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MASTERTON NEWS

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Learning Partnership

We had a visit this month from our Education Manager (Karen Lees) and two other head teachers from local schools as part of our Learning Partnership. This is part of a process where we visit each other's schools and quality assure the work which is going on. Although they had continued in a virtual manner this was the first face to face visit in over 2 years. The visit went very well with lots of positive feedback. This was very reassuring for everyone involved and demonstrated that we are on the right track.



May has been one of those months where things haven't gone too well. It started off with Dunfermline Athletic (my team) being relegated. I then went to watch Cowdenbeath play Bonnyrigg Rose and they were relegated. After buying a new kayak I sprained my elbow whilst cutting the hedge. And to top it all off after sealing the shower it sprung a new leak. Luck hasn't been on my side. So if you want something positive to happen, best not stand too close to me! Fingers crossed for June.....



In the School

My thanks to Katie Forrest and Eva Lyle (both P6a) for writing the next part of the newsletter.

P1a have been doing 'Living Things' as their topic. In their project they are learning how to plant plants and to look after them. They also have been learning about the body and they have made some healthy snacks. P1a have also been learning about alphabetical order. They have also changed their water tray into a vegetable patch.

P1b have also been learning about 'Living Things'. They have made vegetable kebabs, fruit salads and carried out a bean experiment. In maths, Primary 1b have been learning about money and change.



P1/2 have been learning about 'Forces' as their topic, where they have been learning to make kites. On a Wednesday P1/2 do a wellbeing Wednesday. In maths P1/2 are doing a wee bit of probability and they are doing some time as well.



P2a have been doing 'Materials' as their topic, where they have been testing to find out which materials were waterproof. In number they have been using a number line to add. They have also been doing some partitioning in maths as well as dividing.

P2b have been busy doing their new topic 'Materials'. In maths P2b have been working on split shapes and fractions. They have also been doing some writing about the different properties of materials.

P3a have been reading their class novel 'James and the Giant Peach'. In literacy they are working on openers and connectives. Also in maths P3a have been learning about the properties of 2 and 3D shapes. Their project is 'Bridges' and they have been learning about different bridge designs and designing their own.



P3b are also learning about 'Bridges' as their topic. In PE they have been training for athletics and preparing for the Masterton Mile. In maths they have been doing angles. For art they have been doing shading and paint strings. Their class novel is 'James and The Giant Peach'.

In maths **P4** are doing angles and compass points. In their project about 'Vikings', they have been learning what Vikings eat as well as lots of other information. In writing they have been writing about a light house and they have been doing the spelling pattern 'i before e'.

P4/5 have been learning about 'Forces' as their topic. During their topic they have been doing experiments about magnetism as well as push and pull. In maths they have been doing fractions. For French they have been learning words for the family. They have been practising a play (Mc History) with Beat Box.

In the School (cont'd)

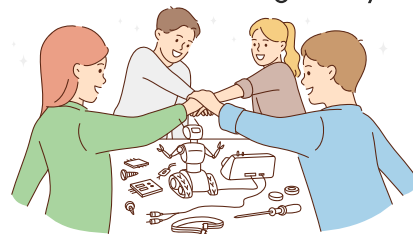
P5 have been doing their topic 'Electricity' which involves outdoor learning. In number they've been doing money and in maths they've been doing measure. For music P5 have been working with Beat Box.

P6a have started their new topic about 'Living Things' and are going on a trip with P6b to Barns Farm next week. The class have been preparing and delivering solo talks about a favourite book, film or game. They have also been continuing with their class novel 'Secrets of The Last Merfolk'. In health they have been learning about body changes during puberty. In maths they have been practising fractions and learning about percentages.

P6b have started their new topic 'Living Things'. In maths they have been doing angles, percentages and practising telling the time. For art they are doing water colour painting and shading. They are also delivering solo talks.

In math **P7a** have been doing 24 hour time and algebra. For writing they are doing more complex punctuation. They have also been visiting High School and meeting other pupils who will also be going to Dunfermline High. They've been writing scripts, learning dances and creating scenery for the leavers' performance.

P7b have been writing their script for their P7 show. They have been visiting places and doing some team building. They have also been carrying out some data handling. They have been reading their class novel 'Murder Most Unladylike'.



Other Activities

At the start of the term P6 and P7 had a visit from the Rugby Development Officer from Dunfermline Rugby Club. All P6 and P7 pupils had the opportunity to take part in the experience and seemed to enjoy it.

We recently took part in our first football game in over 2 years. I had tried to arrange a number of friendlies prior to this but they all fell through. However, I knew I could rely on Kelty PS for a game (Thank you Mr Lyle).

The game was as tough a first game as you could imagine with both teams playing really well.

Masterton emerged narrow winners 5-4 but it could have gone either way.

I am hoping that we will have a couple more games/friendlies before the end of term where more pupils will be able to take part.



Communications

A few months ago we sent out a questionnaire on communications from the school. This was following lots of discussion at the Parent Council and the increasing variety of ways in which we were communicating, especially during the pandemic.

Following this questionnaire and feedback from parents, we have made some changes to streamline and rationalise our communications. This information was sent out in a document. One action which we needed to complete was to open a Facebook page.

Mrs Saxton recently created a private Facebook page for parents/carers of pupils at Masterton PS.



We currently have 199 members which is great. Please can I ask that if you wish to join that you answer the 3 questions which have been set up to ensure that the membership is restricted to members of the Masterton community only.

If you do not answer the questions your request to join will be rejected. We are beginning to use this to share some communications as well as pictures.

Most communications will continue to come out in the form of email but hopefully this will help enhance our processes.



Transitions

The P7 pupils have been taking part in a transition event at Lochore Outdoor Education Centre. They have been going in small groups and working alongside one other school each time they have gone.

They have worked with Commercial, Limekilns and Canmore. This has resulted in them getting to know and work with pupils from other school before heading up to High School.

Everyone I have spoken to commented upon the days being great fun and really enjoyed getting to meet pupils from other schools prior to their transition to High School.



P7 pupils will also be visiting their new High Schools in June when a 3-day visit has been arranged.

The transition for the new P1 pupils has begun as well. Mrs Saxton and I had a short introductory meeting with the new parents on Zoom in the middle of the month and then there have been a number of different transitional activities for them to prepare for P1. Lots going on.

Their first visit to the school took place on Thursday this week. There are a number of other visits lined up over the next 6 weeks.

**school
visits**

Classes

I have been working on the classes and teachers for next session. It is almost certain that we will have 15 classes next session, an increase in one from this year, and our numbers will be increasing once again. The Community Lounge will revert to being a classroom. Classes as normal will be organised along date of birth and with restrictions on numbers in place depending upon stage.

To clarify, the maximum number of pupils at different stages is noted below:

P1 : 25 maximum

P2 - 3 : 30 maximum

P4 - 7 : 33 maximum

Any classes which are composite at any stage have a maximum of 25 pupils.

At this minute the class formations look as follows:

P7_a / P7_b

P6 / P5/6

P5 / P4/5

P4 / P3/4

P3_a / P3_b

P2_a / P2_b

P1/2 / P1_a / P1_b

The class structures are subject to change but I thought it important to let people know what they are currently looking like.

It's never an easy job trying to create classes when the numbers are increasing but it's important that it is done properly. One thing that could help us is that if you know that you will not be returning to the school in August that you inform us. It really helps us when forming classes and lets us know if there are any spaces at stages. In spite of us going up to 15 classes, numbers will still be tight at certain stages.

As per normal I will write out in June clarifying which classes and teachers.



Dates for the Term

Just a reminder of some of the dates for the rest of the term:

Friday 3rd June	Jubilee Day (School Closed)
Monday 6th June	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Tuesday 7th June	Sports Day (Parents Invited)
Thursday 9th June	Classroom Visits (3:30 - 4:30pm) (Surnames A - L)
Friday 10th June	School Photographer
Thursday 14th June	Classroom Visits (3:30 - 4:30pm) (Surnames M - Z)
Wednesday 29th June	P7 Performance for P7 Parents (Afternoon - Time to confirmed)
Thursday 30th June	School Closes at 3 pm for the Holidays

Dates for pupils to meet their new teachers and for the issue of reports will also be in June but the exact dates will be given nearer the time.

And finally.....

It feels good to gradually remove the Covid restrictions which have been in place for the last 2 years. Being able to organise things like the Masterton Mile and invite parents to the school to watch the children has been great. All this time I have been conscious that our P1 and P2 parents may have never seen inside the school and it had been at least 2 years since other people had been in so it was even better to be able to invite you back into the school. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in a couple of weeks.

And before you know it, it will be the summer holidays.....

Regards

S Humphries
Headmaster

