



Woodlands' News Update



Hello from Woodlands!

Angus Council

March 2023

Spring is nearly upon us already and now the ground is softening, we are starting to look to developing our school grounds, in line with our plans to plan learning and teaching approaches that draw upon outdoor learning and make better use of our outdoor space.

We are excited to announce that over the coming few months, our P7 pupils will have the opportunity to work with Alba Explorers to engage in this by creating a pond which will be located alongside our Zen garden, overlooking our car park. Staff will then attend further training so we can not only access outdoors as a learning space but use the outdoors to support learning about ecology. This approach will also further support children's health and wellbeing in the process.

As you will know from the Sway sent out in February, these past few months have seen us focus more on learning about emotions as we engage in the Zones of Learning approach from nursery to Primary 7. Supporting children to better identify their emotions, name them, know what impacts on them and what can help them manage them will further improve their ability to self-regulate, supporting their mental and emotional wellbeing.

We are also delighted to be able to welcome parents back into school for our first curricular afternoon in 4 years- we look forward to seeing you on March 23rd!

Suzanne Smith, Head Teacher

End of Term

Please be aware school finishes on Friday 31st March 2023, and term 4 resumes on Monday April 17th.

Sporting Events and Clubs

Basketball takes place on a Wednesday break for P6/7 led by an S5 pupil who is part of the Scotland Squad. Some P6s and P7s have been attending basketball at Carnoustie High School on a Monday afternoon which has been a great opportunity to meet children from other cluster schools.

We have football sessions for P5s on a Wednesday lunchtime run by Sam Goldstraw and football for P6/7 on a Friday lunchtime coached by a s6 pupil. The team have their second tournament at the end of March.

Miss Stewart has continued running the netball club with sessions running on a Monday lunchtime and it has been great to see the team progressing at the most recent competition.

P7s have recently started a block of golf with professionals from the Golf Links which will culminate in a fun tournament in mid March.

Ms Ferguson and P4 have recently started up a maths club for P1 and P2s which aims to develop maths and number skills in a fun and practical way.

We have been running two dance clubs for P4 and P2 children and our P7s have been taking leadership roles through working with Jamie McLaren our Active Schools co-ordinator.

Miss Gray has been running a sewing club which has been a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop their creativity and learn new skills, whilst Mrs Smith has supported P7 pupils to lead both an art and craft club and currently a dance club for younger pupils.

The Reading Council have been running a daily outdoor library club at lunchtimes for the P1s, P2s and P3s to encourage reading engagement.

News from the classes...

Nursery—We have been learning about our feelings, recognising the clues that tell us how people are feeling, which ties in with our zones of regulation. We have been learning about healthy food, and our bodies and linked to this we have had a baby hospital in nursery for a week or two. This then led us to learn about other people who help us and that we have our own police station and jail. We were very lucky to have a visit from a policeman parent in his car and the children were able to sit in and explore. We have also learned about ice, polar habitats and the animals living there, and moved on to tropical fish, using fact books and from watching clips. We have been learning about shapes, missing numbers, subitising and grouping in numeracy. We celebrated World Book Day and learned Scottish songs. We went to Braehill Lodge to sing our songs for the residents! We have been learning about Fairtrade and visited the local co-op for a Fairtrade hunt with Mrs, Thompson. We celebrated the Hindu festival of Holi, and will celebrate St. Patricks day too, before we move on to Easter!

Primary 1— This term in Primary One, our topic has been Dinosaurs. We had quite a surprise at the start of term when we discovered a dinosaur egg in our playground. We have been learning to classify dinosaurs by their diet, size and time period. We enjoyed participating in a live workshop with the National Museum for Scotland. In maths we have been learning all about coins up to £2 and creating amounts up to 10p. We have also been learning about numbers up to 30. In Literacy we have continued working on our sounds and word building and have enjoyed reading our reading books. We loved learning our Scottish poems and really enjoyed having Mrs McGarry in to share some Scottish stories and songs with us.

Primary 2 - This term we have been working really hard and at the same time had lots of fun with our learning. We have used our language skills within our topic of "Scottish castles" to research and record lots of amazing facts. P7 have also been working with us as our reading and STEM buddies, they have been a great help and support sharing all their skills with us. In maths this term we have had a focus on measuring and recording length . We have also started looking at and using fractions. These areas have allowed us to create some great art pieces and also given us ideas about the size and shapes of some castles. Using these new skills and shape knowledge from last term, we have constructed 3d castles and dioramas to capture some amazing STEM facts and art about Scottish castles. This has been a great learning context and will culminate in a visit to Glamis castle this month. Thank you all for your support.

Primary 3 - This term our learning context is Castles along side P2 and P4. We are in the process of making a paper mache Motte and Bailey castle which we will paint and add buildings and fencing to. We will share the finished product with you through Seesaw. At the end of this term we will be visiting Glamis Castle to see some of the features we have learned about and some we haven't. Fingers crossed for a dry day!

In our Numeracy we have begun learning about multiplication and division and look to build on last year's learning. We are using lots of practical methods to help us understand these concepts. In maths we have begun creating graphs and will begin to answer questions on these.

It was lovely to have Bookbug in for a visit and show her our book covers and book related graphs. We will also have a dance workshop this week based round The Enormous Crocodile. Keep your eyes peeled for photos and videos of this.

Primary 4 This term in Primary 4 our topic is Scottish Castles. We have loved learning about life in the past. At the end of March we are having a trip to Glamis Castle to bring our learning to life. We are also creating PowerPoints and doing a Stem challenge to share our learning. In number we are looking at multiplication and division, having lots of fun using concrete materials to solve problems. In language we celebrated World Book Day making our own comic strips, doing outdoor learning literacy challenges and creating number board games around a story theme to share with the primary 1 and 2 children who attend our numeracy lunchtime club.

News from the classes...

Primary 5—This term in Primary 5 we have been learning about Japan. We have explored maps, looking at where Japan is and the capital city as well as identifying and using different keys in an atlas. We have looked at Japanese artwork including Kinsugi and have used Anime to explore emotions. We are linking this topic to our class novel Kinsuke's Kingdom which we are really enjoying. We have continued our enterprise topic into this term and have really enjoyed this. We received lots of orders which has kept us busy and we have many happy customers! In writing we have been learning to create leaflets and are now focussing on non-chronological reports and will use our this to document some of the information we have learned about Japan. In maths we have been learning about money which has linked into our enterprise topic. We have also been learning about shapes and their properties as well as drawing and creating 3D shapes. We have been outside to create cubes using sticks and wool. We have been learning the parts of the circle including radius and diameter and have been using a compass to draw circles. We have been exploring the Zones of Regulation through classical music and talking about the features of music such as pace, pitch and volume can impact moods. We have also been looking at different strategies to use in class to help us move between zones.

Primary 5/6 This term in Primary 5/6 we have been learning all about rainforests, we are also reading Journey to the River Sea as our class novel which is linked to this and we are enjoying it so far. We have been creating individual PowerPoints about rainforest animals to share with the class to improve our listening and talking skills as well as our knowledge about the rainforest animals. In numeracy, we have moved on from money to looking at multiplication and division and linking this into real life contexts. Through our topic our writing focus is report writing. We have been learning about note taking, research and map skills too. In class we have started the Zones of Regulation lessons and are enjoying the opportunities to talk about our feelings and emotions. We are also loving swimming and are learning so many new skills.

Primary 6 - This Term in Primary 6 our new topic is the Amazon Rainforest, we are also reading Journey to the River Sea as our class novel which is linked to this. We have been creating a class display to show our learning on the layers of the rainforest and the different plant and animal species found in the Amazon. In numeracy we have moved on from multiplication and division to fractions and percentages. We are also focussing upon 2D and 3D shape. Through our topic our writing focus is information leaflets. We have been learning about note taking, research and map skills too. In class we have started the Zones of Regulation lessons and also learn about this during MIE activities. As the Sports Council we have been working hard on our Sports Scotland Gold Award and are looking to run inter-house tournaments and have a sponsored event next term to raise some money for new equipment. This term we are also going to be doing some Spanish, while continuing our learning in French too.

Primary 7 and Primary 7B

This term in Primary 7 both classes have learning about Spain and have been undertaking Spanish lessons to help us to learn how to say basic Spanish phrases. We have also continued our visits to Carnoustie High and have recently started Bikeability to help us to become more confident when cycling.

In Literacy we have started to look at the features of a biography and are currently researching a famous person to write about. Earlier in the term we looked at Scots language and are currently looking at inference through the book Coraline.

In maths we have finished our work on fractions, decimals and percentages and have moved on to look at different strategies to help us to solve multiplication and division problems. We are also looking at time with a focus on time duration and reading bus/train timetables.

In Health and Wellbeing we have continued to look at the Zones of Regulation and different strategies we can use to support us. We enjoyed taking part in Scottish country dancing and are currently looking at striking and field skills in PE.

Parent Council

The parent council are looking forward to seeing many of you at our family bingo night on Friday 17th March. This has been hugely popular and we hope a fun night is had by all. Our Christmas raffle was very successful and we are very grateful for the support that this received both in donations and raffle sales. We continue to fundraise to support the woodlands community and school activities; this term we are focussing on providing equipment requested to support outdoor learning. We have another few ideas so watch this space. As always, none of this is possible without active members and we welcome any Woodlands parent to get in touch if they wish to be involved. We have a few parents who will soon be leaving PC and we would be grateful for some new members

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



March	2	Parent evening
	13	Bikeability starts in P7 (Mon/Tues weekly)
	17	Bringing Books to Life (Dance workshops) N-P7
	17	Parent Council Bingo Night— SOLD OUT
	19	Bringing Books to Life (Dance workshops) N-P7
	23	P1-7 Curricular afternoon (parents/carers invited)
	29	Easter Church Service
	31	End of Term (normal finish time)
April	17	Start of term 4
May	1	May Day holiday (school closed)
	24-26	P7 Residential Trip
	29	Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
June	29	End of term 4 (3pm finish)
August	14	Inset Day 1 (school closed to pupils)
	15	Start of term 1
September	29	End of term 1
October	16	Start of term 2