



Woodlands' News Update



Seasons Greetings!

Angus Council

December 2023

Welcome to our term 2 newsletter!

As you will see from all the information shared, every class have been super busy with a range of learning experiences. We have had Bookbug visiting the infants, with the children then sharing their learning and creating hall decorations with family members. Meanwhile the older children have been busy with extra-curricular clubs and sports events out with school as well as supporting and sharing their learning with younger children.

In addition, P4 have been working with S3 who linked with us for paired reading and 2 volunteers have been in school weekly to play number partner games to support numeracy skills. Mrs Connor has been working with a group of children centred on E-Sports and our Digital Leaders, Pupil Council and Rights Respecting Schools group have been busy meeting and planning and supporting our approaches across our school. In assemblies we have been focusing on our school aims and values, with a visitor from the Young Carers team sharing information last week as we focus on Inclusion and Responsibility.

Thank you for all your support with our pyjama/crazy hair day as you raised £183.50 which enabled us to buy a whole range of toys to help other families this Christmas. Thank you also to both our P7 pupils who ably represented our school community by laying a wreath on our behalf on Remembrance Sunday.

I hope you enjoy all our news.

Suzanne Smith, Head Teacher

End of Term Our

Please be aware school finishes on Friday 22nd December 2023 at **3pm** for all children from nursery-P7.

Pupil Council

The Pupil Council meet every term to discuss and organise events for the school. The children have taken their role very seriously from helping create a child friendly school improvement plan to retrieving the balls that accidentally get kicked over into the caravan site. They worked really hard last term co-ordinating the Shoe Box Appeal and an amazing 33 boxes were delivered to Blythwoods Care, Broughty Ferry ready for distribution to the families in need. They have also been proactive in their suggestions of how to help support the noise levels in the dinner hall and the leaf blowing of our football pitch in the playground. They are always looking for jobs to do around the school to help continue to keep the school the wonderful learning environment/experience that it is. There have been many ideas for upcoming events throughout the school this year such as a whole school Health Day filled with fun learning activities. Watch this space!

Club News...

Digital Leaders:



The Digital Leaders are working hard to prepare for a meeting with the validator as we apply for our Digital Schools Award. Mrs Connor has asked us to check that all the laptops, ipads and chromebooks are labelled and in good order which is an ongoing task. We are meeting regularly and learning how to add tiles to our Glow Launchpad in order that we can support others to do the same. Next term we intend using our skills to run a code club for P5 children.

Sports Council

The Sports Council is made up of pupils from P1-7 and meet every two weeks. We are currently updating our Sports Council noticeboard, designing a loyalty scheme for our sports clubs in school and are creating surveys for extra curricular clubs coming next term. We have also achieved the necessary score to be awarded our Sports Scotland Gold Award and are busy pulling all of our evidence together to make our final submission. We have also purchased lots of fabulous new equipment which will enhance and support PE at Woodlands.

Sports Clubs

There are an array of clubs throughout the school which the children have the opportunity to take part in. Last term the P7 girls ran a dance lunchtime club for P3 which was a great success. This term we have both boys and girls lunchtime Football Clubs for the P6's and P7's. We have an after school Golf Club for the p5's, a lunchtime Netball Club for P6 and P7 boys and girls, a lunchtime boys Football Club for the P3 and P4's and a lunchtime Art Club for P3. Both the Girls and Boys Football Clubs have taken part in their first festival this term as has the Netball Team. All three festivals were a great success and a good time was had by all. The Golf Club are looking forward to their tournament in the coming weeks.

Eco- The classes have all been out to have a look at the pond and we are looking forward to seeing the biodiversity which will choose to live there over the coming months. So far we have spotted a tiny frog and some water boatmen. P7 have been down to Golf Links to plant Kidney Vetch to help support the conservation of the Small Blue Butterfly. Next term we hope to arrange a litter pick within the local area as many of the children have noticed plastic pollution is a problem in our town.

Rights Respecting Schools

Our Rights Group have looked at our Action Plan and prioritised actions across the year, This term we have reminded all classes about the importance of Rights through assemblies. Rights are : A—For **A**ll Children, B—All children are **b**orn with rights C- Rights **C**annot be taken away. D- Rights **d**on't have to be earned and E- All rights are **e**qually important.

We have put different rights up around the school to show where they are being met such as the right to privacy, the right to clean water and healthy food and the right to medical care. We know that there are 54 different rights.

We arranged a Pyjama Day which raised £185 towards toys for the Angus Toy Appeal. We felt this was a very important cause this year as we know lots of families will be impacted by the cost of living and damage to their homes from the recent floods. We hope that our gifts will make a difference and spread some Christmas cheer.

Thanks to all children, staff and families for supporting this event.



News from the Classes...

Nursery We've had a really busy term so far, We started off with woodland creatures and Autumn words, collecting apples from the orchard with Primary 4. Then of course we celebrated Halloween, a big event for us with songs and witchy stories in the nursery with Bookbug. We also had a visit to one of the local care homes to sing Halloween songs and bring cards. We learned about Diwali and made Diya lamps and Rangoli patterns. We learned about Remembrance Day and the children were really good at sitting quietly for the minute silence. The children voted to learn about space and dinosaurs; so we have planets, rockets and astronauts, and also dinosaurs and their habitat with fact books on both available. We have been doing helicopter stories in nursery retelling traditional tales by acting them out. In health and wellbeing we have been learning about hand washing and hygiene, and also about food safety and good health. In numeracy we are currently looking at missing numbers and order of numbers.

Primary 1— This has been a very busy term for primary 1. Out topic was Robot Rumpus where we learned about science and technology through designing and building robots then making and recording sound for them. We also explored our Book Bug stories, creating our own books and celebrating with our families at an open afternoon. The book Five Bears taught us about friendship and diversity. We also did some research on bears and together wrote a factual report. We are now preparing for our nativity—Donkey for Sale and are very excited to share it with you. We are learning about Christmas celebrations and customs and doing lots of weighing and measuring in our play to help Santa. We have started to read and write some words.

Primary 2 - Primary 2 have been very busy this term. We started off learning about Robots and did lots of learning about science and technology. We worked with our P6/7 buddies to make robots and then used musical instruments to create sound for our robots too. We then explored our Bookbug stories and wrote our own books too. We loved sharing these with our adults at the open afternoon. In maths we have been learning all about 2D and 3D shapes and working on number sequences and skip counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have loved rehearsing for our Nativity, Donkey for Sale too and can't wait for everyone to come and watch next week. Over the next couple of weeks we will be looking at Christmas around the world and how other people celebrate Christmas. We hope you have the most amazingly magical Christmas when it comes!

Primary 3 - Primary 3 have had an exceptionally busy term so far and we have enjoyed sharing our learning with parents and family through our recent Soft Start dates and Book Bug event. As part of this the children wrote their own books about animals and were focussing upon descriptive language and sentence structure. Primary 3 also designed and created their own glass and hosted a silent auction as part of an enterprise project. The children are looking forward to spending the profit as the final part of the project. In maths the children have been learning about measure and the different tools that we use. In Numeracy the children have been learning new strategies for addition and subtraction. As part of Health and Wellbeing the class created a Zones of Regulation Class Toolkit and then selected the strategies they felt were helpful to them as individuals. In Primary 3 we are becoming confident when discussing our feelings.

Primary 4 - This term P4 has been learning all about the solar system and electricity. We used our STEM skills to research and collect information in a variety of ways, both using the internet and library resources to collect lots interesting facts. We also used our imagination to construct our own 3d space models. We had a focus on imaginative writing, using new planning techniques to support our writing. We have been using "Rubrics" to identify our challenge and the progress we are making. In maths we have been learning some new number bonds and also how to calculate the area and perimeter of shapes. We have all been really busy but at the same time had lots of fun. Making sure we are all fine is really important to us, so we are on a daily basis using our zones to check in that we are all ok. Coming to the end of term is exciting with Christmas round the corner. P4 would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

News from the Classes...

Primary 5

This term our learning context is on sustainability. We are learning about climate change and how this affects animals found in the polar regions. The children are enjoying researching, note taking and creating texts on this information. In health and well-being our focus has been on internet safety and now bullying.

Gymnastics is a big hit with the class and having the wall bars out has been very exciting. We are now participating in a few weeks of Scottish Country Dancing (as the stage will be up for the Christmas show) then we will be back to gymnastics.

We have begun learning some British Sign Language (BSL). So far we have learned the alphabet and some simple greetings. One of our Christmas songs 'Jingle Bells' will also be signed. We are looking forward to singing and signing in the show.

Primary 6/7

This term Primary 6/7 have been learning about sustainability and the global goals. The children have been very interested to learn about the difficulties the planet is facing and have had lots of varied and intelligent discussions all around the topic. They have been conducting research, creating texts and completing closed passages. For PE the class have been setting challenges and achieving personal goals while supporting others. There has been a focus on good sportsmanship and those transferable skills have been applied in the context of basketball on their other PE day. P6/7 have continued to talk lots about the Zones of Regulation and now check in 3x a day which lets their teacher know who needs supported with the class toolkit to enable them to focus on their learning/to help them regulate. There has been a focus on times tables this term and the children are enjoying becoming an expert on each one before becoming a master of them all. They then support others to achieve while consolidating their own learning. The primary 7s have had transition meetings this term which has included their first visit to CHS. The children were given a tour and got to see what a high school lesson might look like.

Primary 6 -

This term has been another busy one. We have been enjoying our topic on Sustainability and learning about our planet and the difficulties that it is facing. In Maths we have been building our confidence when using a variety of different addition and subtraction strategies to help us answer questions while continuing to develop our speed recall of times tables, we are improving every week!

Our Health and Wellbeing has come from our class novel "A Kind of Spark" which has really made us think about we treat others and how our words and actions can affect others.

We have two afternoon clubs on a Monday that the P6 class take part in: a Social Skills Club and a Life Skills Club. Within the clubs the children have been having great fun taking part in board games and building their no cook cooking skills. The children in P6 have also had the opportunity to take part in this year's Lego Challenge (a Global Stem programme for 4—16 year olds) at Gardyne Campus, Broughty Ferry. The challenge involves a robot game and a research project. It introduces STEM learning and robotics to 4—16 year olds to inspire young people to grow their critical thinking, coding and design skills. It has caused great excitement within the class and the children are all very much looking forward to taking part in the challenge in February.

Primary 7

We have been learning all about Sustainability this term and how we can live in a more environmentally friendly way. We were especially sad to see how the way humans live can impact on animals like orang-utans, polar bears and marine life. We have created Sustainable Superheroes to be included in a short animation which we will be working on throughout December. In maths we have been learning about Fractions/Decimals and Percentages as well as measurement (with a big focus on conversion.) We have found it useful to use Numicon to help us understand fractions as it really helps us to see things visually.

We have been learning about online conduct and Cyber bullying which we understand is something which is very important especially as we get older and have more access to phones and Social media.

We have also revisited different strategies which may support us if we are experiencing different zones and understand that it is important to have a bank to be used both at home and at school.

In technology we have been investigating ways of using coding to create an audio visual animation and we have some experts in the class who have been helping us out with skills which are more challenging.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council continue to meet every term and are looking for parents to join. Please contact school in the first instance should you be interested.

This term we have been very lucky as our Parent Council organised and ran very successful pupil discos last month and are currently running a raffle to raise funds for those families who would benefit from some support this Christmas. In addition the Parent Council are subsidising our Christmas treat (The Snow Queen production) and are funding and organising the P7 leaver hoodies—thank you to all 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

December	12 and 14	Christmas Show (pm and evening)
	15	Christmas Lunch in school
	18	Snow Queen Performance in School
	19	Christmas Church Service @ 10am—all welcome.
	22	End of term 2—3pm finish for all.
January	8	Start of term 3 (Monday)
February	15	Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
	16	Mid term holiday (school closed)
	19	Mid term holiday (school closed)
	20	Parent evening (letters to follow)
	29	Parent evening (letters to follow)
March	7	Curricular afternoon (More information to follow)
	26	Easter Church Service
	29	End of Term 3
April	15	Start of term 4
May	6	May Day holiday (school closed)
	22-24	P7 Residential Trip
	27	Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
June	27	End of term 4
August	12	Inset Day 1 (school closed to pupils)
	13	Start of term 1
September	29	End of term 1

