



MASTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter -February 2022

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Our Vision Statement

'We aspire to be a place where everyone feels valued and respected, where everyone will achieve their full potential in a welcoming environment that nurtures and challenges the whole child. We aspire to be a school where excellent quality learning and teaching takes place.'

Dear Parents

The last couple of months have been a bit tricky in the school. We have seen a lot of covid cases spread across the school, so have had a lot of absences, both pupils and staff. However, everyone who has tested positive has been fine and been able to return safely. Considering that last year at this time schools across Scotland were shut the whole of January and most of February I'm not complaining. There were a couple of Sunday afternoons last month when Mrs Saxton and I were bombarded with messages about staff positive cases and we weren't sure how Monday morning was going to look but we managed. Positive case numbers have reduced significantly in the school so fingers crossed we are over the worst of it.

In the School

My thanks to Murray Carr (P.7b) and Mia Bisset (P.7a) for writing the piece below about what the pupils have been learning in their classes.

P.1a have been learning about Scotland's development. They have also been learning about directions. They have been reading about Hamish McHaggis. For music they have been sorting instruments into their musical families. They have also been learning about the Queens upcoming Platinum Jubilee.

P.1b have been learning a bit about maps. In their maths they are doing their counting in 10s and 2s. Like P1a they've also been learning about directions, Hamish McHaggis and Scotland.

P.1/2's topic has been about Living Things. They have been learning about their bodies, hygiene and staying healthy. They are growing plants in their classroom to learn about nature. For Literacy they have been learning about labelling diagrams and how to sequence instructions. In Numeracy they have been doing Fractions and Measuring. P2 have also learned about repeated addition and sets.

P2a have been working on their handwriting and joining their letters. They have also been creating PowerPoints related to their literacy work. They have been learning about multiplication and symmetry in maths. They have also been reading fantastic Mr. Fox in their literacy.

P2b are learning how to tell the time and to be specific with half past and o'clock. As well as this they have been investigating symmetry. They have been learning how to say the names of the body parts in French. They have also been learning about Dunfermline.

P3a have been working on graphs and graph diagrams. They've also been learning about subtraction. For literacy they have been reading *The Worst Witch* and doing work about it. They've also been learning the names of body parts in French. Their project has been *The Rain Forest* which they are enjoying.

Like P.3a, P3b have been learning about the Rain Forest as their project. They have learned a lot about the animals and their habitats. In numeracy they have been working hard on their multiplication. For literacy they have been reading *Flat Stanley* which they are really enjoying.

P4 are learning about fractions and division, as well as times tables. For their class novel they have been reading *The Accidental Prime Minister*. In their writing they have been working on question words. Their project is about *Mythical Creatures*.

P4/5 have been learning about the Victorian times and people and they've enjoyed viewing the BBC live programmes on Victorians. In Maths they have been concentrating on their multiplication. For their writing P4/5 have been working on their punctuation and using Thesauruses. In health they have been looking at feelings and opinions.

P5's project is *Mary Queen of Scots*. They have learned about how people would have dressed and looked during this era. In maths they have been working on fractions and percentages. They've also been learning about kindness, feelings and controlling emotions in their health and wellbeing.

P6a have been doing some personal writing about their significant possessions and special places. They have also started reading their new novel called *Secrets of the Merfolk*, which is set in Scotland. In Numeracy they have been practicing different ways for completing addition. They have also started their new project called *Scotland meets Spain*.

P6b have also been learning about their project *Scotland meets Spain*. They've been working very hard on learning their Multiplication and Division facts. They have also been learning Scottish Country dancing as well as most other classes at this time of year.

P7a have been learning about angles, symmetry and long multiplication. Along with the other classes, they learned their Scottish poems. In art they have been doing some Celtic designs. For writing they have been using the story cube method to come up with a short story.

P7b have been reading *The Hunger Games* and have carried out a lot of art related to it. They have also used it as a stimulus for their writing. For maths they have been working on their fractions. They've also been learning about Latin root words.

Parking

Please can I remind everyone that the school car park should only be used by people working in the school. This is based on the grounds of Health and Safety and is a Fife Council wide rule. Blue Badge holders are an exception to this and may also park in the car park. Please can I also remind everyone that no-one should be walking through the car park either.

I do have a bit of discretion to allow some very limited parking in certain cases but any requests for this would need to be passed to me through the office. An example of this may be if your son or daughter had limited mobility due to injury or in other cases when mobility is very difficult. If this is the case I would speak to the janitor to make him aware of the car registration so that he knew about this.

One final thing is that please can I ask that if you are parking outside the school that you park courteously.

Thank you for your support with this.

Burns Poetry

As is normal at this time of year the pupils have been learning Scottish Poetry. All classes have been given a variety of different Scottish Poems to learn and recite. Following this all pupils were given the opportunity to recite them in front of their class and the best recitations were chosen to go forward to the final.

The final took place at one of our recent TEAMS assemblies where the pupils said their poems to the rest of the school. The winners were as follows:

1st – Cameron Behen

2nd – Lucy Gallagher

3rd – Alfie Whyte

3rd - Ellie Barnett

I know I've often said that the standard is very high but I would say that the standard this year was exceptional. We found it very hard to decide upon our winners.

I would like to thank everyone who took part and learned their poem. It's not an easy thing to do and requires a lot of work and rehearsal.

Mobile Phones

Just a quick reminder regarding pupils bringing mobile phones to school.

Any pupil required to bring a mobile phone to school should hand it into the office in the morning for safe keeping. As some models of mobile phones are extremely expensive this should help keep them safe. They should not be kept in bags or jackets. If a phone is not handed in and is damaged or lost we can take no responsibility for it. Mobile phones should not be used in the playground by pupils either. We have all parent / carers numbers so can contact them at any point if there are any difficulties or need for contact.

I have also noticed that some pupils have been wearing smart watches in school. As with mobile phones they are brought into school at the pupil's own risk. If a child does wear a smart watch to school the contact ability must be switched off.

Covid

Just a quick update surrounding covid and the school. On Tuesday the First Minister spoke about lifting a wide variety of restrictions and removing some of the legal rules surrounding them. She also stated that they are looking at schools and how this will affect them. No doubt there will be some changes over the coming weeks so as soon as I hear them I will be in contact to let you know how it will affect us (for the positive hopefully).

Parent Interviews

Parent Interviews will be held on Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th of March. You will receive, or will have received, the standard letter asking you to book a slot. The last time we used the system there was an issue with an update so that problem should no longer be there. However, if there are any problems we will endeavour to ensure that you receive a call or another appointment from the teacher.

Clothing Bank

Just a reminder that we have a Clothing Bank in the school grounds. The items are sorted through by the receiving company and anything that can be reused goes to national and international charities and the remainder is recycled for industrial cleaning cloths. The Bank also takes shoes (banded in pairs), gloves (paired) and warm hats. The Bank earns the school around £320 per year which goes towards the children's Christmas Parties.

And finally....

Some fantastic news to finish with. Many of you will know Harry Sinclair in P.3. Harry was unable to start P.1 due to leukaemia. He was a very unwell wee boy and had to undergo lots of treatment. Although Harry then started school he continued with his treatment and was often absent having to go to hospital. Not once did Harry complain when he was ill. He just got on with every thing that was put in front of him and still does.

At the start of the year Harry got the news that his treatment had finished so in the middle of January he got to 'Ring the Bell' at the Sick Kids hospital signifying his treatment was finished. I cannot imagine the difficulties he has been through but all I can say is Harry is one of the bravest wee boys I have ever met.

Regards

S Humphries
Headmaster