



INCLUSION & WELLBEING SERVICE DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent / Carer

Here we are at the end of another Year. I suspect it is an age thing but this one certainly passed quicker than usual!

As you can see from this newsletter our pupils continue to grow from strength to strength. We couldn't be prouder of what has been achieved this year. I am sure you are bursting with pride too.

At the end of this term we have a few staff leaving us, with some new staff joining us in January.



Mrs McGill and Mrs Castle- (Maggie to all our pupils) are retiring and between them they have almost 60 years of involvement with the service. We will miss them very much and wish them both a long and happy retirement.

Miss Fulton- Acting DHT is moving to a central function role with Falkirk Council as an Additional Support Adviser, she will continue to link with IWS so we will still see her in and around the school. We all want to wish her well in her new post.

Miss Kiernan will also be leaving us at the end of January 2022. We wish her good luck for her future ventures.



After the holidays Mrs Murray, Ms Quinn and Mrs Hanlon will all be joining our Support for Learning team and we look forward to welcoming them.



On behalf of all the staff and pupils at IWS, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing our pupils return on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

PRIMARY

It has been a busy time in primary with our pupils working hard and learning new activities over the course of the term.

There have been some fantastic learning experiences on offer and some great achievements.

ECO SCHOOLS

Primary pupils have been working hard on their Eco Schools project at different points this term.

They have been tidying the garden, making bird feeders and hanging them for all the birds that visit our playground.



We also found time during the term to celebrate our Royal Horticultural Awards for Gardening. Well done to all those taking part and making the school environment a better place for pupils and nature!

POLAR ACADEMY

Pupils went on a great adventure with the Polar Academy during outdoor education sessions.



A big thank you to Kenny for an amazing day, learning how to build shelters and make hot chocolate in the open air!



RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

As part of our Responsible Citizenship and learning around being kind and thinking of others, we made wreaths for care homes in our community and bought some festive cheer delivering them.



POTTERY

Our resident pottery expert Mr Farndon, has been busy teaching pupils the art of manipulating clay on a potter's wheel.



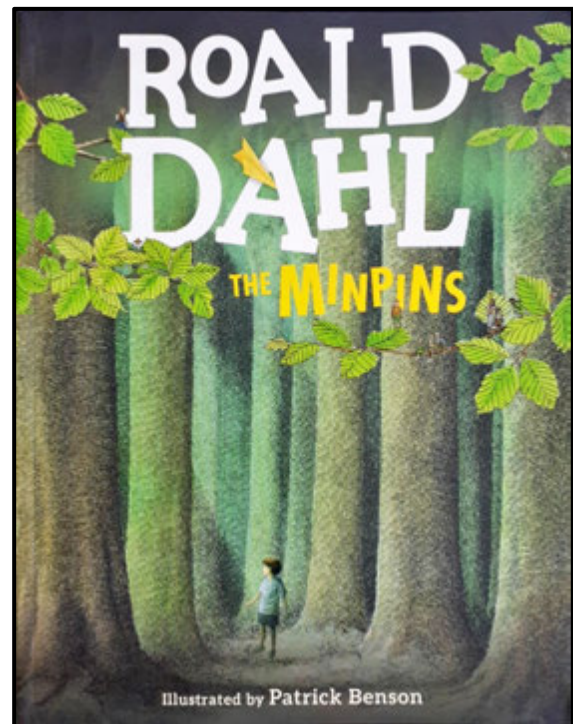
Manipulating clay provides a simple lesson in helping young people understand that their actions influence the outside world and the art which they create.

SECONDARY BGE

It has been an exceptionally busy term with pupils taking part in fabulous lessons and experiences across the department.

LITERACY

In literacy some of our classes have been focusing on 'The Minpins' by Roald Dahl. This tells the story of Little Billy and what happens when he goes into The Forest of Sin.



This book has one of Roald Dahls famous quotes in it "those who don't believe in magic will never find it".

MATHS

In maths, one pupil has been focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This pupil has used his knowledge to answer multi step problem solving questions.



EMOTION WORKS

Across the department teachers continue to develop their knowledge of using Emotion Works through online training. Staff are working hard to support pupils in developing their emotional vocabulary and resilience.



This term, one pupil in particular has developed his ability to identify triggers, emotions, body sensations and regulation strategies both for himself and for characters in novels.

HORSE PLAY

Many pupils have been participating in sessions based at Equine Outreach. One pupil has been visiting weekly. While there, the staff have taught him how to groom, walk, feed and generally take care of the horses.



Staff have been really impressed with the knowledge that the pupil has gained, especially how he uses this understanding when visiting the horses across from the school building.



Prior to this term's last equine session, the pupil decided to buy the staff at the livery some flowers and chocolates.

It was a very thoughtful thing to do, and the staff were very touched by his gesture.

XMAS ENTERPRISE

This pupil has worked extremely hard on his pompom enterprise. He was able to research different designs, stick to a budget, pay back his loan to the office and make plenty of sales resulting in a brilliant profit.

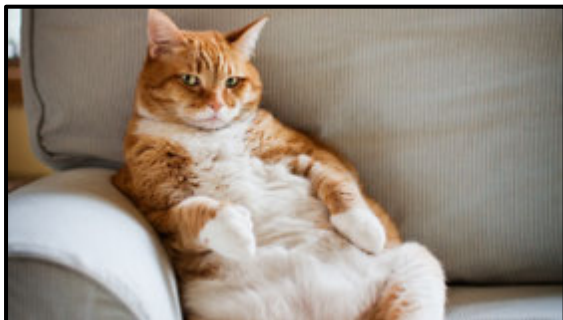


MEET THE STAFF

Miss Hedges joined IWS in August 2021, after working in primary schools for ten years. Previously, Miss Hedges lived and taught English in South Korea but missed teaching in Scotland.



Miss Hedges says “I absolutely love teaching and I am particularly passionate about using technology to support and enhance the learning experience for both pupils and teachers.



In my spare time I love cuddling up with my cat and walking my dog. During lockdown, I caught the crafty bug and I enjoy sewing and crocheting whenever I can. I recently became an Auntie for the first time so I have been busy making lots of baby clothes, toys and blankets.

BIOLOGY

Miss Reilly has been producing a number of fantastic science based lessons this term for pupils across the BGE department. Pupils have been learning about the different organs in the body and where they can be found.



Miss Reilly teamed up with Mr Stones to deliver a lesson examining a lamb's heart. Pupils learned about the anatomical structure of the heart and after some apprehension, they were able to cut it open and examine the chambers, arteries, valves and cords.



The pupils showed great focus and concentration throughout these practical lessons.

PUMPING HEARTS

The pupils also learned about the circulatory system and created a functioning system using plastic bottles, straws and 'blood' to demonstrate how the heart pumps blood around the body.



OUR INTESTINES

Following their investigations with the heart, pupils began learning about the digestive system. This caused lots of giggles as pupils created a Weetabix and OJ mix to pass through the stomach, intestines and out the other end!



As part of this topic, pupils also devised a squashing cup system to demonstrate how we pass stools, learning how our body breaks down the food we eat.

Using a science kit from Curiosity box, the pupils created their own poo from Mars bars, raisins and Rice Crispies.



Pupils learned about the Bristol Stool Scale and how faeces are classified into seven different categories.

They also searched the school to find a staff member willing to try their delicacy, however, Mr Hutchinson who usually likes a treat with his coffee decided to pass on this occasion.

ENTERPRISE

This term has seen pupils from across the school participate in enterprise projects as part of our DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) focus. One pupil has created his own car valeting business, developing this from scratch. The pupil has developed a whole range of important skills through this experience, increasing his awareness of planning, advertising, and budgeting.



Profits made from previous weeks were used by the pupils to purchase new supplies, improving efficiency and finish.

LEGO EDUCATION

Pupils have recently signed up to the FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge.

This is a global STEM programme for teams of young people, to encourage an interest in real world themes and develop key skills that are crucial for their future careers.



Young people work together to explore a given topic and to design, build and program an autonomous LEGO® robot to solve a series of missions.



In 2022, pupils will compete with other schools from around the country in different categories. Judges are looking for good team work, innovation, problems solving and helping others.

CONNECTED FALKIRK

In November, Connected Falkirk visited IWS to deliver and support pupils to set up their new iPads.



The pupils began downloading apps and made their own Memoji. Staff will be working hard to ensure we encourage pupils to develop their digital literacy skills further in 2022.

HOME ECONOMICS

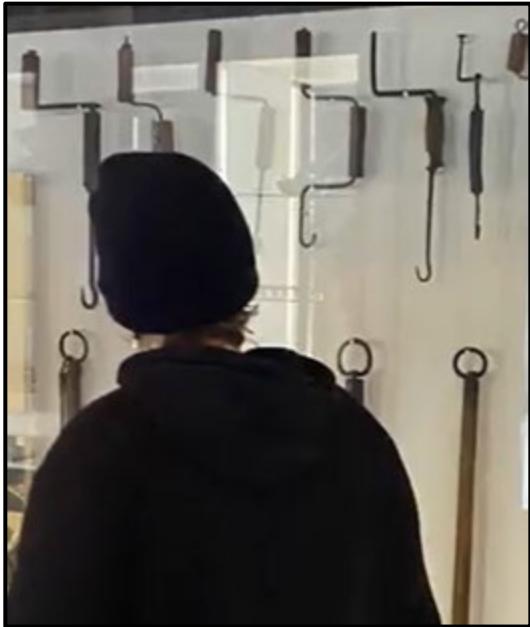
Throughout the term, pupils have been cooking various treats in Home Economics with Mrs McGill. Dishes have included spaghetti bolognese, seasoned pork burgers, carbonara and quiche.



The pupils really enjoy their cookery lessons and are really good at offering staff the chance to try their dishes.

RURAL LIFE

One pupil recently visited the National Museum of Rural Life in East Kilbride.



The pupil enjoyed gaining an insight into how farming technology has evolved over time, the jobs people did on the land and some of the wonderful displays about the insects and creatures that inhabit the countryside.

FOOTBALL MUSEUM

Other trips this term included a visit to Hampden. This was a great experience learning about the history of Scotland's favourite sport at the national stadium.



There was plenty to see about the game in Scotland, the history of each club. The pupil even got close to the Scottish Cup!

PAWS FOR PROGRESS

Pupils had a great day meeting Phoenix from Paws for Progress. Paws for Progress helps young people who struggle in traditional education settings to be inspired and to succeed.



The pupils enjoyed clicker training and were very impressed with Phoenix's high fives and fist-bumps.

GOLF

During this term, one pupil has been improving his golf swing by visiting Forthview Golf.



GOLF (cont)

Golf teaches patience, perseverance, and discipline. The pupil worked on refining his stance to improve his shot on the driving range.

ARGYLLS MUSEUM

We had a fascinating visit to the Argylls Museum based at Stirling Castle. John, who works at the museum was a brilliant tour guide and answered all of the pupil's questions.



The pupil was fascinated to see and hear the soldier's real stories of life in the army, war and combat.



He also particularly enjoyed completing the LEGO Education trail which saw various Lego characters positioned across the museum.

This was a great idea for improving observation skills and attention to detail!



CYCLING

Pupils have also continued to participate in cycling this term when the weather has allowed it. They have cycled around the Forth Valley area, including to the Kelpies and Falkirk Wheel.



This has been a good opportunity for pupils to take on a leading role, making sure everyone in the group is safe and are aware of the hazards.

SECONDARY: SENIOR PHASE

Some Secondary pupils have started working on their entry to the First Lego League



This is a national competition which enables pupils to develop their science, technology, engineering and maths skills by using Lego computational thinking.

Pupils have to programme their Lego creations to complete the missions in the league. We are very excited to see how the pupils get on.

MATHS

This term, Senior Phase have been working very hard in Maths with Mrs Field. The pupils are all working on different topics as usual and between them, our amazing pupils have passed a total of 19 SQA National 3 and National 4 units! We are very proud of you all.

Special congratulations go to Chris and Aaron who have both completely passed National 4 Applications of Mathematics. Well done boys!

SOCIAL SUBJECTS

This term the class have been learning about the physical and human causes of climate change. Pupils are currently completing their

assessments and will move on to compare Brazil and Glasgow next term.

FAMILY SUPPORT

As we come to the end of another year, the Family Support team would like to wish all the families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



We have had a very busy and different year due to covid restrictions. However, we have still been able to offer our parents and carers pop up parents' groups in Callander Park as well as walk and talk sessions and doorstep visits.

We had a very successful Christmas shop again this year allowing pupils to choose presents for parents' carers and siblings.

All going well we hope that we can return to having a Christmas Fayre in 2022.

HOLIDAYS

All the staff at IWBS would like to wish our pupils, families and partners a very Merry Christmas and hope you all have a wonderful New Year!



Just in case anyone forgets, we return on **Wednesday 5th January 2022**. Stay safe!