

INCLUSION & WELLBEING SERVICE

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This term has taken an unexpected turn; however, I am delighted to say that most of our staff remain well and are supporting the front line COVID 19 response.



I feel it is important, especially at this time, to share with you some of the exciting things that have been going on at Inclusion and Wellbeing. Our pupils have benefitted immensely from a number of activities and I think you will agree they have been very busy.

I hope that it won't be too long until we are back in school and that you and your families remain safe and well.

If you need to contact us for any reason please use inclusionandwellbeing@falkirk.gov.uk

Best regards,

Aileen Hart

Covid 19 Symptoms to look out for:



Cough



Runny nose



Sore throat



Fever



Difficulty breathing

EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Since the beginning of January, the staff team within IWBS have been looking to support pupils who lack the vocabulary necessary to talk about their emotions and wellbeing.



Pupils from P1-S2 have been learning about their emotions, what the language of our four rules mean, and what the wellbeing indicators mean for them.



We are keen to put this into practice across the entire service, in order to empower our pupils to talk more, this will develop their ability to regulate themselves.

We look forward to keeping you up to date with the project and our findings

PRIMARY NEWS

Lots of learning opportunities have been taking place across the primary since the beginning of the year with pupils continuing to achieve and strive for success.

PRIMARY 1 - 3

Primary 1-3 have recently completed a big move from their base in Slamannan, to our new provision at Laurieston Campus.



GREEN FINGERS

Our new primary garden group started this week with great gusto.

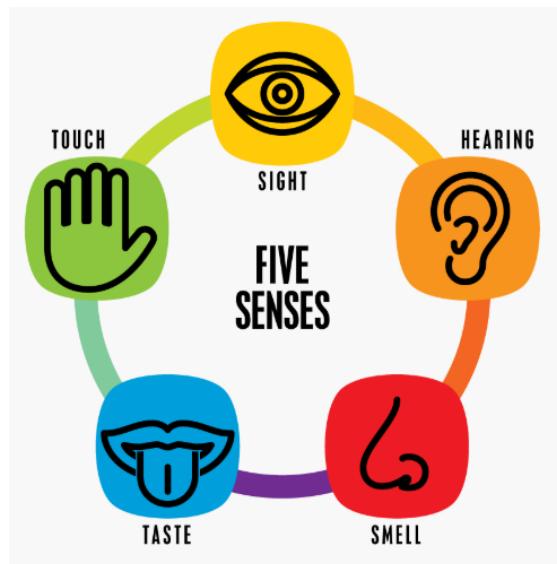
The group have also been out exploring the garden and potting shed, preparing seeds and planting flowers and vegetables.



All the pupils were extremely enthusiastic and got stuck in despite the adverse weather conditions. As the plants begin to grow, Pupils will use their maths skills to measure grow.

OUT & ABOUT

Since January, P 1-3 pupils have experienced lots of new things like visiting the Milk Barn as part of our 'Out and About' learning, walking the dogs at Bandeath Dog Shelter and visiting the Sensory Room in the main building.



This term, pupils have been learning to go a two-wheeler bike, improving communication and gross motor skills.



Some pupils have shown great confidence - even using the stunt ramps!

PRIMARY 4 - 6

Primary 4 – 6 recently moved from their home in Oxbang Primary to the Laurieston Campus. All pupils and staff have now settled into their new and have been taking advantage of the new surroundings.

FARM 2 FORK

This term, Primary 4 - 6 have been exploring the topic of Farm to Fork. Pupils discovered that some foods come from plants and others come from animals.



They explored the importance of weather on farming and farmers and how it impacts on their ability to grow crops and look after their animals.



Through the farming topic, Pupils also discovered that the use of pesticides to keep insects at bay, means all plant food should be washed before eating. Many of P4 - 6 excursions this term will be related to the 'Farm to Fork' topic.

LITERACY

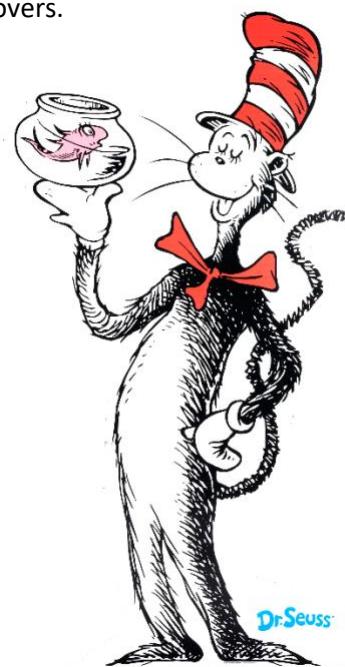
In literacy, pupils have been learning about contractions and apostrophes. A contraction is when you use an apostrophe to shorten a longer word.



For example, do not would become don't. In a contraction, apostrophes represent missing letters.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Pupils enjoyed participating in World Book Day recently by exploring the work of Dr Seuss, the different characters in each poem and various book covers.



The group work hard creating a Seuss inspired door design based on the book 'Yertle the Turtle' for a whole service book day celebration.

LEARNING OUTDOORS

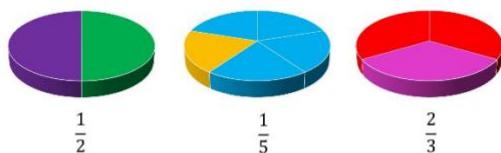
The pupils also learned that during WWII, Dr Seuss produced cartoons for the US army.



All Primary staff spoke highly of the pupils' hard work and commitment to learning. Well done!

NUMERACY

In numeracy, pupils have been exploring fractions, rounding, doubling and mentally adding larger numbers. We have been using concrete materials and looking at wholes, halves, quarters, thirds, eighths and sixths.



The pupils learned that sometimes fractions can be simplified into smaller ones. These fractions are said to be equivalent.

Pupils have continued to participate in weekly outdoor learning and wider achievement opportunities.



There have been visits to Bandeath dog shelter, Muiravonside, Helix Park and Deep-Sea World.



Next term, pupils will be participating in weekly outdoor learning experiences with Steve from Falkirk Outdoors.

25 YEARS SERVICE

Congratulations to Mrs Smith who was awarded a 25-year service award in January of this year.



To celebrate her service, Mrs Smith received gifts from both Falkirk Council and her colleagues.

SHROVE TUESDAY

The pupils of P4 – 6 recently learned about Shrove Tuesday being the feast day before the start of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday.



Through their investigations, pupils discovered Lent was traditionally a time of fasting and pancakes were eaten on this day as they were a way to use up eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting season began.

PRIMARY 6 - 7

It has been a very busy term for Primary 6 – 7 with pupils enjoying several new learning experiences. With money raised from their Christmas Fayre stall, pupils recently purchased fabulous, new scooters for Outdoor Education.



Pupils have enjoyed taking these to the Falkirk Wheel, the Helix and Callendar Park to test out the new wheels!

PANCAKE PLACE

Primary 6 have enjoyed accessing the IWBS kitchen for cooking activities. Pupils have successfully followed instructions and have been safe and responsible using the space.



The class enjoyed working together to make our own pancakes. We had a 'flipping' good time!

ZOOLAB

Primary 6 and 7 enjoyed a visit from Zoolab this month. Their presenter introduced pupils to Sophie the snake and her friends.



We learned all about each creature's diet, habitats and how to handle them safely.

MUSIC MAN

Primary 6 have been given the opportunity to develop their musical talents with Mr Fagan each week.



Pupils have been learning to use instruments to play different rhythms and beats. They have enjoyed listening to different songs and expressing themselves through music.

SPITFIRE ACES

Through learning about World War II, pupils have been developing their knowledge and understanding of past events.



Using junk modelling material, the pupils created their own spitfire models and then mixed paint colours to create camouflage effects.

SECONDARY S1 – S4

Like the Primary bases, the Secondary has had a busy term of learning and achievement. Pupils have really stepped up this term, showing a fantastic level of focus.

ART

Pupils in within the art department continue to finish off their pottery projects, reading them for the firing process.



Using a variety of slips, pupils have been practising and experimenting, mixing colours.



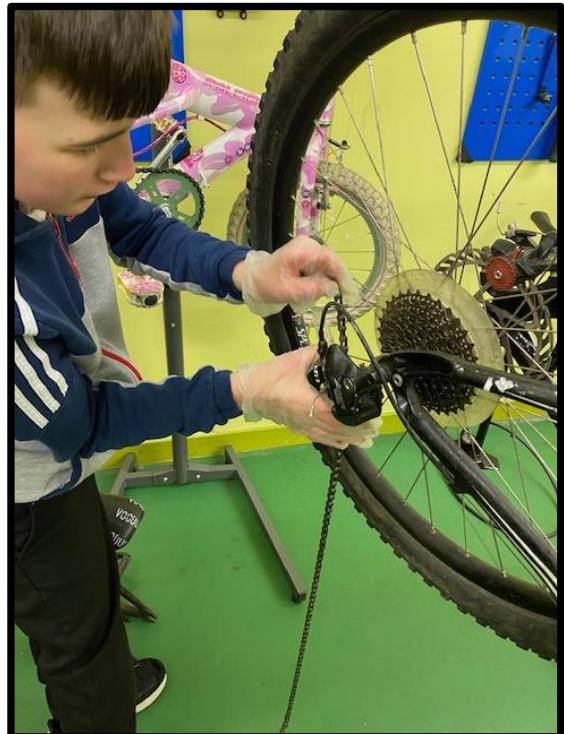
Pupils have also been developing their creative skills through ink marbling. Using a variety of different oils, they have been creating vibrant and original designs.



Ink Marbling is a method of decorating paper to imitate marble. Pupils drip the different inks in a thickened liquid and move this to form various patterns.

WHEELY GOOD WORK !

In the Bike Academy sessions this term, pupils have been learning basic cycle maintenance with many bringing in their own bikes to work on.



Pupils have been learning to diagnose problems, replace a faulty chain and to repair damaged breaks. Mr Ross speaks very highly of the pupils who have attended the Bike Academy sessions calling them absolute stars!

MORNING MUNCHIES

Our new and improved breakfast club has been a great success and is a lovely soft, sociable start to the day.



Pupils start their day catching up with their key teacher, before arriving for breakfast.

This is a great opportunity for our whole service to get together and talk with one another, reconnect and enjoy a healthy start to the day.



A big thank you to Mrs Fields, Mr Farndon and Mr Raphael for helping to organise this.

GET ME OUT OF HERE !

When it comes to courage IWBS staff and pupils have it in bucketloads – especially when handling critters from ZOOLAB.



Secondary pupils were treated to a variety of weird and wonderful creatures.

All present were encouraged to get hands on with giant snails, snakes and rats, learning about each creature, its life and habitat.



FOOTBALL

The IWBS football team recently played two games against difficult opposition from across Falkirk.

A fine performance in the first game saw IWBS running out deserved winners against Falkirk High School. Following this, the team travelled to Grangemouth to play Carronrange High School.



Falling behind within minutes of the start, this appeared to dent the confidence of the IWBS side, who struggled against an organised and physical Carrongrange team. With the IWBS goal coming under repeated attack, more goals were surrendered.



Following a team talk and spurred on by a rousing support, the IWBS put in a battling performance which saw them claw back almost level in the final minutes of the game. Alas, it was the teams first defeat and congratulations go to Carrongrange for ending our winning run.

OUTDOOR PLAY

It's very difficult to walk past a swing and pupils used a bit of 'down time' from their DYA work to enjoy themselves in the local park. Working together to ensure everyone fitted on and enjoyed the ride!



EARTH FORCES

In Geography this term, pupils are learning about the structure of the Earth, the tectonic plates and how their movement can cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.



The class have been really focused and have been using a variety of methods to help them recall important keywords and landforms.



HANG TOUGH

Congratulations go to Zac and Ms Gemmill, who won the pupil and teacher hanging challenge. Zac managed an impressive 1:27 and Ms Gemmill 1:38!



The competition ran from the start of the new term and both staff and pupils got into the competitive spirit.

DYNAMIC YOUTH

It has been an incredibly busy few months for pupils undertaking their Dynamic Youth Award. Every Thursday, pupils attend Muiravonside Country Park to help Park Ranger, Simon Bowers.



Recent tasks have included litter picking around the park area – the pupils were shocked to find how inconsiderate some park users were when disposing of their rubbish.

The group has also been building natural fencing and improving public walking areas and paths.



They have done a tremendous amount of work since January and have braved some of the very worst winter weather – a massive well done to all pupils!



EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Ms Gemmill and Mrs Wareing recently took pupils for a ride around Muiravonside Country Park. Using a standard survival bag, the pupils were shown how to make a rudimentary stretcher.



The pupils took turns to carry and be carried, working as a team and problem solving to ensure the casualty was safe transported to their destination.

PROUD MOMENT

A success story... Huge congratulations go to this young man! Declan's hard work and determination has seen him successfully transition to Graeme High School.



We are so very proud of you! Well done!

NATIONAL MUSEUM

Pupils recently visited the National Museum of Scotland and enjoyed discovering the interactive learning games and activities the museum had to offer.



FAMILY SUPPORT

The parents have been quite busy since the beginning of term, involving themselves in courses and projects around the school.

LIFELONG LEARNERS

Proving that learning is lifelong, our parents received their first achievement award for completing the mindfulness course run by Mrs Fraser.



Parents also took part in The Safer Internet Information days.

Everyone enjoyed and benefitted from the sessions which focused on the safer internet use for families.

COOKING UP A STORM

Making good use of the school's kitchen facilities, parents took part in a 'Ready Steady Cook' session.



This turned out to be a lot of fun with the parents enjoying pancakes for lunch.

GARDENING SCOTLAND

The Parents' gardening group has now started, and parents have been helping to tidy up the garden after a long winter.



GROWING FAMILY

As the Laurieston Campus has now welcomed the whole of our service, more fabulous parents continue to join our groups and sessions.

TWITTER

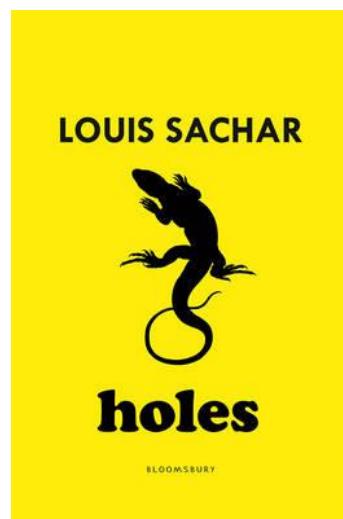
For those of you interested in keeping up to date with the latest news and events from the Inclusion and Wellbeing Service, we have our own Twitter account.

@IWBSFalkirk



AND FINALLY

In the English department this term, pupils have been reading the novel 'Holes' and coming up with lots of ideas for how they think the story will end.



All our pupils have undergone baseline assessments in reading and spelling, showing good engagement. This process allows the English department to create courses of work that will best support the learning needs of our pupils.