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MASTERTON NEWS

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MAY 2023



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Masterton Mile

The Masterton Mile took place on Friday 19th May. The weather stayed dry and even a bit of sunshine emerged later on in the day to make it a great day for everyone. As usual, there were the pupils who were doing it just for fun and the others who were being very competitive.

My thanks to Mr Tollick for organising the Masterton Mile once again. He will be a big miss when he retires after the summer holidays. Well done to Olivia Coates and Louis Stevenson (both P.6) for recording the fastest times for a girl and a boy.



My neighbour recently had a plastic Sparrowhawk installed on his roof as a deterrent to the pigeons and seagulls which frequent our gardens. Initially, it seemed to do the trick. Things were much quieter. However, on leaving the house the other day I noticed a pigeon trying to make friends with it, rubbing itself against it before sitting on its head. I then saw the seagulls pecking it and then doing the toilet on it. I can't help thinking the games up....

In The School

Back in February a number of pupils in the school entered the annual Robert Burns Art Competition. The competition involved creating a piece of art around one of Burns poems. Two of our pupils, Lily Ross (P.6) and Connor Marshall (P.7a), were "Highly Commended" for their pictures and received a visit from the Burns group with prizes and certificates. They also had their pictures taken for the local paper. Well done to both Lilly and Connor for such excellent art work!

We had a visit from 'Wild Science'. A number of classes got the opportunity to see some of the animals they brought along or take part in an electricity workshop. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience.

We were very lucky to have a visit from Kelly from the Pars coaching team a couple of weeks ago. She arrived unexpectedly one morning carrying the League 1 trophy which the Pars had just won. Both Kelly and I took the trophy around the school to as many classes as possible to let them see it, as well as lift it. It was a really good experience and we are very grateful for her giving us the opportunity to lift it. And I got my photo taken with it....

A group of P.7 pupils took part in the Dunfermline and West Fife badminton tournament recently. We had entered it just for fun as Miss Collins had been doing badminton at PE and thought they would enjoy the opportunity. I think they really enjoyed the day as they won the whole tournament returning with medals and the shield!! She said they were fantastic and worked as a team. Adam Ross (P.7a) and Praise Zvavamwe (P.7b) deserve a special mention as they both got silver medals in the individual finals. Well done to:

Lexie Halliday, Niamh Harrower, Lucy Final, Praise, Charlie Donnelly, Lucas Da Silva, Xander Gray and Adam.

I was made aware of a couple of outstanding achievements in the world of gymnastics recently. Eva Lyle (P.7a) represented Scotland at the British Acrobatics Gymnastics Championships in Stoke. She and her partner won individual Silver and Scottish Team Gold medals. Luna Stevenson (P.3/4) was also there representing Scotland and won the bronze medal. Such talented pupils who've clearly learned their gymnastics capabilities from myself.....

The Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO), Olivia and Grace (P.6) have been busy helping P.1a, P.1b and P.1/2 learn about cycling safety. They demonstrated the correct way to wear a cycle helmet and invited pupils to design their own cycling helmets. The JRSO's thought the designs were amazing.

Mrs Campbell has also been busy with her lunchtime sewing club. Eight P.6's have been learning to hand sew and have made each other a teddy bear. Some children have now progressed onto the sewing machine, both hand and electric which they love. They are now sewing squares for "Project Linus" - a charity for sick and vulnerable children.

Classes 2023/2024

I am busy working on classes and class structures for next session. As per normal the classes will be based upon date of birth although there are always some exceptions to this. With our numbers being quite tight again there is little room for much change but I need to do some more work on this to ensure it is accurate. I should say that all the ongoing housebuilding - and houses which are still empty - does make me a bit wary of things as I'm not quite sure when they are going to start filling up. One thing that would help is that if you know you will be moving house during the summer and we don't know already at the school to let us know. As well as classes a number of members of staff will be leaving so will need to wait until these positions are filled before we can let you know about teachers.

Further information will be forthcoming as soon as it's ready.

Football

The Fife Cup took place at Glenrothes High School last week. All the teams taking part had qualified for the event through local events. We qualified through the St Margaret's Cup which took place in Pitreavie a few weeks before. Without going into details about all the games we ended up as runners up for the whole tournament. Burntisland PS narrowly edged us by 1 point. We have played Burntisland twice and both games ended as a draw so to settle the question of who is the best team in Fife I've offered to play them before the end of term. Watch this space.

The girls team had another successful outing. They competed in their first tournament at the Dalgety Bay Leisure Centre alongside 6 other teams. They did very well winning all their games scoring 32 goals and conceding none. A fantastic performance by all concerned. One of the coaches asked me how I had created such a great girls' team. I pointed out it was nothing to do with me and it was them. Katie Forrest even organised the formations and the warm ups. Well done to all the girls involved!



Well Done!
NW

Congratulations!



Summer Fayre

The Summer Fayre took place the day after the Masterton Mile on the Saturday. I managed to get up and see some of the things going on. A big thank you to all the parents and staff who helped out on the day. These events take a lot of hard work and organisation to make happen and the time is given voluntarily. We raised a total of £1237.35!



THANK YOU!



**We raised
£1237.35!**

Dates for The Term

A few final dates for the term:

Monday 5th June - Public Holiday

Tuesday 6th June - InService Day (School closed to pupils)

Wednesday 7th June - Sports Day

Week beginning 12th June - High School transition days

(Dunfermline High 13/14/15 June, Woodmill High 13/14/15/16, Queen Anne High 14/ 15/16 June)

Saturday 24th June - Gala

Friday 30th June - Last day of term. School closes at 3 pm

Curriculum Development

I've not really managed to keep on top of informing everyone about the curricular development in the school recently so have added to this newsletter. Generally, I like to issue a separate newsletter but time has just overtaken me this session.

However, I thought it would be worthwhile sharing some of the development work we have undertaken this year. A full report on this will be issued in the Standards and Quality Report in September which will be on the school website.

As part of our School Improvement Plan we had a number of different areas of priority noted below:

1+2 Modern Languages

As part of the government commitment to modern languages, all schools were to offer 2 foreign languages to pupils in the primary school. As you will know we have offered French at all stages for a number of years. This was well embedded in our curriculum. Since the start of 2023, we have started to offer Spanish to P.5- 7 pupils. As no staff speak Spanish this has been a challenge.

During Term 1 and 2 we undertook the following work in Modern Languages:

We reviewed the French programmes of work and the vocabulary component of it. This allowed us to ensure that there was greater continuity of learning across the school at all stages and that the learning and vocabulary was progressive and clear. When this was done, we then used this format to structure our Spanish programme. We used similar vocabulary so that pupils were taught to use certain words and phrases in both languages.

As none of our teachers had any experience of speaking Spanish (or very limited), a group of teachers regularly attended a Spanish course to help develop their vocabulary. We also had some input from the High School to support us in this.

Sharing of Data

All staff had the opportunity to spend time looking at the different data sets associated with the school. Although not the most exciting development it did allow us to compare ourselves locally and nationally with other schools. We were also able to compare ourselves with 'Comparator schools' in different areas of Scotland (comparator schools are schools with a similar make up to our own). One thing I would say though is that due to the ongoing building our data changes quite regularly and can be quite fluid.

Learning and Teaching

We have carried out a significant amount of work on Learning and Teaching this session. This has been part of a 3-year plan to improve Learning and Teaching across the school.

As part of this all staff worked on the development of a teaching toolkit. To do this staff worked on identifying the key features of high-quality learning and teaching and then using all the information gathered summarised it. This then ended with a 'Teaching Toolkit' being developed. This toolkit identified the key features of high-quality learning and teaching breaking it down into the areas of:

Structural features: Learning Intentions, Success Criteria, Presentation, Practice, Plenary.

Key principles: Challenge and Support, effective classroom discussions, questions and tasks that elicit evidence of learning, feedback

Learning Environment - Classroom Ethos

Staff used the toolkit to self-evaluate their learning and teaching using a traffic light approach. Teachers then paired up and observed each other's teaching using the toolkit. Following this feedback was provided by both teachers to each other on the observations.

The results of this self-evaluation were shared with the senior managers attending the Learning Partnership. The staff involved in the Learning Partnership were asked to Quality Assure the Self Evaluations of the staff. This quality assurance took the form of classroom observations by the senior managers.

The results of this Quality Assurance reinforced our self-evaluation of the learning and teaching in the school. There were some minor differences but on the whole it was agreed that the self-evaluation was accurate.

Following this piece of work, staff used this information to create a personal 'Action Plan' to identify areas where they would like to improve their learning and teaching. This action plan will form the basis of PRD in session 2023/2024.



And finally.....

I will write out again before the end of term with class information, reports and any other important news.

Regards

S Humphries
Headmaster