



ICI/AJ
21/12/2023

Dear Parents and Carers

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. What a quick term this has been. There has been plenty of things happening in the school and Nursery and a big thank you to all who helped and supported everything we have done this term. Just a heads up regarding a Ceilidh that is taking place in school next term. Please look out for the letter that will be sent as soon as we return from Christmas.

Santa

This week all the children were visited by Santa (care of the Parent Council) and they all received a chocolate Santa and a named water bottle. Please be aware the water bottle has a leaflet inside and requires rinsing before use. All the children were excited to see Santa, so a big thank you to all the elves who organised this.

Air Ambulance

As part of the upper stages' coffee morning Jocelyn and some pupils raffled off the hamper kindly donated by Barbara. The raffle made £450 which was donated to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. Dave Barwick, Air Ambulance volunteer talked to the pupils about the great work Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance does across the country. This is a great cause and we hope to work with the charity again in the future.



Parking Outside The School Gates

Recently I have noticed a number of parents parking in the bus bay at the front of the school. I would ask that this area is left clear for buses only. Please park in the square and walk the short distance to school. It is often very difficult for other road users to pass the school when cars are parked in the bus area due to the narrow road.

I would also ask that you do not park on the pavement as this also causes congestion for pedestrians and please note that from Monday December 11th local authorities in Scotland can enforce the law that bans pavement parking, meaning drivers can be fined £100. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Health

Please inform the school at **least 24hrs** beforehand if you have to remove children from school for appointments where possible. This avoids disruption to the class/pupil/school day.

Poppy Collection

Thank you all for donations to the Poppy Fund 2023 which brought in £203.69 through the school, QEC, Fetterly Shoppie.

Yours sincerely



I. Clarke
Head Teacher

Curriculum News

Nursery

We can't quite believe we are almost at the end of term 2, and Christmas is fast approaching. We have had a busy term in nursery, we have spent time creating our very own Christmas Nativity, we hope you all enjoyed this. This year we wanted to really celebrate the children's creativity and they took a lead role in putting this all together! During this time we have been reading and sharing the story of Christmas along with learning the new songs. The children have been exploring patterns, creating their own, identifying patterns and getting very creative and stuck into lots of Christmas crafts (as have all our parents).

We celebrated St Andrews day with a wonderful Ceilidh, we learnt some new dance steps and celebrated this with our families. The children have shown a real interest in our magnetic letters and are identifying familiar letters and sounds, this is a great way to promote early literacy skills.

During our in service training days we have learnt about 'slow pedagogy' and this we are beginning to embed into our nursery day, as a team we have looked at meal times and how this works for our children. This has been adapted and the children will now independently serve their own food (sometimes get for their friends) and we are celebrating the importance of a shared relaxed mealtime.

We would love to hear what your children have shared with you about their meal times at nursery. We have been working in a collaborative way with our Primary ones and the early years area has been great for shared learning opportunities, from block play, to using the sewing machine to creating junk models. This really is wonderful to observe.

P1/2

In phonics P1 worked on recognising the initial and middle sounds in cvc words. We all looked at sentences and punctuation at the end of sentences. P2 loved spotting an exclamation mark and using correct expression when reading sentences with it. At the beginning of this term children internalised the Gingerbread man and have used the structure of this story to write their own adventure. As a class, we have also been writing letters to the Gingerbread man, Greenpeace and Santa. As part of our topic, Under the Sea, children could identify features of fiction and non-fiction books and voted for their favourite. P2 looked closely



Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea – the very best of Scotland Serving

at the characters. Next term we will continue to learn the final set of sounds in P1 and focus on rhyming and writing short words.

In Numeracy we measured and compared length, height and weight. We used objects around the class to find longer, shorter, lighter, heavier than given things. P2 also used non-standard units like hand spans, feet, cubes, straws and long sticks to measure height, width, length and weight of small and big objects. We had some in depth discussions about why we were getting different answers. Next term we will measure time: learn about the seasons, months of the year, days of the week and read and tell time to o'clock and half past. You could help us with this by looking at different time pieces at home and focus on analogue clocks as they are not used as frequently and children often struggle recognising those.

In Gym we worked on a block of Gymnastics lessons. We explored stretches and balances and used small apparatus for practising 4 types of jumps and simple rolls. I was very proud of



P1/2 as they excelled at listening to instructions and completing all tasks safely. We also practised observing our friends' sequences and giving positive comments and suggestions to improve. The children were inspired by watching American and British gymnasts completing their floor and beam routines! Next term we are learning some Scottish dancing. We will practise different steps and working with a partner. In the woods we enjoyed whittling, identifying trees, building shelters and woodland craft in the woods where we encouraged children to use equipment safely and be responsible. In Health and Wellbeing we were discussing how to recognise different feelings, name them and how to seek or give help when not able to cope. We had a lot of fun together playing children's favourite

games at Circle time. Next term we will be learning about being a good friend.

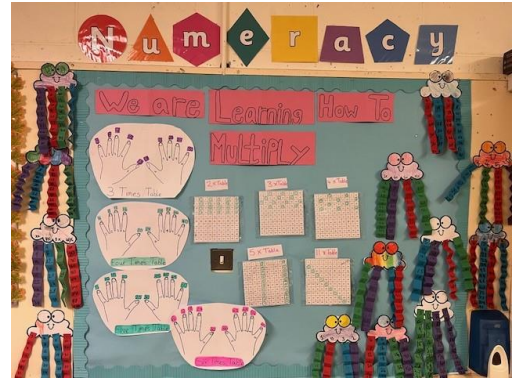
Block play and loose parts is by far the most popular area in our active area! Children have been learning about Diwali and Christmas traditions and have taken their knowledge to create their own places of worship with identified areas for their religious practice. We then visited the church and had lots of questions for our minister.



P3

Numeracy

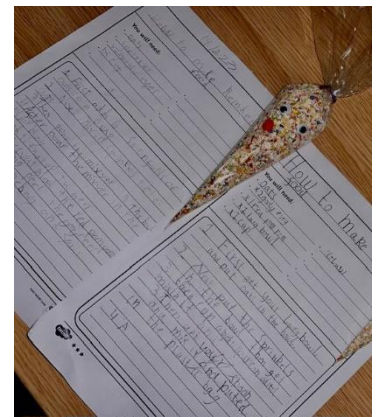
This term, primary 3 have been working very hard learning their times tables. They have developed more of an understanding of what multiplication is through visual aids such as arrays and our wall display as well as repeated addition, grouping concrete materials such as cubes and further consolidating their skip counting skills. As well as textbook work, the class undertook engaging activities such as creating multiplication craft, playing games such as bingo, dominoes, board games and ball games as well as playing interactive games both individually and as a whole class which helped the children to further imbed their multiplication skills.



We have started learning about division during the last week of term which we will be carrying on with when we return after the holidays. We will then move onto data handling followed by fractions.

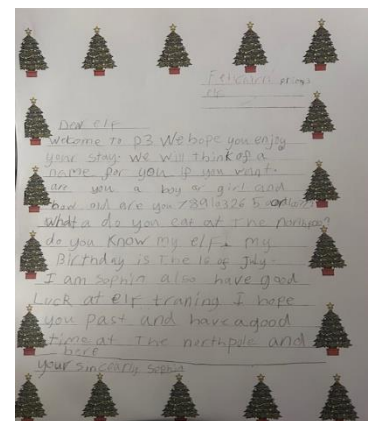
Literacy

In our literacy, we began by looking at how to write a successful set of instructions, ensuring we have included the title of what it was being made, a list of what it is needed, followed by short sentences clearly explaining the steps to be followed. Steps were numbered and included time connectives as well as imperative verbs. We created various instructions over the writing block from cake recipes to jam sandwiches to pizza to carving pumpkins.



Following on from instructional writing, we looked at properties of letter writing, beginning with the book 'the Jolly Postman' which gave us an insight into the different types of post people can receive from postcards to lawyers' letters to brochures to birthday cards. This helped to clearly depict formal and informal letters.

Over the weeks we then wrote various formal and informal letters from sending and receiving letters from our class elf, a thank you letter to our cook, Barbara for making such a wonderful Christmas meal as well as all her efforts she put into the Christmas Fayre. We revisited instructional writing again in the final week of term when we created some reindeer food. This was a great opportunity for the children to recall what they had learnt in previous weeks.



We will be finishing up with our letter writing the first week back after Christmas. We will then be focussing on poetry, looking at rhyme schemes as well as the various forms of poetry, such as that of Scot's poetry focussing on Robert Burns as well as acrostic poems.

PE

We started off the term with circuits, learning about the various techniques in a range of exercises which were aimed at strengthening arms, legs and core muscles and understanding exactly what muscles are being used during each exercise and why using our muscles is so important. Children moved round the different stations, 1 minute on and 1 minute rest before moving to the next station. The children also learned about lactic acid and how it builds up in the muscles, therefore highlighting the importance of breathing techniques and stretching before and after we exercise.

Following this, we moved onto gymnastics in the latter part of the term, so far learning about balance and posture. Developing flexibility, strength, technique, control, and balance by learning and performing a range of different jumps leaps, individual balancing, partner balancing handstands and headstands against a wall as well as cartwheels.

Roots of empathy

Primary 3 are thoroughly enjoying roots of empathy so far, however, with the numerous viruses doing the rounds right now, we have only had the baby in class once. Regardless, the children enjoy seeing Jane (the programme leader) where they discuss as a class, the various needs of a baby, why they might get upset as well as our needs and why we might get upset, coming to understand how these differ from the needs of a baby. This encourages the children to understand the variety of emotions that can influence how they feel and behave and how best they can manage these. The programme has also placed a focus on building positive relationships through having discussions on friendship, how to care, share, what fairness looks like and equality.

Topic

We have looked at many different aspects of the Vikings this year starting off by learning about who the Vikings were, followed by what types of food they ate and how it differed to ours. We learned about



Viking transportation methods such as the longship as well as what clothes they wore, what kind of houses they lived in as well as the various Viking gods. We also looked at the different Viking myths which the class enjoyed very much.



P4-5

This term, in literacy we have been doing instructional writing. The children wrote instructions on how to make a smoothie and then followed them to ensure they were written well. We then moved on to letter writing and the children wrote letters to Mr Clarke to suggest ways in which we would spend the money raised at the Christmas café / craft fayre. Next term, we will be reading and writing some poetry in line with Burns Day.

In numeracy, the children have been learning to multiply. We have been working on our times tables (please keep practicing at home!). We have learned how to multiply using the ladder method and the grid method.

Next term, we will be learning to divide so the children knowing their times tables will support them with this.

In Health and Wellbeing, the children have been working on promoting positive relationships. In PE we have been learning some Yoga poses and some Mindfulness techniques. We have also completed a block of gym circuits to improve our stamina working really hard in short bursts.

Next term, we will be learning some traditional Scottish dances.

This term, our enterprise topic was a huge success. The children were learning about profit and loss, how to run a business, and carried out the planning and organising of our Christmas café / craft fayre. The morning was extremely busy, the children all carried out their individual roles so well. We raised over £1000!

As the children now choose which topic, they would like to study each term, we are yet to decide on next term's topic. You could have a chat to your children over the holidays and suggest some ideas!

P6/7

P6/7 have had a very busy term! Between organising the Christmas Carol Concert and the Christmas café enterprise topic, the children have been working very hard.

Our class novel this term has been Felix Unlimited by Andrew Norriss. The children have really enjoyed following this story, which had links to our Enterprise topic.

In writing, the children have produced pieces of creative writing, as well as formal thank you letters and persuasive posters.

In maths, we finished our division topic before moving on to Shape. The children learned about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, as well as 3D shape nets which we had lots of fun building! We have started our Money topic, where we have been revising the 4 operations through money problems. We have also been comparing the cost of items and figuring out the 'best buy'.

Next term we will be learning about Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. The children can practise this at home on Sumdog or Topmarks maths games. We will also be covering Time, Angles and Patterns.

We had a visit from a nurse this term who talked to us about the importance of hand hygiene. The children were very excited to put their hand-washing skills to the test using the nurse's special light machine!



P4/5 and P6/7 planned and delivered an amazing Christmas Café/craft fayre. We raised over £1000 – the children were so proud their hard work paid off! The children have been discussing what they would like the money to go towards.

We are currently discussing what our topic will be next term, so if parents/carers have any suggestions, we would love to hear from you!

Have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year.