



Kirkstyle's Newsletter

January – February 2012

In line with our School Improvement Plan we set new targets for 2011- 2012 but we also continue to maintain improvements made in previous years. We are pleased to report that overall the standards of handwriting throughout the school have improved and been maintained at a higher standard. We have continued to develop the children's experiences of practical food and nutrition with weekly cooking sessions two terms of the session. We submitted our Anti Bullying policy to the Parent and Pupil Councils and East Ayrshire for approval, within the school, the procedures developed have been used to support and tackle any incidents arising.

Our new targets include improving the standard and quality of Writing and we are working towards this target using our Big Writing project; perhaps your child has talked about VCOP at home. Or you might have seen evidence of formative assessment without recognizing this; traffic lights, using thumbs, tickled pink, + - = or two stars and a wish. If you are interested to find out more we hope to give some demonstrations at our Parents Evening in March of both Big Writing and our Assessment is for Learning techniques. Another way to check out our developments are to visit our newly created Blog.

Kirkstyle's Blog!

We are pleased to announce that Kirkstyle's Blog went live before Christmas. We have made the decision to change the school website onto a school blog within GLOW to allow quick and easy access for everyone and also a regular update to occur. The blog already has Panto, Nativity, Cooking, Fund raising, special events photos along with some other news articles and this will continue to grow as the school year progresses, so please log on and take a look. It's easy to find:

- *Go to Google*
- *Type in a search for Kirkstyle Blog*
- *Click on the link and Hey Presto! – Kirkstyle*

Primary 1 Enrolment

Primary 1 enrolment has again been successful this year and parents and siblings speaking highly of the school has secured places for 25 zoned and 11 placing request pupils, giving us 36 Primary 1 pupils enrolled at present.

Transition

Last week Primary 7 pupils continued the process of a smooth transition to Secondary with a visit to a Potted Sports event held in Kilmarnock Academy's games hall. This gave the pupils the opportunity to mix with a range of other pupils in a physical, fun activity.

Primary 1 and 7 – Pirate Galleon Challenge



Primary 1 – Pirate Open Afternoon for parents.



Primary 1 enlisted the help of others to complete their Interdisciplinary theme of Pirates at Sea. Primary 7 shared a technology challenge to build a Galleon and these along with all the other pirate items made and activities explored were on display for parents and carers to share in the learning.

Big Bird Watching Fortnight

As part of the RSPB Big Birdwatch fortnight all the pupils at Kirkstyle primary got stuck into tally marking, bird spotting at home and at school, model making and bird cake baking. Mr Rae helped the pupils string up their creations to encourage more visitors to our playground.



WWII visit



Primary 7 kicked their investigating skills into a jump start last week with a visit to Culzean Castle and Country Park to look at the role played by the Home Guard, the Eisenhower connection, evacuation, farming and rationing. The classes came back ready to begin their own research groups focusing on different aspects of the topic. I'm not sure if Jessica and Jack are quite ready to enlist yet!

Burns Museum Visit

To celebrate the life and works of Burns, Primary 6 visited the Burns Museum at Mauchline. The pupils participated in a drama workshop as well as the Burns tour. The pupils all thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and those given lead roles certainly shone.

Parent Council A.G.M

Please see attached Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Kirkstyle Parent Council. The Parent Council have also agreed to help with some of the activities during our school Spring Fayre; we are all hoping that your home baking, tea serving and face painting skills might come in useful!

Diary Dates

03.02.12 – Finals for Badminton Challenge
03.02.12 – Massage in Schools
06.02.12 – Pr.4 pupils to have SHOUT photos taken
07.02.12 – Wooden Spoon competition judging
08.02.12 – Whole school Scots Poetry/Singing recital and Ceilidh
09.02.12 – Pr.5 visiting Theatre Royal – Hansel & Gretel performance
09.02.12 – Scots Poetry competition – judged by Pupil Council & Head Teacher
09.02.12 – Valentines Disco
10.02.12 – Massage in Schools
10.02.12 – School Closes for mid term holiday
11.02.12 – 19.02.12 HOLIDAY
20.02.12 – Pupils return
20.02.12 – Pr.3 & Pr.3/4 Living Eggs project begins
20.02.12 – Rotary Quiz
22.02.12 – History Alive visiting Pr.3 & Pr.3/4 – Celts and Romans
01.03.12 – Olympic Netball Festivals
01.03.12 – World Book Day
02.03.12 – Spring Fayre
08.03.12 – Pr.5, Pr.5/6 & Pr.6 visiting the Science Centre for Eco Show
13.03.12 – Pr.1 & Pr.7 Dental Checks
23.03.12 – Pupil reports issued
27.03.12 – Parents Afternoon & Evening
30.03.12 – School Closes for Easter 2.30pm
31.03.12 – 16.04.12 EASTER HOLIDAYS
17.04.12 – Pupils return

SPRING FAYRE DATES:

20.02.12 – Any raffle prize donations to school this week.
20.02.12 – Any books for the book stall to school this week.
27.02.12 – Any bottle stall donations to school
29.02.12 – Any homebaking donations to school Wed, Thur or Fri.

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- I am available and willing to help the school on Friday 2nd March 2012 with the Spring Fayre.
 - I can face paint.
 - I can help man one of the stalls i.e. bottle, baking, books etc.
 - I can help serve teas and coffees.

Parent's Name:

Child's name:

Child's Class: