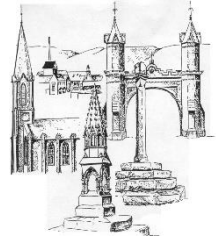


# Fettercairn Primary Newsletter



March 2023

## Happy Easter

Yet again it has been a busy term even with all the broken weeks. The staff and children have been working hard and deserve their Easter break, ready for the final term.

Mr I Clarke  
Head Teacher

## Rotary Quiz

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March Oscar, Max, Floyd and Lily represented the school in the local Rotary quiz held at Mearns Academy. The children were great ambassadors for our school. I would like to thank the staff and parents who gave up their time to be there for the children and the school.

## Fettercairn's Got Talent

This term usually sees our annual Talent Show. For those of you who are not aware of this we have four different entry types, Nursery, Individual P1-3, Individual P4-7 and Groups. A child can enter individually and/or part of a group.

This year we will be returning to in person performances and invite you the parents to come and watch the show on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 1.45pm. We will put more information out closer to the time.

## Cross Country

On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of March a group of P5 – P7 pupils took part in the Scottish Open Cross Country Championships at Balgownie Playing Fields, Aberdeen. Each race consisted of around 140 pupils from across Scotland. A great effort was made by all pupils. A special well done to Finn for coming in second in the P6 boys category, Zoe for coming in second in the P5 girls category and Max for coming in fifth in the P7 boys category. We look forward to competing next year.



## All Round Success

At school we love hearing about what happens in the children's lives and celebrating their achievements. If your child has gone up a level in swimming, been the best player in a football match, taken part in a competition, received a badge at cubs/brownies, then we would like to know. Send in a picture or certificate and we will take a picture and put it up on our achievement wall with a small explanation for all pupils, staff and visitors to see.

## Emergency Contacts

It is very important that you keep all your details up to date with the school, just in case we need to contact you about anything. Please if you have recently changed mobile etc. let us know so we can update our records. Also up-to-date emails are required.

## Medical

Please can I remind you that school is not a good place for your child if they are unwell. If your child is ill, please keep them at home until the symptoms subside. If they have been physically sick, then they should not be back in school until 48 hours after the last bout of sickness.

Can I also request that you phone or email the school before 9.30am to inform us if your child is not going to attend school and please give us a reason why they are unable to attend.

# Curriculum News

## Nursery News for term 3

What a busy, busy term in nursery with lots of wonderful learning opportunities and experiences...

Throughout this term we have re-established our link with Queen Elizabeth Court, with some of our children visiting to enjoy crafts together. This is such a wonderful experience for both our children and all at Queen Elizabeth, we have received lovely feedback from them and look forward to continuing with this next term. We have been looking at nurture and what this looks like in our nursery after some of the staff attended recent training, we are promoting feelings and how important kindness and being respectful are. This has supported all our work we are doing around the SHANARRI indicators, we have been exploring and we have begun renaming them. This we will continue with next term. We have enjoyed being out in the community, visiting the woods and going for wellbeing walks. The fire bowl has been out again, and we have been enjoying a toasted marshmallow together. We also are really seeing the benefit to our transitions with both P1/2 and our buddy afternoons with P6's. The children really look forward to these sessions to share and spend time with the primary children, they have made junk models, worked together on Scottish craft's and shared traditional food together. The sponsored bike ride was also a huge success, we can't thank you enough for all the donations and the effort that was put in to decorate the bikes.



With us celebrating world book day this term we have really enjoyed sharing stories together and some children moving on to create their own stories. Using their imagination and storytelling skills. We have used a wide range of resources to mark make, large rolls of paper for big movements, rice, sand, gloop, shaving foam, all supporting early literacy skills. We have been working on recycling, reducing, and reusing, categorising items, looking at how we can look after our planet

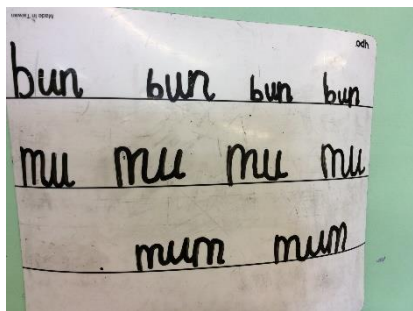
earth, we even made our very own recycled paper. We have also learnt some traditional Scottish rhymes which was just lovely to share with you all.

We have been using lots of mathematical language throughout this term around capacity and measurement, long, short, tall, full, empty, half full. We encourage this through a variety of activities, in the water tray, we've used the smart board, our bodies, items such as tape measures, our new hands and feet resources. We took measurement to the woods and explored a wide range of natural items also. The blocks have really supported this learning too and we are seeing the children create some wonderful elaborate models, which bring in symmetry, length, height, width, problem solving and teamwork.

Next term we will begin our work outdoors preparing the garden to grow some yummy fruit and vegetables, we hope on our return we have some nice spring weather.

## P1/2

In Literacy P1 have been learning 2 letter sounds -sh, ch, th and ng. P2 have been learning about nouns and verbs, and beginning to join up their handwriting. We have been making great progress with our writing, working on writing instructions using 'bossy' verbs. We are going to follow our instructions to make smoothies. After Easter we will be sending home discussion points for our 'Big Writing' sessions.



In Numeracy P1's have been learning their numbers to 20 and different strategies for addition to 10, including counting on and jumping on a number line. Along with P2, who are working on numbers to 100, we were all comparing, ordering and looking at number sequences.

We have also been learning about information handling, including sorting, Carroll Diagrams and graphs. We will be learning about money after Easter, so if the children could have some experience of handling cash over the Easter Holidays that will be a great help to them.

In PE we have been working on bat and ball skills and we had a visit from Active Schools to give us a rugby lesson.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our topic this term, learning about the sources of food, the main food groups, and healthy eating. We are looking forward to designing a healthy packed lunch. Thank you to everyone who sent in resources for our very successful Fettercairn Fast Food role play. After receiving an official letter with advice from Mr. Clarke, the children realised that it had to be changed to something more healthy. We hope this will help them to understand real life food choices. Our new Farm Shop corner has been extremely busy with home made cabbages, peas and carrots being sold on a daily basis! Next term we hope to link our role play to our Travel topic and will be asking the children for their ideas for this.



In Health and Wellbeing we are learning about how to be responsible, what being 'included' means and how to be a good friend.



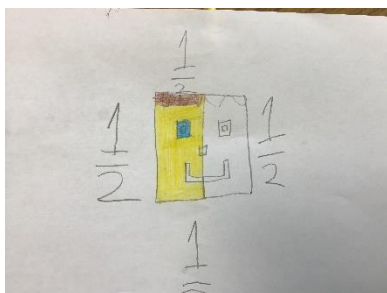
In Music we have been learning about pitch and listening to music to determine if it was high, middle or low pitch, which was quite challenging. In Drama we working with a partner and adopting the role of a character from The Giant's Pancake story. In our Art lessons we have studied the Joan Eardley painting High Tide on a Winter's Day', tried bubble printing and learnt about Pointillism. In RME we have learned about Johnny Appleseed, Holi and Easter.

We have enjoyed having Miss Percy, B.Ed 4 student in our class, and look forward to having her with us again next term.

### **Primary 2/3**

In P2/3 for literacy this term, we have been focusing on creative writing and have been particularly focusing on upleveling the adjectives that we use to make our writing more interesting. We collaborated together as a class and chose 5 Julia Donaldson characters and a setting for our stories; the class chose The Gruffalo, The Ladybird, The Dragon, The Highway Rat and Tyrannosaurus Drip with the setting being an Enchanted Castle. The children created excellent stories and used their VCOP and Big Talk lessons to support them. They then illustrated a front cover for their stories.

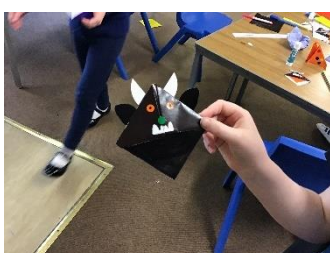
In numeracy, we have been learning subtraction and have been learning strategies to support us i.e. borrowing and the inverse operation. We have then moved onto fractions; halves, thirds, quarters, fifths and tenths and have been learning that a fraction is a part of a whole and that each part must be equal. We have also been developing our mental agility by using our beebot 100 square and outdoor numeracy learning.



In health and wellbeing we have been focusing on our mental and emotional wellbeing and have been discussing; what makes us unique, what makes a good friend, where we feel safe and how we can cope with our big emotions. We have also revised our class charter to incorporate our revised whole school vision, values and aims.



For our Julia Donaldson topic we have been developing our problem solving skills through working collaboratively to design and construct broomsticks which must hold 5 passengers, creating a map for Lanky Len and Hefty Hugh using our coding skills and we had a parent in to teach us how to make origami characters.



## P4-5 Curriculum News Term 3

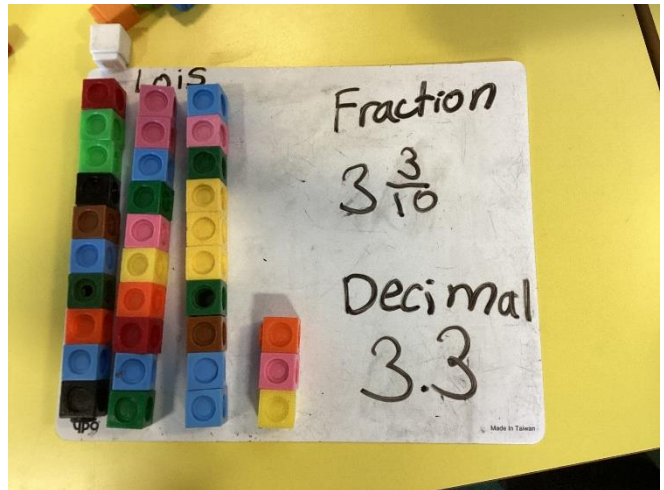
### Literacy

In term 3, Primary 4-5 have been working on lots of different genres of writing. We have written some instructions, a non-chronological report, a playbill and a leaflet. The children have enjoyed identifying elements of V.C.O.P that they want to include in each piece of writing and using these to up-level their writing. We have been revising nouns and adjectives in grammar and the children have been predicting and summarising when they are reading their reading books in class.

We have a display on the classroom door and each child has a label that says '... is reading'. We are trying to promote a culture of reading for enjoyment in and out of school. The children regularly update the door with their current reads. Miss Davie and I have joined in too.

### Numeracy

The children have been learning about fractions with Miss Riley. We have been learning to find a fraction of an amount which the children found tricky. They soon realised that the more sound their times table knowledge is, the easier they found these questions! We then learned about equivalent fractions and lots of different ways to show the same amount e.g. one half is equal to two quarters. We made fraction pizzas and swapped slices with a classmate. The children then told me a fraction fact about the pizza they were left with at the end of the lesson (I gave my friend two sixths, and I took one third from someone else). We are now revising our times table knowledge before moving on to decimals.

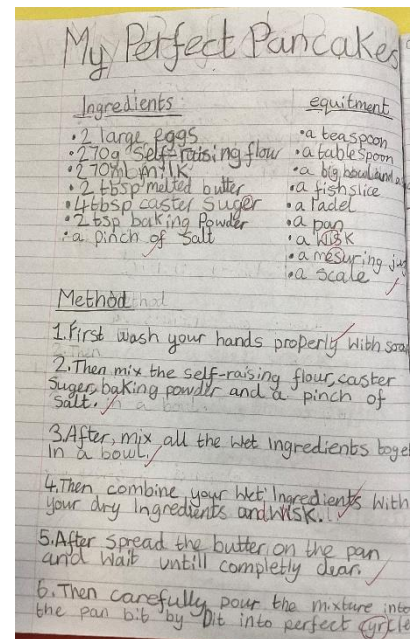


With Miss Davie, the children were learning about digital and analogue time. They looked at durations of time and learned to read timetables. The class are now learning about elements of 2D and 3D shapes.

### Health and Wellbeing

After learning lots of different Scottish Country Dances at the beginning of the year, the children have then moved on to badminton with Miss Riley. We are learning different ways to move across the court (chasse step, running step) how to hold the racket (forehand, backhand) and practicing our rallies. The children have also been practicing their smash and their drop shot.

The class have taken part in a series of lessons about valuing difference. In this we have covered elements of prejudice, racism, and sexism. We have learned about different ethnic origins; different family make-up's and we spoke about being kind and courteous to everyone regardless of these differences. We are now learning about keeping safe which will cover elements of internet and road safety as well as risk, harm etc.



## Topic

By the time you read this, you will have had the opportunity to come in and watch our production 'The Ancient Egyptians'. The children have made every costume and prop themselves and have worked tirelessly to learn songs and lines. It has been wonderful to be able to watch the children gain a wealth of knowledge about Ancient Egypt and they have enjoyed this topic so much. We have learned about gods and goddesses, daily life, pets, clothing, pyramids, hieroglyphs and so much more!

## Other Curricular Areas

Languages – the children have had Russian lessons with Mrs Smith. They have learned numbers to ten, greetings and family members. Mrs Smith has been impressed by the class's enthusiasm to learn elements of a new (and tricky!) language.

In French, we are learning to say and write an introduction about ourselves. We have learned how to say we enjoy a particular school subject, whether we have brothers or sisters, where we live and how old we are.



In RME, the children have been learning about Hinduism with Miss Davie. They have learned about where and how they worship. Currently, the class are learning about Christianity. The children are exploring characters from important stories of the New and Old Testament.

## P6/7 Curriculum News

In Literacy this term, the children have been keen to link their writing to our World War 2 topic. We have learned to write a newspaper article, informal letters, and we have built on our creative writing skills.

To enhance our writing, we have started to follow the structure of Big Writing and have been learning to use the VCOP pyramid to set writing targets for ourselves – you can ask your child about this at home.

In Grammar, we have learned about paragraphs, parenthesis, and direct/indirect speech. We use punctuation pasta to show what we have learned!





In Maths, we started the term by learning about Time. We learned to read and record time in both 12-hour and 24-hour notation and convert between the two and we took this learning outdoors. We also learned to calculate time intervals and read timetables.

We moved onto Fractions, Decimals and Percentages and learned about how they link together.

Our most recent maths topic is Angles, Symmetry and Transformation. We revisited the types of angles, as well as how to measure and draw angles with a protractor. We also went outdoors to look for angles in the environment. By the end of term, the children will also learn about compass points, as well as plotting coordinates on a grid.

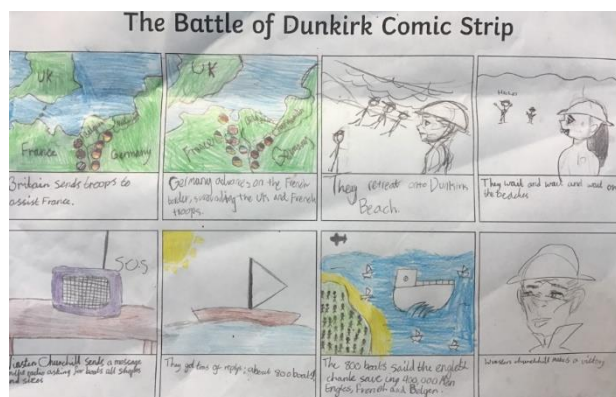
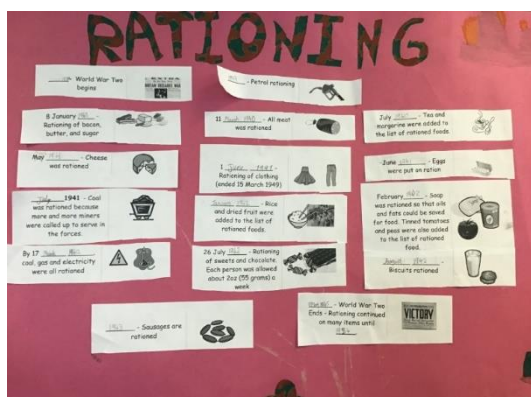


In Health and Wellbeing P6/7 enjoyed learning about Food and Health where we researched different cultures and diets, as well as food intolerances and allergies.

Recently we have been focussing on our feelings and mental health. We have had great discussions about how we can cope with big feelings, what a positive body image is and how we can look after our mental health when dealing with uncomfortable emotions.

In PE the children had a great time learning Scottish Country dancing. We worked so well with children from all classes and had a lovely afternoon at the whole-school ceilidh! We then moved onto gymnastics where we have covered rolls, vaults, stretches and balances, as well as handstands, cartwheels and roundoffs.

P6/7 have absolutely loved learning about World War 2 this term! To start our topic, we looked at a timeline of important events to better understand when the war took place. We went on to learn about how the war started, allies and axis powers, war leaders, evacuation, rationing, the



Battle of Dunkirk, The Blitz and Pearl Harbour – as you can see, we have been very busy!

The children are very excited to take a trip to Montrose Air Station Museum after the Easter holidays!!