



**Mr S Humphries - Headteacher**  
**Mrs N Mohammed - Depute Headteacher**  
**(Maternity cover for Mrs S Saxton)**  
**Tel: 01383 602455**

# MASTERTON NEWS

DESIGN: THANA MITCHELL

FEBRUARY 2024



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- P1 Enrolment for August 2024
- Musicians
- Rotary Quiz

## P1 Enrolment for August 2024

P1 enrolment has been taking place during January and February. If you know of anyone who has a child due to start in August and they haven't yet filled in the online enrolment form, please can you ask them to visit the Fife Council website or give the school a call.

We've already had a significant number of enrolment enquiries so the sooner we know how many are coming, the better. This allows me to have a look at classes and get a bit of a head start.

## P1 ENROLMENT



I'm not a very spontaneous person but recently I saw that a whale had been washed up at Culross. Having never seen a whale before (dead or alive), I decided to go and see it. My daughter and I arrived and saw a whale like shape in the distance across the sand. As the tide was out we walked on the sinking sand struggling forwards, picking our way across the shore. It was a bit of an epic journey, As we approached, the excitement built until ..... it wasn't the whale. Just a rock. Covered in mud and sand we traipsed back to the car. We did see the whale the next day. You couldn't really miss it. If only I'd looked the other way.....

## In the School

**A big thank you to Orlaith McNeil and Louisa Shevas for speaking to all the teachers and then writing the section below.**

**P1a** they have been learning sounds such as the Z sound and the Q sound. They have also been learning how to read and have read Hamish McHaggis in the class. In numeracy, they have been learning about place value to 20 and ordering numbers.



In **P1b** they have also been reading about Hamish McHaggis' Adventures in Scotland. They have also been thinking about when, who and what they do on an adventure. In numeracy they have been learning about doubling as well as money. In their writing they have been creating imaginative stories.

**P1/2** have been learning about grouping and setting and making different amounts of money out of coins. They have been reading 2 class novels which were 'Sky the Puffling' and 'Harry the Hero'. They have been learning about Scottish sea animals together. In PE they have been doing Scottish Country dancing with the P2 class.

As it's near Burns Day **P2** have been learning some Burns Supper recipes. They have also been learning Scottish country dancing alongside some poems. They have been learning some French vocabulary and words for the weather.

**P2/3's** topic is all about 'Fairy Tales'. They have also made a vegetable soup together. In Maths they have been learning to tell the time. They have also been learning Scots words and their meanings, together with some French vocabulary about animals and food.

The **P3a** topic this term has been Scottish myths and legends and they have been enjoying reading the legend Greyfriars Bobby. In literacy they have focused their work on the novel and had a grammar focus on adjectives, nouns and verbs. In Maths they have used their learning of myths and legends and have been using maps to find co-ordinates of where some of our Scottish myths and legends come from. They also used tourist maps of Edinburgh to locate key tourist attractions including Greyfriars Kirkyard and Greyfriars Bobby's statue.



**P3b** have also been exploring different myths and legends as part of their Scottish book topic. The class have been working hard on addition and subtraction in numeracy. In health we have been exploring people who help us.

**P4a** have drawn self-portraits in art. They have also been learning a lot about the Scots, including Victorian Scotland as a topic. In numeracy they have been learning their 2d shapes names and learning to tell the time. They have also been learning a Scottish dance and some Scots poetry.

## In the School (cont'd)

**P4b** have been learning all about Mary Queen of Scots as their topic. In literacy they have also been working on their descriptive writing which they are enjoying. In Maths they have been learning their times tables as well as learning about fractions.

**P4/5** have been learning about different time intervals as well as 24-hour time. Their class topic is 'The Victorians'. Their class novel is 'The Accidental Time Traveller' which they are really enjoying. They enjoyed their Victorian day where they dressed up and even had a visit from the Victorian headmaster....

In numeracy **P5** have been learning the step method in dividing and chimney sum multiplication. Their class topic is 'Climate Smarter'. In that topic they have been learning about different types of power and how to make it.

The **P5/6** topic is Mary Queen of Scots which they are enjoying. In Maths and numeracy they have been learning multiplication and division word problems. For health they have been learning about smoking and how bad it is for you and how it can affect your health.

**P6** have been working with the P5 class on a shared topic of 'Climate Smarter'. They have also been designing a model of an Eco school. They are enjoying their class novel 'Secrets of the Last Merfolk'. They have also been making games with scratch coding and have been coding emojis and names on micro bits.

**P6/7** have been learning about decimal fractions and how to multiply them. They have also been learning about how, during chemical reactions, molecules of substances swap atoms to produce new substances. Using carbon, oxygen and hydrogen atoms, they managed to make models of water, carbon dioxide, methane and ant venom! In art, they have been exploring the properties of tone in various media. They were challenged to produce illustrations of Robert Burns's Tam O'Shanter, and explored how pencils, charcoal and block printing could produce different effects of light and dark.

**P7** have been learning about double digit division in numeracy (known as long division in my day - Mr H). Their class novel is 'The Hunger Games'. They have been making novel studies about it. As part of their topic they have been learning about CO<sub>2</sub> and energy usage.

All in all a wide and varied selection of learning and teaching going on right across the school.



## Staffing

There have been a few changes to staffing recently which I've outlined below.

Miss Scott has left us for 6 months. She is currently doing a secondment at Calaiswood across the road until the summer holidays. We expect her to return back to Masterton in August.

Mrs Bethell left the school and Mrs Matson was appointed to take her place. However, Mrs Matson is unwell so we are temporarily filling the position until she returns. Mrs Dargie is currently taking the classes. Mrs Dargie is an old friend of the school so we are very grateful for her expertise.

Mrs Saxton has now left us to go on maternity leave. As you will know Mrs Mohammed has been appointed to cover her position and started on Monday 19th February.

## 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, the minister and myself). The standard was exceptionally high with lots of high-quality performances. It was very difficult to choose the best performances, but after much deliberation the following pupils were chosen as the winners:

**1st Gorgie Gamble (P4/5)**

**2nd Lucy Gallagher (P6)**

**3rd Ava Beck (P4a)**



Well done to all the pupils who learned their poems but a special congratulations to Gorgie Gamble!

## Musicians

At the end of January, a group of P7 brass players took part in the music festival playing their first concert. Mrs Dowall said they were excellent and a credit to the school. Congratulations to Jessica Lee, Anneli Curtis, Maisie Harris, Eve Edwards, Lucy Hetherington, Daniel Porto Pose, Finlay Nolan, Nathan Ndlovu and Reuben Munro.



## Rotary Quiz



great job

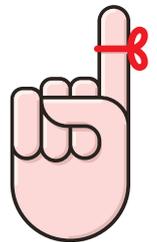
A group of pupils took part in the Carnegie Dunfermline Rotary Quiz at Duloch during February. After many rounds of tough quizzing they emerged victorious winning the quiz. Their performance was outstanding as they only got 3 questions wrong during the whole time winning by a margin of 12 points. Masterton has a history of doing very well in the quiz and has won the trophy on a number of occasions but I don't think I've ever seen any team from any school winning by such a margin and getting so many questions correct. Congratulations to the team of Grace Sinclair, Louie Stevenson, Dylan Barker, Reuben Munro and Nathan Ndlovu. The next step will be the Fife finals in April.

# Congratulations!

## Dates to Remember

Just a quick reminder of a few dates coming up later this term.

<b>Tuesday 12th March</b>	<b>Parents Evening</b>	<b>3.30 - 6.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 14th March</b>	<b>Parents Evening</b>	<b>4.15 - 7.15pm</b>
<b>Friday 22nd March</b>	<b>Easter Disco (FROMPS)</b>	<b>6.00 - 9.00pm</b>



Further information will be coming out soon regarding these events (online booking).

## And finally.....

Congratulations to Mrs Saxton who had a wee boy (he wasn't that wee at 8lbs 9oz) called Blair. Mother, father and son are doing very well. Let the sleepless nights begin.....

Regards

S Humphries  
Headmaster

It's a  
**BOY!**

