



Hollywood News

August 2012

Welcome Back – we hope everyone had a great summer break despite the weather (I'm sure I made that comment last August!).

Going electronic – thank you for sending in your e-mail addresses. The hope is that we can improve the level of timely communications through text and e-mail and cut out the need to search through school bags and pockets. The SEEMIS text service has a reply facility so feel free to text reply or e-mail the school. Please note these services will not replace the telephone calls or face to face meeting opportunities we currently have. Please stop by the office if you want to meet with Miss Dale or any of the staff team.



WELCOME to Laura, Elliot and Logan who started with us last term just in time for the week in the woods. Laura will be joining primary 7, while twins Logan and Elliot will be working as part of primary 3. Six primary one pupils have joined Team Hollywood this session – Georgia, Ebony, Kaylan, Sarah-Jane, Euan and Greg are off to a flying start.



Sponsored Walk – The Parent Council have very kindly agreed to let us take over their sponsored walk event this session in order to raise funds for the Kenyan Global Link Project. Pupils have suggested a change and this year want participants to wear fancy dress!! Mrs Shnapp has plans to use her Venetian mask as part of a scary costume while Miss Dale is putting together her clown costume and may let you cream pie her at the end of the walk, for an additional donation, of course!!

We hope to beat the very generous sum raised last session. Please find the sponsor form in today's mailbag so that you can pester work colleagues, neighbours, friends and relatives as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Big Maths – Teaching staff attended a Big Maths training course last week. Big Maths is a resource to support the improvement of fast and automatic number calculation. We are also looking at other resources to support numeracy improvement and will share information on how you can support your child's learning further at home in due course. Numeracy and Mathematics are on this year's school improvement plan. As soon as the Parent Council have approved this year's plan we will e-mail a copy home.

Parent Council Meeting – There will be a Parent Council Meeting in the school hall on Monday 3rd September at 7pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Expressive Arts Specialists – Mrs Graham will return on Friday mornings as our P.E. specialist for the session. Mrs Starky is our art specialist again this session but will be finishing up in a couple of weeks as her first baby is due. Miss Hickman will be with us for art until Christmas. Mrs Williams is our new music specialist and she is already looking out for an exciting show for the whole school to perform this Christmas!!

Kenya – Miss Dale and Mrs Shnapp are booked to fly out to Kenya on Wednesday 26th September (this may still be subject to change) and to return on Sunday 7th October. Preparations are already underway – vaccines, collection of two laptops donated by the local authority, travel and safety arrangements. We will be working in Obugi School with Mr Odek, Mr Arodi and the

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pupils of Obugi school on the Waste and Recycling project started here at Hollywood last session. We hope to take a solar charger with us (funds permitting) so that the school can make best use of the laptops which currently have to be charged at home as Obugi school has no electricity.

Miss Dale and Mrs Shnapp are undertaking GLOW Meet training so that they can link with pupils at Hollywood during the trip. We hope to get Hollywood and Obugi pupils talking together for the first time over the internet!

GLOW Meet – GLOW is an intranet system used by most schools in Scotland. The system is very secure and has a variety of uses. GLOW Meet is similar to Skype and allows pupils and staff in different schools to talk over the internet. It can be used for meetings, sharing information or to sit in on organised events with famous authors etc.

Mrs Maclean will be in school for the duration of the exchange visit. Mrs Maclean was the head teacher of Drummore Primary School before she retired. She will be in school prior to the departure of Miss Dale and Mrs Shnapp in order to meet pupils and staff. We hope parents can also put a face to the name at the end of a school day. We will text the date of Mrs Maclean's visit as soon as we have it.

Mrs Henderson will be in the office Monday to Friday of the visit week to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Playground – Yippee! The playground transformation is well underway and the hope is that the hills and pitch can still be turfed this term. If turf is laid the pupils should be allowed on to play within a month.

Beverly Hill from Stancliffe Quarries was with us in the summer holidays for the arrival of our giant climbing stones. A huge thank you to Mr Templeton who returned again and again to ensure that the ground was prepared for the arrival of the stones.

Thank you also to Ms Marshall and Mrs Marshall for their help to place the thirty tonnes of white sand which was delivered next day for the sandpit or 'the Hollywood beach' as it has now been labelled.

Miss Dale is still in discussion about the tree house and hopes to have an update for the next newsletter.

Once all the works are finished we plan to hold a special gala opening and invite all the people who have worked to make these playground changes happen. We hope you will be there!

Week in the Woods – Pupils in the P5-7 class are currently writing a newsletter about our excellent week in the local woodland. It should be with you next week. Team Hollywood have been asked to hold a GLOW Meet in the woods for the Ranger Service in order to share the learning which took place. We will also be talking about where we take the learning next.

Farming Topic – Katie and Jennifer are organising some farming activities for the whole school this week as a follow up to their very successful assembly. As part of the work they have set pupils in P2-7 a small personal project.

Pupils have to select a farm animal and make a book with at least 20 animal facts in it. They also need to make a model of their chosen animal or a farm. The project has to be completed for Friday and pupils will have time in school to work on their project but may need to work on it at home too.

Thank you to Mrs Sturgeon and her son Scott who spent part of the summer getting the upper school class looking shipshape. The fresh colours should inspire hard work and big thinking!!

Please get in touch with questions or suggestions. Thank you to Kye's Mum for giving a call last week. We are now registered with the Dulux, Let's Colour Project with the aim of getting paint for the fence around the front of the school.

Thank you, P. Dale

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