



Woodlands' School News



Angus Council

March 2022

Hello From Woodlands!

Term 3 has been busy across the school. With restrictions lifting we have been able to start bringing classes/children together again indoors to support and explore their learning, which the children really enjoy. To enable pupil voice across the school the older classes have all been identified as a pupil group and are busy organising information sharing or events, or in the case of P6M our Pupil Council, identifying how to improve our playground and exploring what they are going to buy. This term has also seen teachers identifying how we ensure we inform children of their rights and promote them, with Mrs Ferguson leading our journey to achieving our Bronze Award for Rights Respecting Schools (more information to follow). In addition, Mrs Wilson is leading our application for Reading Schools Accreditation and Miss Mulliss is creating a presentation to share our continued progress in STEM –there is a lot we will have to celebrate! I hope you enjoy our term 3 newsletter.

Suzanne Smiff

School Information and Sharing Learning

We continue to use SEESAW to share your child's learning week to week either through homework tasks of in class tasks, as well as sending home learning logs.

As many of you will recall, we usually also have curricular afternoons to share our developments. However due to COVID mitigations this has again not been possible. Instead each class will share some learning over the coming couple of weeks and we will send home a school Sway/presentation to share what we have been improving this session ie reading and health and wellbeing.

In addition, we usually gather your views through parent evening surveys or via Forms online. This session we are reviewing our vision, values and aims so please look out for a Forms survey in relation to this which will help inform our review.

If you have a Twitter account and not already done so, please follow us on:

twitter at: <https://twitter.com/WoodlandsPrim1>

We post photos of events happening around the school and share some further information in this way. Our Twitter feed can also be seen on our school website.

Staff Changes

As shared previously, our new senior clerical is due to start with us on 21st March. Louise Sandeman will initially be supported in her role by our Cluster Admin, Ainsley Campbell and we look forward to welcoming Louise to our team.

As many of you will know, Mrs Middler is expecting her baby next month and therefore will go on maternity leave during the Spring break. We wish Mrs Middler and her new baby all the very best.

After the holiday, we welcome Miss Stewart back from her maternity leave. Miss Stewart will therefore teach P6M. I am sure you will join us all in welcoming Miss Stewart back.

Information

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 you to check your child's hair regularly. Further information can be obtained from the Health Centre or NHS online.

School Uniform

School uniform can be ordered online or through school. Our uniform is bottle green jumpers/sweatshirts/cardigans and grey trousers/skirt/pinafore/shorts or tartan kilt with white shirt/polo shirt and a tartan tie. **Please be aware that there is not a separate or different coloured uniform for P7 pupils.**

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who bought a book from the book fair recently, you bought over £1,000 of books giving us over £200 commission for the classes to spend on books. It is so good to see our children enthusiastic about books and reading!

Remember if you have not used your World Book Day voucher, it is still valid until the end of March at most good booksellers.

What's Been Happening in School this Term?



Pupil Council

Based on feedback from our children about the need to improve the playground P6M, this year's Pupil Council, have completed a pupil survey across the school and are now identifying resources to improve playground equipment. They have been allocated a budget of up to £2,000 and are identifying not only what to buy based on the feedback but also how to share its use and promote our 3 school rules: Safe, Responsible and Respectful. They intend creating film clips to share with the classes and are enjoying the opportunity to work with a real budget. We can't wait to see the difference they make.

Eco Council

P6 have carried out an Environmental Review and are aware that litter continues to be an issue in the playground. They have designed posters which will be shared with the rest of the school. We also hope to start up litter picking in the park as part of the Adopt a Street programme.
They also hope to take forward the Global Citizen aspect of Eco Schools through our involvement with Right Respecting Schools.
P6 also spent time out in the garden tidying up the planters and removing the old bottles from the greenhouse.



Nursery

Coming back to nursery after the Christmas holidays we continued our learning about dinosaurs as a starting point. We learned about ice and the different forms of water. We had an artic tray with animals and icebergs etc. There was lots of learning about the animals who live in this habitat, watching penguins on webcams and in the arctic. We followed on with our Pie Corbett stories and assessed the progress made since our baseline in early November. For our numeracy we used measuring devices in different ways, including dinosaur footprints etc. We are using Numicon at group times to explore estimation and conservation, and number bonds. The children have said they would like to learn about minibests, growing flowers, and trees, tractors, and farm animals. So we will be planting lots of seeds and learning about how they grow. We will look at farms and where food comes from, and the different food groups, healthy eating etc. over the next few weeks.

Primary 2

We have had quite a busy term! We have been loving our SRS work and are now confident in sounding out and blending lots of words. We are also enjoying using these skills in our writing. We loved writing about the Tiger Who Came to Tea and recreating the Alice in Wonderland book. We have been using resources like Numicon and numberlines to help us when adding and subtracting. We also really love using the numicon to practise our mental maths. We have been learning how to use the Ipad and how to navigate and use Seesaw. We feel really confident signing in and out of our own accounts now. We have been learning about water in science and completed an experiment to see what would melt an ice cube the quickest. We used sugar, salt and cold water. Most of us predicted that the salt would melt it the quickest but we found out that it was actually the cold water! We were lucky to have Kodaly for the past 8 weeks. We were learning about rhythm and beats. We also transferred this to outdoor P.E lessons where we were learning to dance. We learnt a few Scottish Country dances as well as a dance to the Greatest Showman. We counted in 8's to keep time and even made up our own dance moves!

Primary 1

We have been very busy this term. In Literacy we are developing our confidence when blending and were so excited to get our reading books home. We can take away and have used the Numicon to support us with our learning. We have been learning how to tell the time and liked using the clocks to play 'Show Me'. We have been very creative by linking dance moves together to the song 'Under The Sea'. We are going to be moving on to learning about living things and look forward to using the outdoor spaces. Primary 1 have enjoyed visits from the P.E, Art and Music Specialist. We have also been really busy participating in Kodaly. Primary 1 are really enjoying using and playing with the loose parts outside. We are buddies with Primary 7 and will be using our time with our buddies to enhance our ICT skills.

Primary 3 We have been busy this term investigating floating and sinking as our topic. This included working with water, looking at pollution and how we can help prevent it. We also used lots of STEM skills to design and construct a toy that floats. We had great fun doing experiments, to find out what the best materials to use would be. We recorded our experiments and results using the ipads as well as writing and illustrating in our jotters. In maths we have been looking at 2d and 3d shapes. We have also been looking at volume and weight. These activities were then linked and used when we were building our floating toy. We have been lucky to receive dance instruction from a dance specialist. We linked the story of Alice in Wonderland to some of our imaginative writing and then put our ideas into music and dance. We hope you all enjoyed our short dance presentation that was sent out on Seesaw. We are going to be linking with one of the care homes over the next few weeks. We planted a variety of bulbs and hope to deliver some lovely flowers very soon. We have also been lucky to link up with the music and art specialists to learn and practice new skills. It has been a very busy but fun time for everyone, we hope the weather continues to improve to allow us to take our learning outdoors, where we can learn more about our local environment and also use practiced skills in different situations, which we think will be great fun!

Primary 4 – Primary 4 have had lots of fun learning about water this term. We have been looking at different states of matter, dissolving and looking at floating and sinking. We are going to look at how important water is for living things and how water can be used in different religions. We are working in groups to design and build a boat which has to carry a load, float for five minutes and travel 1m. I am sure you will hear if we are successful! In literacy we are looking at persuasive writing and thought about the question—Should animals should be kept in zoos? This work was linked to our class novel Mr McCool. In number we have been learning about the four operations and using different strategies to perform calculations. We have enjoyed having visiting specialists in class again to support our learning in expressive arts. We have collaborated during play on wheels to build rafts, make obstacle courses and make huts. It was great fun!

Primary 4/5—We have not long started our new class novel, Kensuke's Kingdom and are loving it so far. We all have so many questions and just can't wait to read more. In literacy, we have been working on letter writing and identifying the differences between formal and informal letter writing. We have enjoyed self assessing our writing against a rubric we created together so we know where we are in our learning and how to improve next time. In maths, we have been doing a big focus on our times tables. We love doing 5 minute frenzies and are always striving to do better by working hard to improve our speed and accuracy. We have also been learning how to tell the time on both analogue and digital clocks. We find analogue more challenging. In addition to this, we have looked at time durations as well as reading bus and train timetables. We have also really enjoyed having the PE, art and music specialists in school this term to support our expressive arts learning. We also had great fun creating paper areoplanes in science whilst looking at air resistance! It was so much fun!

Primary 5

We started the term looking at water, the water cycle and states of matter. We made rain gauges which have been placed round the school. We will begin measuring the amount of rain we have and display our findings in graphs. Gymnastics has been our focus during P.E., which the children have loved! We have been creating sequences using balances, jumps, and travels. Whilst doing this we have also been developing our feedback skills by watching our partners and helping them to improve. Number this term is on multiplication and division. The children are enjoying challenging their recall skills through timed activities. In maths they are looking at 2D and 3D shape and had a great time building models using marshmallows and sticks.

Primary 6

P6 have had a very busy start to the term. We are reading the novel *Alone on a Wide Wide Sea* by Michael Morpurgo. The story is set in Australia which links in nicely with our topic where we will be comparing life in Australia with life in Scotland.

In maths, we have been revising prime numbers and factors. In Information handling, we are learning about different ways in which we can display data.

Our writing focus for this term is Non-Chronological reports. The children have enjoyed researching Australian animals and will create reports to share with their class mates.

P6 have enjoyed visits from the PE, art and music specialists. This has supported their learning in expressive arts. The children had fun in music where they learned to play an accompaniment to *Scotland The Brave* on the xylophone.

Primary 6M

P6M have had a really busy start to this term. We are now going swimming on a Wednesday morning and are really enjoying ourselves and developing our confidence in the water.

We are reading a new class novel called "Journey to the River Sea" by Eva Ibbotson. We are using the setting of this novel to compare life in Scotland to the Amazon Rainforest and Brazil.

Our writing focus this term has been Persuasive writing. We have really enjoyed learning about the different ways that we can persuade our audience and using what we have learnt to create our own chocolate bars. We have looked at different posters, adverts, writing styles and the language that we use. We are going to put this all to the test by writing to different chocolate companies to see if we can persuade them to stock our creations, fingers crossed!

In maths this term we have been revising our knowledge of times tables and using this to multiply and divide larger numbers. We have also learnt how to calculate the area and perimeter of various shapes.

P6M have taken on the role of Pupil Council this year and have been busy surveying the classes and conducting research to see how we can improve our playground space. We have lots of great ideas, watch this space!

Primary 7

Primary 7 have been very busy this term. In maths we have been looking at fractions, decimals and percentages and looking to see how we can apply our learning to real life experiences. We have also been developing our understanding of how to use a protractor to draw and measure angles.

In literacy we have been learning about the key features of biographies. We have researched a famous person and are creating biographies to share some facts about them with the class.

We really enjoyed learning some Scottish Country dancing this term and have now moved on to developing our attacking and defending skills in ball games such as basketball. In health we have also been looking at friendships, linked to our book 'Wonder' and also at the effects of smoking. We have enjoyed working with Active Schools to learn new games we can share with younger pupils and taking other responsibilities around the school.

School Clubs

We are delighted to be able to start to offer clubs to our children across the school again. Coding Club is about to start for P5 pupils. Six of our P7 Digital Leaders are leading this club, supported by Mrs Smith. The children will access Scratch to create designs/animations and are really looking forward to taking part. Meanwhile, Mrs Connor has already started taking gardening club weekly with P4 who are thoroughly enjoying their time outside tidying and organising the school garden getting ready for springtime planting! We also have Carnoustie High sports leaders due to start up clubs over the next few weeks with P3 rugby starting at lunchtimes from 5th March and our P6 children have been enjoying taking part in Golf Club over the past few weeks in our hall at the end of the day.

In addition to leading code club, our P7s will be leading some playtime groups with the younger children and will have the opportunity to put their Young Leader Skills into action.

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Sign-up using our unique link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/woodlandspscarnoustie/>

School Improvement

Based on pupil, staff and parental information as well as our attainment, our focus this session is literacy, particularly reading and health and wellbeing. In terms of literacy, staff identified a need to focus on spelling approaches and to look also at reading; improving children's ability to identify where they are and where they are going next.

Reading—Sound Reading System

We started teacher training sessions in Sound Reading System which is a different approach to spelling compared to phonics. This system supports decoding texts and we started implementing it in P1-4 as well as with some individuals in older classes and P6M. During the past few months more teachers have received the training and it has recently started to also be implemented in P6, with children in all the classes responding positively to the approach. Mrs Connor is leading this development and will focus on creating a parental leaflet to share more information over the coming weeks.

Reading—Rubrics

Teachers have been collaborating to create core expectations in reading and have also created reading rubrics. These rubrics are a set of stepping stones for skill development using our pathways for skill progression and will support teachers and our nursery team to create rubrics with children. The rubrics will provide children with clear steps for the skill they are focusing on so they can identify and talk about where they are and then see where they are going next. Our next aim is to also create rubrics for writing.

Health and Wellbeing—The Den

Teachers use wellbeing webs twice a year to gain feedback from children about how they feel in relation to feeling safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, responsible, respected and included. This session we adapted them by breaking down what these mean to support the children in sharing how they feel. Teachers then collated the information to inform planning. Please be aware should the children share anything of concern, teachers would link with home to share and discuss this information. In addition, we have been able to return our library to its usual space and instead of the space it occupied last session returning to a resource room, we have renamed it The Den and are creating a social and emotional support space. One of our SPSAs, Mrs Christie is timetabled to support children across the week in this space and we have purchased resources to support emotional and social development. Teachers and SPSAs as well as information from parents enable us to identify short term targets for children and they then access this space using identified resources to support social or emotional development. The space remains under development as we await new fixtures however we have created an area within the space which allowed support to start last term. Feedback from our first groups is very positive, with children really enjoying and benefiting from the small group activities, the calm space and the support being offered.

Dates for the diary & Upcoming Events

Info can also be found by logging on to our school website at:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/an/woodlandsprimarieschool/>
and looking at our calendar page



March	28-29	West End in Schools—Reading and Dance Workshops
April	1 19	End of term 3 (school closes at usual time) Start of term 4 (please note this is a Tuesday)
May	3 23-27 31	Parent Council AGM @ 7pm P7 activity week School Sports Day (weather and COVID permitting—back up day on Tuesday 7th June)
June	2 3 6 8-9 17 29	May Day (school closed) Jubilee Day (school closed) Inset Day (school closed to pupils) P7 to CHS (move up morning in school 8th) Reports to parents End of term—3pm finish
Aug	15 16	Inset day 1 (Monday—staff only in school) Term 1 starts for all children (Tuesday)
Sept	30	End of term 1
Oct	17	Term 2 starts