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MASTERTON NEWS

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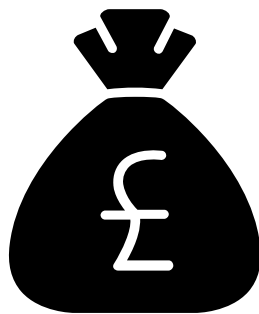
IN THIS ISSUE:

- Scottish Poetry
- Ceilidh
- Rotary Quiz
- Other Things Going On
- Forgotten Items

In spite of the newsletter stretching to a number of pages this month, I've been suffering from writer's block. I've just not been able to find that 'sparkle'. Mind you after reading this I'm sure many of you will be wishing I had complete writer's block!

In the School

P1a have been learning about Scotland. They have been looking at the map of Scotland and using it to find places. They have also been learning different Scottish traditions as well as reading Katie Morag. In their writing they have been working on using 'Wow' words. In Maths they are studying about money.



P1b are also reading Katie Morag. They have also been working hard on learning their Scottish poems. Like P1a they have been learning where Scotland is on the map. For Maths they are learning about measurement as well as doing numbers to 20. They have been learning how to use Sumdog to help with their number work.

P1/2 have also got a Scottish focus this term. They have been doing some Scottish art and learning about Robert Burns. In computing they have been learning how to use the different keys on a computer. In Maths they have been working on doubling numbers.

P2a have been learning about the Stone Age in their project. In their literacy they have been learning about vowels as well as working on postcards and lost posters. In PE they have been working on football and their country dance. They have been discovering setting and grouping in their Maths.

P2b have been learning about their new project on the Human Body. In literacy they have been working on sentence construction and reading some fun story books. In their Maths they have been practising skip counting 2, 5 and 10 as well as learning about subtraction.

P3a have also been learning about The Human Body and naming body parts. In their Maths they have been estimating as well as learning to round numbers. They have also been skip counting as well as learning about money. In their numeracy they have been focusing upon creative writing and writing stories.

P3b have also been learning about The Human Body. As part of this they have been looking at healthy food adverts. They have also created a Healthy Food Leaflet. In Maths they have been learning about multiplication. In literacy they have been reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and are really enjoying it.

P3/4 they have been learning about Castles as their topic this term. They have used 3D shapes to make a castle. They have been looking back at the Middle Ages and been reading about Robert the Bruce as well. They have also been learning how to live a healthy life style.

In their Maths, **P4** have been working on division and time. For their topic they have been learning about Egypt and the importance of the River Nile in the development of the Egyptian Civilisation. In their writing they have been learning about and how to use compound words.

P4/5 have been learning to use clocks and about 5 and 10 minute intervals. In their writing they have been using future / past / present tense in their stories. Their project is the Victorians, which they are really enjoying. They had a Victorian day where everything was like it would be in the Victorian times. They have also learned about a Growth Mindset and were working on a Learning Pit.

In the School (cont'd)

In **P5** their topic is also the Victorians and they have been learning about the timeline of Queen Victoria's reign. In their Maths they have been working on the 6, 7 and 8 times tables as well as linking this to their division. In Art they have been learning about the Pop Artists of the 1960s.

P5/6's topic is 'Scotland Meets Spain'. As part of this they have introduced Spanish lessons to the class. They also made their own recipe book and sold it at the Christmas Fayre. As part of their Maths they have learned about area.

The **P6** class novel is 'Secrets of the Last Merfolk' which they are enjoying very much. Their topic for this term is 'Scotland meets Spain'. As part of this they have started practising speaking Spanish. In Maths they are working hard on division and multiplying. They have also helped grow plants outside and created adverts.

In **P7a** they have been learning about time in their Maths including timetables. Their class novel is called 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. As part of their topic for this term they have been watching 'Dynasties'. For the Ceilidh they have worked on creating their own Scottish country dance which they demonstrated to parents.

In Maths **P7b** have been working on improving their long multiplication. They have also worked on problem solving and area. They have been reading 'The Hunger Games'. They have been learning about the art of Susan Collins, Gillian Kyle and DC Thomson. For PE they have also been creating their own Scottish dancing which they debuted at the Ceilidh.

Scottish Poetry

As usual at this time of year all the pupils have been learning a Scottish Poem to celebrate Scottish culture and the poetry of Robert Burns. This has been from P1 all the way up to P7. All pupils recited their poems in class and a group went through to the grand final where they recited their poems in front of the school and a panel of judges (Mrs Stevenson, Mr Ross and myself). The standard was exceptionally high with many outstanding performances. It was very difficult to choose the best recitations. After deliberating the following pupils were chosen as the winners:

- 1st - **Poppy Turnbull (P7b)**
- 2nd - **Harry Sinclair (P4/5)**
- 3rd - **Luna Stevenson (P3/4)**

Well done to all the pupils who learned their poems but a special congratulations to Poppy Turnbull! Poppy has been close to winning it before but this time pulled it out the bag with her 'Address to a Haggis' by Robert Burns.





Congratulations!

**To our winners:
Poppy, Harry & Luna!**

Ceilidh

The ceilidhs went very well last week. It was the first time in 3 years we had been able to hold them so it was great to see everyone back in school. It was very busy (especially the first one). However, everyone seemed to have a good time. It never ceases to amaze me that the dancing doesn't result in more collisions and carnage!

The gym hall looked great too. The art work on the walls was of a very high quality. It was all based upon Scottish artists or a Scottish theme so it ranged from cartoons (Oor Wullie and The Bash Street Kids) through to serious literary characters (Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde). Thanks to all the classes for their hard work and effort in creating this. It can now be seen all around the school.



Rotary Quiz

The Dunfermline Carnegie Rotary Quiz took place at Masterton recently. The team of Erin, Christopher, Cameron, Dylan and Josh did very well and finished runners up.

It was a very tight competition with the top 3 teams all within a couple of points of each other before entering the final round where we unfortunately lost out. However, the team were a credit to the school and deserve lots of plaudits for doing so well.

Well Done!

Other Things Going On....

The school football team has been busy during the last few weeks. We have participated in 2 indoor futsal tournaments at St Columba's High School during January / February.

In the first tournament the team did extremely well winning all their game beating 4 other schools in the process.

In the second tournament I chose a completely different team with none of the pupils from the first tournament taking part. They won 3 of their games and drew one, once again winning the tournament.

I know they say it's about the taking part that counts but who doesn't like to win....? Well done to all the pupils who took part. They represented the school exceptionally well. Thanks to all the parents who supported us and helped transport them.



Mr Ross, the minister of the local church, has joined us at assemblies again for the first time in 3 years. It was nice to see him again although many of the youngest pupils had never seen him before. Hopefully he will be able to attend assemblies more regularly and become well known to the school community again.

We've got a number of student teachers in the school just now. In P1/2 we have Miss Rennie, in P1b we have Miss Kerr, in P3/4 we have Miss McDonald and in P3a we have Miss Andrew. They are all working well and doing lots of lessons with the support of the teachers.

Forgotten Items

Recently at the Parent Council, there was a discussion surrounding handing forgotten items into the school office. During this meeting it was agreed that I would write out and explain the rationale behind this.

Prior to Covid we used to take in items at the office. However this became increasingly difficult. One day over 20 items were handed in which took the office staff around 30 - 40 minutes to distribute. The office staff would also sometimes forget to take items to classes and then would be given a hard time for this. We asked if people could try and remember items which worked from time to time but then it would just creep back up again.

During Covid we were told that no items should be handed in or taken to classes. We made exceptions for medical items or things like glasses which were essential. However, we worked around other things like having cups in case pupils forget their water bottle or having fruit in case pupils forget their snack. Since we have moved back into a normal routine we have stuck with this to ensure that we don't end up in the position we were when staff were spending a significant amount of time distributing items around the school.

I appreciate this doesn't always suit and can be seen as a negative thing but we can't be in the position that the office staff are losing 30 - 40 minutes distributing forgotten items around the school.

Please can I also ask that no-one sends any deliveries to the school either, without permission. During one of the Christmas performances we were informed that refreshment items were to be delivered without us being informed. We are unable to accept any deliveries to the school without prior knowledge and these will be sent away. This also includes personal deliveries for staff which we are not allowed to receive either.

Also, in the interest of fairness, please can we ask that when queuing for school performances you do not keep "places" in the queue for friends or family arriving later than you. It isn't fair on people who have queued a while to see others joining in front of them. If someone queuing has a disability and they let the office know, then we are willing to make concessions for them.

Thank you for your support with this.



And finally.....

Just a quick reminder about the mid-term holiday. The school will be closed to pupils on **Wednesday 15th - Friday 17th February.**

Enjoy your term break!

Regards

S Humphries
Headmaster

