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MASTERTON NEWS

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It's hard to believe that Term 1 is nearly over. It felt like just a couple of weeks ago that we returned from the school holidays and here we are at the end of September.

It's been a really busy term as can be seen from this newsletter.

Parent Council

The Parent Council has been busy this term looking at the results of the parent survey and how to spend the funds raised. There's more work to be done on this which will take place so that the views of all parents are taken into account.

In case you don't know, the minutes from all Parent Council meetings are posted on the school website after meetings. They can be found on the Parents tab at the top of the site.

The link is below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fi/mastertonpweb/parent-council-minutes/>

In The School

At the end of August three P.7 pupils took part in a Penalty Kick competition at East End Park. Niven Birrell, Dylan Barker and Rory McMurdo enjoyed their day out with free tickets to the Raith Rovers game. It's not often you get the chance to stand on the hallowed turf of East End Park. Well done to the boys who took part and represented the school in a very positive manner. Unfortunately the score for Dunfermline was not quite as positive.....

The PARS have also started their coaching this term by offering free lessons to pupils in P.2 and 3. 16 pupils have taken up the offer. During the year they will be offering slots to other groups of pupils so watch out for this happening. I am hoping that as the year progresses there will be more opportunities for pupils to take part in after school activities. At the end of last session we had football, rugby and multi sports on after school so hopefully we can build on this.

Beatbox have been in working with P.5/6, P.5 and P.4/5. Beatbox are a musical group funded by the Youth Music Initiative to deliver music education in schools and we are very lucky to have them here. They are working on different songs chosen by the classes and will present this to parents towards the end of term.



We were also very fortunate to be visited by the 'Travelling by Tuba' show. The Youth Music Initiative also funded this for us. We were very lucky to have them visit us as only a few schools in Fife were chosen for this. The performers played lots of different instruments and even gave some of the pupils the opportunity to have a go on the instrument. The pupils seemed to really enjoy this with lots of them saying how much they had enjoyed it.

FROMPS

The Back to School Silent Disco took place at the end of August. I'm not sure about the use of the word 'silent' to describe the disco as I don't recall it being very silent. However, the pupils really enjoyed it and everyone I spoke to had good fun. Thanks to FROMPS for organising this!

SILENT
DISCO



House Captain Elections

At the start of September we had our House Captain elections for P.7 pupils. The P.7 pupils who wished to become House Captains had to deliver a speech to the members of their House who then voted to select their representative. All pupils who entered spoke very well and with conviction making it an exceptionally difficult choice for the pupils who voted to choose their House Captains. Carnegie has two House Captains as both girls had the same number of votes. Following the vote these pupils were chosen:

Wallace

House Captain - **Lucy Hetherington**

Vice Captain - **Jessica Lee**

Carnegie

House Captain - **Ava Innes**

House Captain - **Eve Edwards**

Canmore

House Captain - **Grace Sinclair**

Vice Captain - **Dylan Barker**

Bruce

House Captain - **Maisie Harris**

Vice Captain - **Anneli Curtis**



Congratulations to our new House Captains / Vice Captains!

Just a word to congratulate all the pupils who stood up and made a speech. It's not an easy thing to do and can be very stressful and it's something that even as an adult can be very difficult. Well done to you all!

Eco Committee

The Eco Committee recently conducted interviews for new members. They were pleased to invite 7 new members to join the committee. The following is a list of pupils currently on the eco committee:

Anneli Curtis, Lucy Hetherington, Maisie Harris, Rufus McNeill, Reuben Munro, Matthew Read, Scot Fyfe, Iona McDowall, Kiki Abubakiri, Gorgie Gamble, Hollie Greenfield, Arya Williamson, Olly Bruce, Toby Munro and Anice McCulloch.

All classes from P2/3 up to P7 now have a representative on the committee (a couple of classes have more than one, for historic reasons). Those in P1 and 2 can speak to any eco committee member and information will be shared by members from older classes as needed.

Internet Safety Talk

PC Ian McArthur carried out an Internet Safety Talk to all P.6 pupils. In this day and age it is becoming more and more important to be internet savvy than ever before. Although the internet can be a positive thing there are many pitfalls which everyone needs to learn about.

Barnardos Visit

Barnardos visited P.7 to do their annual drugs talk with them. This is a very important talk given to our most senior pupils. The pupil feedback showed that they had learned a lot of information, which hopefully will help keep them right.

Shared Start

We had our first Shared Start of the year at the end of September. It was great to see so many people attending across the school. In total we counted around 300 parents/carers/visitors who entered the building to take the chance to see their child's class. It's always a very important morning for us as a school community.

A Few Reminders

Just a quick request for a few things. Please can you ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child/children's names. Even though we encourage pupils to remember their coats /jumpers etc. after lunch we often find them left in the playground. If they are named we can easily return them. If not, we still do our best but they may often end up in lost property. You'll have seen the photographs of our lost property....

Please can I also ask that pupils remember to bring their water bottles in so they can stay hydrated during the day. The pupils can access water from their bottle throughout the day. Any other drinks brought to school can be consumed at playtime and/or lunchtime only.

Please can I remind everyone that bikes (pupils and adults) should not be ridden in the playground on the grounds of Health and Safety. With so many people in the playground the chances of being hit by someone on a bike would be quite high. So when entering the playground, please dismount and place in the bike shelters. I would recommend having a lock on a bike too as we have had bikes go missing in the past.



lost....



School Improvement Plan / Standards and Quality Report

As usual at this time of year the School Improvement Plan and the Standards and Quality report have been finalised and are now on the school website. We have begun work on all areas noted below. I also recently met with the attainment advisor from the HME as I wished to pick up on a number of points from the draft report so have updated the School Improvement Plan. I have summarised below our priorities for this year.

Reading

- Update and broaden library/reading resources across the whole school.
- Put in place the new reading scheme we have purchased and start the implementation at P.1 stage.
- Review teacher approaches to whole class/group/independent reading activities.
- Raise the profile of the Reading Leadership Group and ensure pupil voice and decisions made about reading.
- All classrooms and playground to have a designated reading area.
- Gain 'Reading Schools Accreditation' from the Scottish Book Trust.
- Planned CPD opportunities for all staff to develop understanding of key reading skills. (print awareness, phonological awareness, phonics and decoding, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency)
- Shared classroom experiences for staff and opportunities to share expertise.

RME (Religious and Moral Education)

- Review the current RME programme and topics taught at the different stages.
- Develop an updated and comprehensive overview of RME topics for all stages.
- Have a clear progression of topics and themes which all pupils will cover during their time at Primary School.
- Adopt a planning format encompassing all topics and themes at different stages, linking to appropriate times of the year.

School Improvement Plan / Standards and Quality Report (Cont'd)

Achievements

- Using Building the Curriculum 5 (p.8 - 10) as a guide, develop a skills based programme of achievement at all stages.
- All pupils will be given the opportunity to achieve within school and record their achievement.
- Pupils at different stages will have the opportunity to undertake a different activity leading to an achievement.
- Create a clear skills based progression.

Parental Involvement

- Further develop the role of Parent Council. Establish dates and ideas for developing this role. Ensure that all views of the Parent Forum are represented.
- Improve links with parents and increase opportunities for staff and parents to work together.

And finally.....

I would like to say a big **Thank You** to everyone for signing up to the Parents Portal. We were the first school in Fife with a 100% take up! Considering that we have over 400 pupils in the school it is no mean feat. Thanks to everyone for your efforts.

Have a good holiday when it comes.

Regards

S Humphries
Headmaster

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

100%
thank you