



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

MASTERTON NEWS

DESIGN: THANA MITCHELL

JUNE 2024



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Brass Play Day
- STEM
- It's good 2 give Charity
- Football Champions!
- Ongoing Work
- P.7 and P.1 Transitions
- Staffing

Brass Play Day

As part of the P.7 - S.1 transition the brass instrumentalists went up to Dunfermline High School to play along with other brass players. All the pupils seemed to have a great time and thoroughly enjoyed it.

One thing I was made aware of was at the end every single pupil from Masterton thanked the bus driver. The bus driver commented upon how well-mannered the pupils were. Well done brass players. A credit to the school.



June is always the busiest month of the year in a primary school and this year was no different. It was pretty relentless for about 3 weeks but now with the summer holidays rapidly approaching I managed to find time to squeeze out one final newsletter. There's a lot happened in the last few weeks so apologies if I've missed anything.

STEM

On Tuesday 11th June, teams from Mrs McNeil and Mrs Stirling's classes attended the Fife Celebration of STEM at Carnegie Conference Centre. The teams of six pupils were selected from the classes after everyone had taken part in a series of lessons to learn about how to become 'Climate Smarter' and to use this knowledge to design an Eco-School for the future. The teams took along their Eco-School models to the event and delivered a presentation to a set of judges from businesses which included Shell, Babcock and SSE Networks. They also took part in a set of STEM themed problem solving activities to earn points for their knowledge and team work.

Mrs McNeil's team consisting of Ella Adams, Skye McCulloch, Abigail Pownall, Macey Murphy, Beth Fisher and Brooke Connor were runners up in the Climate Smarter model competition and brought home a trophy and a voucher for the school to spend £50 on science resources. Mrs Stirling's team consisting of Lucy Gallagher, Layla Walker, Amber Swanson, Bailey Bedwell, Millie Candlish and Abbie Kennedy won the STEM challenge competition and brought back a voucher for £100 for the school to spend on science resources. Well done to all the pupils involved. Scientists of the future!



Mrs McNeil's Team

Congratulations!



Mrs Stirling's Team

P.7 – S.1 Transition

As well as the brass play day all the P.7s were away at their respective High Schools recently. I had very positive feedback from the staff at the High Schools about our pupils so well done to everyone. It's always challenging moving from P.7 to S.1 but this bunch seem to have taken it in their stride.

Nursery – P.1 Transition

There have been lot of opportunities for our new P.1 pupils to visit the school over the last few weeks. It culminated in the Teddy Bear's picnic last week where the new P.1s, their parents/carers/teachers, and their buddies enjoyed a picnic together. It looked great fun and even stayed dry for the time they were out. They all look ready for P.1 after the summer.

Dunfermline Children's Gala

I was at the Gala on Saturday just past. It's always good to see all the schools taking part. Masterton had a very good turn out and I managed to spend some time chatting to a number of people. As the theme was pop/rock stars I was particularly impressed by many of the costumes. I think my favourite was the number of people dressed up as the legendary rock band Kiss. Nothing like a bit of make-up and a long-haired wig to take me back to my youth.....

My thanks to the organisers as it's a big job and without their effort it wouldn't take place. A special thanks to Mrs Fyfe as our Gala Rep as she did a great job right across the whole year.

thank
you

It's good 2 give Charity



"Thank you so much to the Masterton community for their generosity in buying so many pens and pencils from the House Captains stall. All of the money will go towards the charity **It's good 2 give**, which supports young cancer patients and their families on the oncology wards across Scotland. It also provides support for the siblings of cancer patients. We raised an incredible £750 which will be used so wisely. We cannot thank everyone enough, every penny will be used to make a difference." - Grace Sinclair

thank you

Football - Champions of Fife!!!

After an incredibly hard-fought tournament Masterton finished top in Fife winning the Fife Football Cup!! A tremendous achievement. Unfortunately, during the results being declared another school were declared overall winners which was a mistake on the part of the organisers. After a quick intervention it was clear that Masterton were the winners and were awarded the cup.

There was also a girl's football tournament at Dalgety Bay Sports Centre this month. The girls taking part had a great time. Some of the girls had never played before but they had the opportunity to represent the school. One thing that was noticeable was the increase in the number of girls' teams taking part. Last year was the first year that it took place and there were 6 teams taking part. This year there were 18 teams. I think everyone was taken aback at just how many teams turned up. It was really good to see.



Basketball

We had a number of ex-pupils in the school taking P.5 pupils for basketball this term. Basketball has been an ongoing activity throughout the whole year with extra-curricular basketball taking place almost every term. We are hoping to develop this further next session as so many pupils are really keen on this. A big thank you to all the pupils who have taken part as well as all the trainers.

Ongoing Work

A significant amount of work will be going on over the summer holidays. A number of areas in the school are going to be refloored with new vinyl. Also, some class areas are to be repainted. This is part of the lifecycle work which has to be carried. The grass is also being re-seeded with work to improve the surface as well as to try to improve the erosion at the edges of the pitch. This is a significant piece of work and I have agreed that to give the grass more time to recover no pupils will be allowed on it for the first fortnight after we return.

I have also had a few discussions about the benches/planters outside the classrooms. There is the possibility that they will be replaced but that has still to be confirmed. It would be good if this was the case because there have been a few repairs carried out and they are beginning to show their age.

Staffing

As always things never stay still at Masterton and we have a number of staff leaving.

Mrs Campbell, our wonderful PSA, will be leaving us after many years of service. Mrs Campbell is the only original member of staff at Masterton and has seen it grow and evolve over the years. She has taken care of hundreds (thousands?) of children over the years. I should point out that she isn't retiring (far too young for that) but is going to do some other things of her choice. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

Mr Douglas will be leaving to take up a new job with Edinburgh Council. I would like to thank Mr Douglas for his hard work with his class. I would also like to thank him for his time at Ardroy where his enthusiasm for jumping in rivers and getting wet will be remembered as it stopped me from having to do it. Thank you.

Miss Rennie and Miss Llewellyn will also be leaving. They both successfully completed their first year of teaching very well and will be moving onto pastures new. We wish them all the very best.

Best wishes 🎁

Staffing (Cont'd)

Mrs Urquhart will also be leaving us. Mrs Urquhart came in at a very difficult time when lots of staff were absent and Mrs Saxton had just gone on maternity leave and helped us out. She has done a fantastic job and really helped steady the ship so to speak. I'd like to thank her for this as she has made a big difference. Mrs Urquhart will be going to Commercial Primary School and we wish her all the best for her new job.

Finally, Mrs Robinson will be retiring after many years at Masterton. Mrs Robinson has taught many hundreds of pupils at Masterton and elsewhere over the years. She is one of our most reliable (and healthy) members of staff who turned up day after day with rarely a day's absence. I think she was only ever absent during Covid when she was forced to be at home. She was also one of our Ardroy stalwarts going year after year with the P.7s and outwalking most of them. Mrs Robinson goes with our best wishes (Foolishly she has said she will be available for supply work which means she will be back just like Mr Tollick). I'd like to wish her all the best in her retirement.

— HAPPY —
Retirement

And finally.....

I would like to wish our P.7 pupils all the best for High School. They have been doing a lot of celebrating this term with a party at East End as well as something to look forward to in the school this week. Having seen them start in P.1 and seeing them leave in P.7 is always a bit bitter sweet as although they are ready for High School they will be missed. They have been a great bunch and I know they will do well.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Summer Holiday. I'm looking forward to trying to get on top of things in the house. I think that one of my priorities is to finish painting the hallway. I started it, errr, last July and think that it still needs a final coat. There are other areas of the house that need dealt with but if I maybe finish last year's work before moving onto something new that might help.

The school re-opens to pupils on **Wednesday 21st August at 9am.**

Take care.

Regards

S Humphries
Headmaster

**ENJOY THE
SUMMER**

