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MASTERTON NEWS

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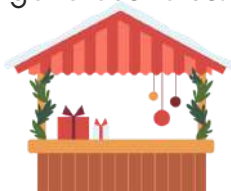


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Christmas Fayre

Just a few notes about the Christmas Fayre. Most stalls will be selling items or activities for 50p or £1. If you are able to bring change (50p or £1), please can you do so? I should also say that Tesco have very generously given us a huge amount of school uniform (if you've seen my room recently it looks like a shop). This uniform is brand new. This uniform will be available at the Christmas Fayre where we will be asking only £1 per item. We will be restricting the number of items people can buy to a maximum of 3 as we want to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to buy some new uniform at a vastly reduced rate. I have to say a big thank you to Mandy from Tesco as she is always very generous to us.



Christmas
Fayre



I think that this is the longest newsletter I've ever written. It was started at the end of October and so much has gone on since then, it has grown much bigger than normal.

Hopefully there will be something in it of interest. Mind you, quantity doesn't always equal quality...



In the School

My thanks to Tariq Fazluddeen and Ella Mangto (both P.7b) for writing a wee bit about what each class has been learning.

P.1a have been learning different strategies to help them develop an understanding of Addition and Subtraction. They have also been working on word problems and spotting if it is Addition or Subtraction. The class have also been using their knowledge of sounds to write and build words. They have been working hard learning some tricky common words to spot. For Topic this term the class have been exploring and using maps to identify different features. The class have enjoyed exploring the areas within the school and are planning on venturing into the woods.

P.1b have been learning how to solve addition and subtraction sums. They have been using ten frames, cubes and Numicon to support with this. In literacy they have been learning to recognise and read sight words. Their project is the local community and as part of this they have been developing map skills. They are also planning a trip to the woods.

P.1/2 have been working hard learning new sounds while learning to read. They made poppy drawings for Remembrance Sunday. They have been learning how to tell time using o'clock, half past and quarter past. P1/2 have been doing lots of writing and are working on putting in more details.

P.2 have been working on indoor and outdoor play and through this have been building on social skills in groups and teams. Through play activities pupils are learning to co-operate with their peers as well as build on their knowledge of literacy and numeracy as well as other curricular areas. They have also been learning about the 5 senses and worked on experiments is using our senses.

P.2/3 have been learning about the Seasons. They have also been learning about living things and what makes things living. In writing they have been learning to write instructions as well as learning addition and subtraction in Maths. For PE they have been doing football and basketball skills.

P.3a have been learning place value and working on addition and subtraction. They have been learning Roman numerals and learning to write instructions. In literacy they have been learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives. In PE they have been doing gymnastics.

P.3b have been looking at weather and climate change and how it affects us. They have also been learning about the Greek religion and they are also looking at witches... (this sounds a bit scary....) In numeracy they have been adding up to 3 or 4 digits as well as learning to subtract well.



In the School (cont'd)



P.4a's class novel is 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. As part of this they have created a business enterprise and they are making chocolates for the Christmas Fayre. They have also been writing persuasive letters to Willy Wonka. Finally, they have also been learning their songs for the Christmas show.



Like P.4a, **P.4b** has been hard at work on their Business enterprise and making a stall for the Christmas Fayre. Their novel is also 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. In maths they have been doing vertical addition (known as chimney sums). They have also been learning to write persuasive letters.

In **P.5a** they have been using split strategies and inverse strategies in Maths (sounds complicated...) They have also been working hard at their French. Their topic is Australia and they have been learning about different time zones.



P.5b's topic is also Australia and they have also been learning about time zones. Their class novel is 'Shark Bait' which is also set in Australia. In Maths they have been learning different mental strategies to help them work.

P.6a has been reading their novel based on WWI called Private Peaceful. They tried trench cake that was sent to real soldiers in WWI. They have been writing postcards to soldiers and drawing tanks in art. They have also been doing French and Spanish lessons online and completed a 5-week session. They completed Bikeability Level 1. In Maths they are working on addition and subtraction strategies.

P.6b have been learning about shapes in their Maths. They have been preparing for their Christmas show. They made trench cake that soldiers ate in WWI. They also sold poppies. Some of the P6s went to basketball tournament at Dunfermline High School and did very well. They are also learning about the body. They have been also been sewing little toys.

In **P.7a** they have been learning about biomes and eco systems and all about the plants. They have also been carrying out air quality monitoring around the school and the local area. This is linked to the air quality monitoring project being undertaken by Fife Council. In Maths they have been working on their multiplication and division. They have been doing lots of writing on a wide range of topics.

P.7b have been learning about World War II. They enjoyed drawing different equipment and then learning facts about it. They also carried out art creating poppies and created a wonderful display outside their class. In Health they have been learning about consent and what that means. In Maths they have been working on multiplication and division and the link between them.



Rights Respecting School

After a blitz on our Rights Respecting School work in Term 1 we were awarded the Rights Respecting School Bronze Award in October. To gain the reward we had to set up our group, make a plan and begin Rights Respecting Assemblies. We have also chosen to work on a 'Right of the Week'. All staff have also carried out or are in the process of carrying out their RRS training. Our next target will be the Silver Award although we expect that this will take much longer to achieve. However, it's no mean feat to get a Bronze Award after just one term so well done to the RRS team and to Miss English for working so hard at this early on.

Well done!

Parents Evenings

We had an excellent turn out for our Parents Evenings. Altogether we had 414 interviews booked and over 400 people attended. That's not bad considering we have 427 pupils on our roll.

Choir

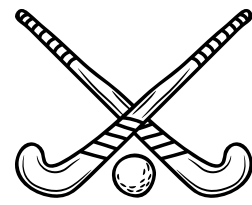


It was great to have a choir re-established in the school. It's been a couple of years since we had one but the children taking part are so enthusiastic and keen to sing.

They recently took part in the Alhambra Gala Concert last week and really enjoyed it. Everyone who was there has described them as fantastic. I was told that they were the last group up on stage singing (clearly because they were the best...). During this finale snow fell on them and they were even joined on stage by Santa and Jim Leishman. Everyone I have spoken to said that they were fantastic. My thanks to Miss English, Mrs Beck, Mrs Dickson, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Newton and anyone else who helped out.



Active Schools



We've had a very busy term with a wide variety of sporting activities taking place. Apart from P.4 and P.6 after school activities (football and basketball) we have taken part in a number of events giving more children than ever the opportunity to represent the school.

Firstly P.7 took part in a hockey tournament. My thanks to CC Rooney in P.7b for writing about this.

'On Tuesday 29th October two P.7 hockey teams headed down to Pitreavie for a very challenging day. Team A started off strong with a 0-0 draw against Bellyeoman whilst team B drew 1-1. Team B unfortunately didn't make it past the groups stage, but as for team A, they had a very tough semi-final losing 1-0 to Commercial. The battle had not stopped yet as they faced St. John's in a fight for 3rd place. They ended with a 2-0 win and snatched the 3rd place shield. They would've slept well that night!

A couple of weeks after this the P.6 pupils took place in a cluster basketball tournament. We took all the P.6 pupils who have been doing the after-school basketball to give them a chance to represent the school. They did extremely well, winning the Dunfermline High School cluster basketball tournament and qualifying for the Fife Finals on Friday 6th December. So well done to all the pupils involved. You were fantastic! (I should probably mention that a number of them had been asking about a basketball team for over a year so when Mrs Mohammed said she liked basketball I knew we were onto a winner).



Active Schools (Con'td)



The P.6 also took part in a football festival at Dunfermline High School. Considering they had never played as a team before and they were playing against P.7 pupils they did exceptionally well. They lost their first game, drew the second and won the third showing improvement across all the games. They showed great potential for the future.

Our girls football team took part in a tournament at Dunfermline High School at the end of November. They were a mixture of P.5 - P.7 girls. The girls did very well and like the other tournament kept improving winning their last 2 games. Adalyn McGurk in P.5 scored a goal making her the youngest person to have ever scored in a game of football for Masterton PS. Well done Adalyn. It is worth mentioning that there has been an explosion in girls' football. A few years ago, we took part in the first girls' football tournament in Fife and there were 6 teams. This time there were 16 teams and this was just from West Fife.

Finally, a group of 20 P.4 and P.5 pupils took part in the 'Fun in Athletics' event at the Carnegie Leisure Centre. They had a great time and were certainly very excited. My thanks to everyone who helped out. It was confirmed the following day that we had finished 4th overall which is fantastic considering it was the first time we had ever done it. Well done to all the pupils in P.4 and P.5 who took part.

WELL
DONE!



Pupil Council

In the last newsletter I said that Jessica Fraser had been chosen to be the Pupil Council rep for P.1a. That would be strange as Jessica Fraser is in P.6a. My apologies as it's **Jessica Ferrier** in P.1a.

Ardroy

P.7 were away at Ardroy during October. I asked Miss English for a 'paragraph' for the newsletter and she wrote me an epistle. However, it was so good I thought I'd include (most) of it.

'What a week! 52 very excited pupils boarded the coach and left a few teary parents behind for a beautiful journey, via Loch Lomond Shores, to Ardroy.

First up, sorting the dorms, unpacking and making beds... Whilst I can't speak for the boys' dorms or those in the cottage, it is probably fair to say that the majority of the girls have now learned a new skill in how to put on a sheet, a duvet cover and pillow cases. So, no more excuses at home!

After getting into their groups, meeting their instructor and getting their outdoor kit for the week, the pupils had their first outdoor activity. Most of the groups did a walk around the site, exploring the beach, splashing in the loch and getting very muddy. They were very happy when the instructor provided hot chocolate and biscuits towards the end.

Aside from the activities, a huge focus at Ardroy is sustainability and the reduction of waste. At every meal, the pupils sat at the same table, with each pupil taking a turn to be a 'waste warrior.' This entailed clearing up the plates at the end of each meal, scraping the waste into a bucket and wiping the tables. At the end of each meal, the bucket of waste was weighed and the amount put up on the board. The instructors were keen for the pupils to learn how to take a small amount of food, come back for more if they enjoyed it or were still hungry, but to eat everything on their plates. We had varying amounts of success over the week however, although we never got down to zero waste, we did manage to get to around 300g on the final morning. This could have been down to it being pancakes! Considering this was a combined total of over 70 pupils and over ten hungry staff members, it was pretty good going. The food was delicious and after all the fresh air, appetites were huge by the evening.

The activities took up most of the day for the pupils. The onsite activities consisted of archery, indoor rock climbing, walks around the site and 'Jacob's Ladder', which was a firm favourite. There were also half day trips out to the local woods to learn how to make fires, (with obligatory marshmallow toasting and hot chocolate), plus learning about the native and non-native plants local wildlife and jumping in and out of the muddiest puddles possible.

Each group had one 'adventure day'. This was agreed with the pupils, with some groups choosing to do abseiling and others deciding that that wasn't for them. These groups either enjoyed a longer time on the loch with a couple of beach stops or hiked up a hill. All of them had the opportunity to try canoeing in a 'rafted' canoe - this was either two or three canoes attached together, depending on the group size. Pupils learned how to work as a team, how to paddle backwards and how to direct the canoe. They also learned about the wildlife and pulled up some of the buoys to see what was growing on the ropes. It's fair to say that some pupils took to canoeing whilst others preferred to have a wee doze whilst in the boats!



Ardroy (Con'td)

The abseiling was a fabulous activity. The pupils had to overcome some nerves to take their first step over the edge, but the feeling of accomplishment when their feet were back on firm ground, was amazing.

If being busy with various activities all day wasn't enough, the pupils then had their evening activities. These consisted of the 'night-line' (where one pupil is blindfolded and led through a series of tunnels and obstacles with their partner), the Labyrinth, (a series of interconnected tunnels which have to be traversed commando style or feet first), a quiz, orienteering and a games night. For those of you who may remember the 'Hungry Hippos' game, the pupils played the human version, whilst lying on a board with wheels and clutching an upturned laundry basket. It was hilarious and very loud!

As a 'first-timer' to Ardroy, there were a couple of things that stood out to me. First and foremost, the confidence and sense of achievement that the pupils felt from overcoming their nerves and fears to trying new challenges, was incredible. For some this was making it one or two steps higher on Jacob's ladder than on their first attempt, or having the courage to go over the top on the abseiling.

Secondly, the way they learned to work as a team, such as during the 'night line' activity (where one pupil was blind folded whilst being guided by their partner), holding the ropes in the indoor climbing wall and on Jacob's Ladder, to working as a team whilst canoeing.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the expertise of the instructors. All the staff members who accompanied the pupils were impressed by the way they encouraged the pupils, gave them autonomy in their choice of activities and supported them to overcome their fears, without pushing them too far if the pupils chose not to do something.

The noise and the buzz in the dining hall each evening, not to mention the amount of food eaten by all the pupils, was testament to the fresh air, exercise and fun that had been had on each day. As for the dorms, I had naively expected that the girls would settle and be asleep quite quickly. However, even after being outside most of the day, it took a wee while for them all to go to sleep. Even the threat of singing them lullabies didn't entice them to settle and nor did my final tactic of putting the clocks forward by ten minutes!

Special thanks must go to Mrs Mitchell, Miss Collins, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Reid for their support and for giving up their time to accompany the pupils this year.'

Miss English
Depute Headteacher

*Thank
you!*

Achievements



I sometimes find out about pupils who have done something very well outside of school. One example of this is Eilidh Thomson (P.3a). She recently took part in a national dance competition (Follow Your Dreams) and did exceptionally well. She became the National Champion in Contemporary solo dance for 7 years and under. She also had many other 2nd and 3rd place finishes in other categories as well as becoming National Champion for her Lyrical Team for 7 years and under.

So, well done to Eilidh who is now the best in Britain! I will be offering Eilidh some specialised dancing lessons from myself in case she wishes to take it to the next level as my moves on the dance floor are legendary....

Dates to Remember



Just a quick reminder of important dates for December/January:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Thursday 5th December | Christmas Fayre | 3.15 - 4.00pm / 4.15 - 5.00pm |
| Thursday 12th December | Christmas Lunch | |
| Monday 16th December | P.4-6 'The Primary School Christmas Musical' | 9.30 - 10.30am / 1.45 - 2.45pm |
| Tuesday 17th December | P.1-3 Christmas Concert | 9.30 - 10.30am / 1.45 - 2.45pm |
| Tuesday 17th December | Christmas Carols & Café | 11.00am - 12.00pm |
| Wednesday 18th December | Pantomime | Afternoon |
| Friday 20th December | School Closes | 3.00pm |
| Monday 6th January 2025 | School Re-opens | 9.00am |



And finally.....

This term has flown past. There has been so much on so far with a lot more to come in the next couple of weeks.

I am hoping to be able to catch up with a lot of people over the next few weeks at the various events and activities taking place. Hopefully you will be able to join us at some point.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

S Humphries
Headmaster

