



Woodlands News Update



Angus Council

May 2023

It's Summer Time!

School continues to be a hive of engaging learning opportunities!

Recently we have enjoyed the opportunity to venture beyond school and indeed in some cases beyond Angus accessing Glamis Castle, and Edinburgh Zoo, and this continues this term for P7 who have their residential in Crieff this week.

To support our focus on improving engagement we have been accessing outdoors, and have linked with Alba Explorers to start work creating an outdoor pond as well as implement some staff training in ecology, also with Alba.

On the theme of partnerships, the Police and the Fire Brigade have been in school to support learning in our nursery, whilst P7 had CPR training also from the Fire Brigade. Finally, thanks to our Parent Council's fundraising efforts, P1, P5, P5/6 and P6 are looking forward to a visit from the Planetarium to support their learning later this term.

Before you read the rest of our news, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff, for their hard work and our partners and families for all your support this past session. I wish you all a lovely summer,

Suzanne Smith, Head Teacher

End of Term

Please remember school finishes on **Thursday 29th June @ 3pm for all children from nursery—P7.**

Donations to School Fund

Over the past few months we have received a total of £100.00 donation from Helping Hands Charity Shop in Carnoustie and therefore were able to purchase some Playground equipment for all children to enjoy.

Carnoustie Gala Committee kindly donated £300.00 to allow us to purchase a shed to support our outdoor learning here at Woodlands.

Woodlands Parent Council have recently purchased and donated storage and chess sets to the school for the children to enjoy.

School clubs

This term our P4 dance club, led by P7 pupils performed the dance they had learned to the younger pupils' during assemblies—they were amazing!

Mrs Elder has had a huge uptake for chess club, whilst football club led by Charlie and netball club led by Miss Stewart have continued to run, with both teams coming 2nd and 3rd respectfully in their tournaments over the past weeks!

This term P5/6 have asked to run a dance club for P1, taster sessions have been held in various classes with Carnoustie Bowling Club and our Sports Council are excited to be able to offer multi-sports clubs over the coming weeks.

Over this past year, we have also run art club, rugby club, golf sessions and P7 have all now completed their Bikeability levels 1 or 2.

Notes from the Office

Parent Pay—Can you please ensure you are choosing your child's lunch (including packed lunches) on parent pay this can be done for up to 6 weeks in advance.

Office hours 8.35am to 12.30pm / 1pm—3.40pm

Please contact school office if you have changed address or telephone number recently.



News from the classes...

Nursery Transition is a big part of this term – lots of visits to the school, the lunch hall, the library etc. Most of the children are interested in learning about minibeasts, and about growing flowers and vegetables and learning where food comes from. So we have been planting lots of seeds and looking after them as they grow. We are waiting for our butterflies to come out of their chrysalis and also looking at how many minibeasts we can find in the nursery garden, keeping a tally sheet! Lots of fact books are being used for information, and of course clips on the Prowise! We will be using Numicon and other resources to explore estimation and conservation as well as learning about symmetry. We are also learning about people who can help us with visits from the Police and from the Fire Service.

Primary 1—Primary 1 have been very busy learning all about Space. We are very excited for a visit from Tayside Planetarium in June to reinforce our learning. Primary 1 have enjoyed our Beebot project with our Primary 7 buddies. In Maths we have been working on position and movement. We have been working on addition, subtraction and sharing objects equally. In Literacy we have finished learning all of our initial sounds and are working on writing exciting sentences. We have had a wonderful time in Primary 1 this year and are very excited about moving into Primary 2 and our Summer holiday.

Primary 2. We ended term 3 with a great visit to Glamis castle which allowed us to share all we had been learning about people in the past. This term we are learning about living and growing so we will be planting lots of seeds to observe their growth and also investigating facts about the human body. In maths we are working with money and also doubling numbers using larger denominations all linked to our Rubrics challenge. We are all enjoying our SRS and reading, we are using these skills as well to develop and extend our factual writing as it's getting easier to spell tricky words. P7 buddies have been visiting us to buddy read and also to help us use the chrome books. We are super excited and looking forward to be moving to P3 after the summer. We would like to thank everyone for all their support this year and to wish you all a lovely summer break.

Primary 3. After a fantastic trip to Glamis castle at the end of last term, which reinforced and brought to life our learning about castles, we have begun a new topic looking at the human body. We are finding out about how the body works, what jobs the different organs do and how to keep ourselves safe and healthy. In number we have begun working on fractions and are also learning to tell the time, looking at digital and analogue clocks. We have been learning new sounds through SRS, practising our skills in reading and writing. We also had a party to celebrate the Kings Coronation. In our role as JRSOs, we are having a competition to create a poster which will be made into a banner to remind people to drive safely—we are excited about this!

Primary 4 are working on the topic The Garden this term. We have planted herbs, flowers and vegetables and are learning how to look after them. We have studied pollination and the importance of bees. We are studying local birds and preparing a talk with our choice of visual aids on a local bird. In literacy we are looking at letter writing and wrote a thank you letter to the bowling club who are running taster sessions for us. In numeracy we are learning time and fractions. The children have been enjoying lunch time opportunities to participate in dance and football clubs. The numeracy group are planning to run outdoor games sessions.

News from the classes...

Primary 5 - Primary 5 started the term with a fantastic trip to Edinburgh Zoo to spot some of the Japanese animals we had learnt about in term 3. We were able to handle stick insects, snails and even a snake! This term we have really enjoyed Script writing. We have studied scripts, acted them out and written our own. We are now creating our own movie sets and characters to go with our scripts which we will then turn into a stop motion film! We love learning about stop motion and many of the class have gone home and started to create their own. We continue to use the Zones of Regulation to help us to explore our emotions and how we move between colours. We have been learning about duration of time and how to draw a bar graph. We are really enjoying gathering data, analysing and then creating a suitable chart. This term our topic is space. We have created our own Paper Mache planets and are now researching the planets to display in a fact file. We have also been exploring 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst, using line and colour to create abstract drawings to show how the music made us feel.

Primary 5 /6—

Primary 5/6 enjoyed learning about the rainforest and had the best day at Edinburgh Zoo learning about endangered animals. They particularly enjoyed handling the animals and were all very brave—especially with the tarantula and snake. Since then we have started our Space topic and we have loved writing imaginative stories that we will turn into books to share with Primary 1. In maths we have been working so hard with fractions, looking at fractions of shapes and amounts as well as equivalent fractions. We have also been using protractors to measure and draw angles as well as looking at angles in a triangle. In PE, we loved our block of swimming last term and were so sad when it ended. We all worked so hard to improve our technique. We have more recently been working on throwing and catching linked to striking and fielding and have enjoyed playing games of rounders to help us improve our aim and accuracy when throwing. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support this year and wish you all a lovely summer holiday when it comes.

Primary 6 - We ended term 3 with an unforgettable trip to Edinburgh Zoo, home of over 2,500 incredible animals from around the world for us to meet and handle! This Term our new topics are Space and Masterchef. During Space our focus will be planets and galaxies as well as space missions and the Earth's magnetic field. Within Masterchef we will learn about nutrition, packaging and labelling, media influences and different types of dining around the world. We will also have the opportunity to make pizza dough and select our tasty toppings. 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, through this we have been creating an interactive class display to show our learning as well as different strategies to use in class to help us move between zones. In numeracy we will be learning about expressions and equations and also measurement. In PE we are focusing on invasion games and striking and fielding. The Sports Council have been busy completing the Gold Award application form and action plan and are going to host sports events for each class before the holidays. Thank you for all of your support this year and we wish you all a lovely summer break!

Primary 7 and P7B

We have had a busy term where we have continued our visits to Carnoustie High School and are looking forward to our residential visit to The Scottish Adventure School this week. This term we have been excited to get started on the pond project with Alba Explorers and are making great progress. Through this project we have been learning about the importance of teamwork, conservation and are working towards achieving our John Muir Award. We have also been looking at sustainability and our impact on the world.

In Literacy we have looked at the key features of a leaflet and have been creating one to share with the school on how to look after the pond and how to encourage wildlife to visit. Later this term we will be creating a newspaper to share the progress of our pond build.

In Maths we have been learning to measure length, weight and volume accurately using the correct unit of measurement and how to convert these measurements.

Our class committees have continued their hard work with the Eco Committee doing a litter pick in the playground, the Digital Leaders helping the P2s to learn how to use a search engine and the Pupil Council have been showing the new playground equipment to pupils in the school.

Parent Council Our Parent Council continues to meet each term to support our school community. At their last meeting earlier in May, they identified grants they are going to apply for to support us with buying gardening equipment, creating an outdoor reading area, plants for our pond area and agreed to pay for the Planetarium to visit school in June. We are very grateful for all the work our Parent Council do to support our school!

School Improvement Plan and Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)

This session we used our Pupil Equity Fund to support pupil Health and Wellbeing by developing Zones of Regulation, including the purchasing of resources, further development of our Den as a wellbeing space. We also used this fund to employ Mrs Christie, one of our SPSAs to provide group and/or individual support with wellbeing or social skills. To date every child who has accessed the support provided by Mrs Christie has recorded a positive impact, with teachers also identifying this is the case. In addition, children are starting to improve their ability to identify and name their emotions and some tools for regulation through our Zones work. We also used some of these funds to complete SRS training, with teachers reporting a positive impact on spelling and reading, particularly in P1 and P4. Finally we used this funding to pay for Alba Explorers to support us to develop school grounds and implement staff training as we continue to access outdoors to engage children in their learning and gain the health benefits of being outside. We will therefore continue with this work into next session, developing our outdoor classroom into a bird hide and continuing children's social and wellbeing supports.

Our focus therefore has been to improve engagement not only through wellbeing supports but also through further honing our approaches in literacy. Teachers have been exploring the use of rubrics to support children to identify what to do to achieve in their reading and writing, and sharing their expertise in approaches eg the use of Daily 5 and Moving Image Education, to improve reading engagement. Our quality assurance informs us that these approaches, along with teachers focusing their professional enquiries on exploring a range of engagement strategies such as chunking learning, using visual now and next boards or providing some pupils with fidgets or wobble stools has resulted in almost all classes identifying clear improvement in children's focus. Our data also informs us though that we need to continue to improve our approaches in writing and, having achieved our Bronze award for Rights Respecting Schools and our bronze Reading Accreditation, we now need to implement our plans to gain our silver awards in both of these as well as work towards retaining our Gold Sports Award next session.

Dates for the Diary

June	16	Pupil Reports sent home
	27	End of term celebration in church 10am (please contact office if you can help)
	28	P7 Leavers' event in school (pm)
	29	End of term— <u>school & nursery finish at 3pm</u>
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
November	29	Inset day 2 (school closed to pupils)
	30	Inset day 2 (school closed to pupils)
December	1	St Andrew's Day holiday (Schools closed)
	22	End of term 2
January '24	08	Start of term 3
February	15	Inset day 4 (school closed to pupils)
	16	Mid Term (schools closed)
	19	Mid Term (schools closed)
March	29	End of term 3
April	15	Start of term 4
May	6	May holiday (schools closed)
	27	Inset day 5 (school closed to pupils)
June	27	End of term— <u>school & nursery finish at 3pm</u>

