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MASTERTON NEWS

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Achievements



From time to time I hear about fantastic achievements outside of the school and this month was no exception. Eilidh Thomson in P.2/3 recently had a very successful dancing event at the Follow Your Dreams 2023 National competition in Blackpool. She was placed 1st in the Lyrical solo and duo dance event and 2nd and 3rd in the Jazz solo and duo event age groups. Well done to Eilidh!

well★done

I should note at this point that looking at achievement is one of the priorities in the School Improvement Plan. So many pupils in the school do very well at so many different activities that it is something we need to look at how we record this. We are also looking at how we can provide opportunities for achievement for everyone in the school.

Sometimes the glamour of being a headteacher can be overwhelming. As I opened my email one morning this week, I noticed a 'School Suitability Survey', a 'Water Meter' visit and one about patching the render on the walls. It didn't surpass the 'Choose Your Playground Bin' email but 3 in a row certainly set me up for a day of joy.

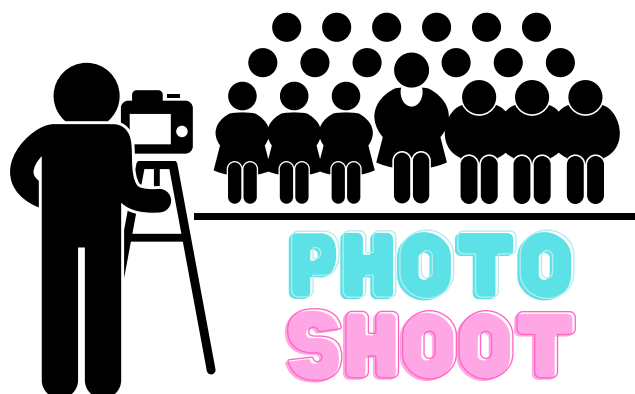
Moving on....

In The School

At the start of the Term, P.6 were visited by Wullie Oliphant from the PARS to do some literacy work. They thoroughly enjoyed their day writing some match reports in the morning and doing a bit of football coaching with the PARS coaches in the afternoon. It was good to see Wullie again as I've known him for years. He's never lost his enthusiasm for teaching and the PARS.

P.4a had Jennifer Graham in from the Money Trust doing some work on money education with her class. The input was very good but also very useful with them learning about things like credit cards and how they work.

The school photographer was in doing individual and family shots. With the school having grown to over 400 pupils it took longer than expected resulting in the photographer having to return on another day to finish off the job. As per normal P.1 and P.7 class shots will be taken in March next year.



The P.7 class have had some badminton coaching this term. Miss Collins organised this. Considering that the P.7s last year won the West Fife Badminton trophy with no coaching, I imagine that we will be in line to win the national trophy this year.

It's worth noting that in the last newsletter I said a bit about the three P.7 boys (Dylan, Niven and Rory) who took part in the 'Hotshots' at Dunfermline Athletic back in September. At the time they were told they were runners up in their heat, which they accepted gracefully. However, fast forward a couple of months and we were informed that they were at the top of the table with the highest score as there had been an error. They are still currently top of the table so well done to the boys. If they stay at the top they will be invited to the finals on 16th December. Fingers crossed!

Children in Need

The House Captains organised a 'Children in Need' day. Everyone had to wear a colourful top and do Children in Need related things. Altogether the school raised over **£535** for Children in Need, a very worthy cause. Thanks to everyone who donated!

**We raised
over £535.
Thank you!**

Parents' Evenings

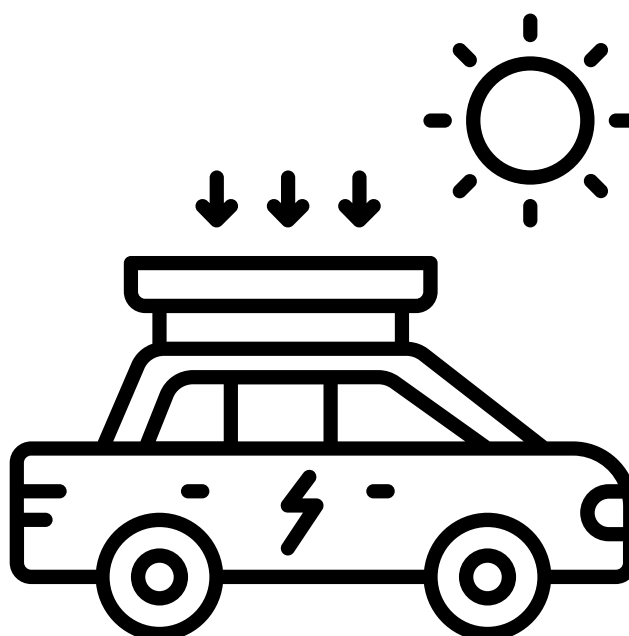
Parents' Evenings took place at the start of November. It was good to see so many people in the building and I managed to catch up with a number. We had a very full night with almost every child in the school having a Parents' Evening. Mrs Colburn won the competition for having the most parents in a row with 17 in total. No wonder she looked exhausted at the end!



The Green Energy People

The Green Energy People visited P.4/5, P.5 and P.5/6 with the K'Nex challenge. The children had to follow the instructions to work as a team to build a solar powered car which they then tested.

They had to problem solve which was really challenging. Some ran out of parts because they had used too many on certain bits or the solar panel didn't work because they had attached it upside down. All very challenging. Of the pupils I spoke to said how much they had had a great time and enjoyed the task.



Dunfermline High School Visit

Dunfermline High School also sent out some senior pupils to do some sports work with the P.7 and P.6/7 classes. So far this session they have carried out some training on Touch Rugby and Handball. There have also been some senior pupils in carrying out some French teaching with the P.7 class.

Football Match

We had our first football match of the season against Canmore PS. Following an outstanding performance, the pupils recorded a very strong win. My thanks to Canmore for giving us a game. I'll hopefully have some other games organised over the coming weeks.



BOOK WEEK



We had an extremely busy Book Week Scotland (Monday 13th – Friday 17th November) organised by Mrs Saxton and the Reading Ambassadors. With reading being one of our School Improvement priorities we are really focussed upon improving reading across the school. You may have seen our Reading Ambassadors demonstrating the Bookzilla app during Parents' Evening (Well done to all the pupils who manned the stall and spoke to parents about it. Every parent I spoke to said you were fantastic). There was also a book swap and thanks to everyone who donated books to the book swap. P.1 and P.7 had an author visit which they thoroughly enjoyed. My thanks to Mr Dykes for giving up his time to come and speak to the classes. On the Friday, P.1 parents were invited in to see their children receive free books from Bookbug. All in all, a very busy reading week.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday 29th November	Shared Start	9.10 – 9.40am
Thursday 7th December	Christmas Fayre	3.30 – 5.30pm
Wednesday 13th December	P1 Nativity	9.30am and 6.00pm
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Lunch	
Thursday 14th December	Christmas Performances	P.2-P.4: 9.30am, P.5-P.7: 11.15am
Wednesday 20th December	Cinderella Pantomime	Afternoon

And finally.....

Mrs Saxton will be leaving us at the start of next year. It's not that she's finally had enough of me (although that may be true!) but instead will be off having a baby and will be on maternity leave. The temporary position will be advertised and filled as soon as possible. When someone has been appointed I will let you know.

With Christmas rapidly approaching like an out of control juggernaut I look forward to seeing many of you at our performances. Further information about ticketing arrangements will be coming soon. Hopefully by the time the performances take part I will be full of the joys of Christmas and not worrying about my rapidly emptying bank account.

Take care

S Humphries
Headmaster

