeter. We have also been trying to improve our speed of recalling our multiplication facts and using these in different areas of our maths learning. In Literacy we have been looking at diary writing and have been focusing on using interesting vocabulary to up level our writing. In Health and Well-being we have been learning about different substances and how they affect the body. In PE we have been looking at different athletic sports and have been developing the skills linked to them including running, jumping and throwing. We have really been enjoying our natural disasters topic this term and created models of the structure of the earth. We also looked at how engineers create earthquake proof buildings and then have used what we had learned to create our own building using cocktail sticks and a plate of jelly to replicate an earthquake.

**Primary 6** Throughout this term we have worked very hard on our 'My World of Work' topic. This has allowed us to create job profiles and find out the types of jobs we can do as we grow up. We have discussed the great skills and qualities we have to help us with our choices. We have had a big focus on Business Enterprise and have all taken on different roles in teams to follow design briefs and create products. We are now working towards creating and selling products. We have focused on money this term and learnt about the best ways to budget and making profit and avoiding loss. In P.E., we have learnt about attacking and defending targets and how we can use this skill in a number of sports. We are working very hard with our functional writing and follow criteria to ensure it is successful.

**Primary 7** We have been working so hard this term on our Make £5 Grow project run by Virgin Money. In groups or individually we had to come up with a business plan that we felt would be successful. We had a variety of businesses from bin stickers, to bakers and car washers and so much more. We worked incredibly hard both in school and at home in order to make our businesses successful. We managed to make a phenomenal £2000 which we will now be putting towards our end of P7 treat after having to miss out on a residential trip. We have also had our transition visit to the high school which we thoroughly enjoyed and we are excited to start our next chapter there in August. We would like to thank all of our teachers for everything over the years, we will miss Woodlands but have lots of fond memories.

## Parent Council

Thank you to our Parent Council who have continued to support the school through an unusual & difficult year. Throughout lockdown, they have continued their fundraising efforts to buy the school 20 Chromebooks & have successfully achieved this! They have worked incredibly hard to maintain their fundraising activities throughout lockdown & the restrictions placed on us all. These extra 20 Chromebooks will support our children greatly in all aspects of their learning—thank you!

## School Improvement Plan and Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)

This year, as a result of our quality assurance information, we used our PEF allocation to purchase more chromebooks, assistive technology such as C-Pens and Clicker, subscribe to Sumdog and, to support some of our younger pupils, we bought a literacy support resource; Read Write Inc. This, along with I-pads purchased from school funds provided the children with increased opportunity to access technology and supportive software. Our assessments and feedback have informed us these resources have enabled us to build further on pupils' digital literacy, improved engagement in and access to learning as well as increasing speed and accuracy in numeracy.

This feedback from staff, parents and pupils, along with our assessments and our resultant evaluations this session have informed us of our actions for next session. We have identified a need to continue to draw upon the gains from our increased digital literacy skills and our use of SEESAW as a tool to support learning and parental communication, to review our approaches in spelling and comprehension as well as to further build on our approaches in health and wellbeing. We will therefore use this session's PEF monies to fund further assistive technology, develop nurture spaces and approaches and train staff in new approaches to spelling as well as resource these spelling approaches.

Whilst we will continue to embed our approaches to making learning visible and further develop our learning and teaching of STEM through our collaboration with SSERC, we will also collaborate with our cluster colleagues to develop a framework for assessment in reading and moderate our approaches in spelling and writing.

Further details of our feedback, successes and actions will be available in August when we share our Standards and Quality Report.

## Dates for the Diary

<b>June</b>	18	Pupil Reports sent home
	24	End of term— <b><u>school &amp; nursery finish at 12 noon</u></b>
<b>August</b>	10	Inset Day 1 (school closed to pupils)
	11	Start of term 1
<b>October</b>	1	End of term 1
	18	Start of term 2
<b>December</b>	1	Inset day 2 (school closed to pupils)
	2	Inset day 3 (school closed to pupils)
	3	St Andrew's Day holiday (Schools closed)
	22	End of term 2
<b>January '22</b>	10	Start of term 3
<b>February</b>	10	Inset day 4 (school closed to pupils)
	11	Mid Term (schools closed)
	14	Mid Term (schools closed)
<b>April</b>	1	End of term 3
	19	Start of term 4
<b>May</b>	2	May holiday (schools closed)
	30	Inset day 5 (school closed to pupils)
<b>June</b>	29	End of term— <b><u>school &amp; nursery finish at 3pm</u></b>

