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MASTERTON NEWS

DESIGN: THANA MITCHELL

FEBRUARY 2025



Masterton Choir

Choir is going to be starting up again after the February break for P4-7 pupils. This will be on a Thursday afternoon from 3.00-3.45pm. Letters have been given out to those pupils who expressed an interest but please get in touch with Miss English should your child wish to come along.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Masterton Choir**
- **In the School**
- **Food Waste**
- **Severe Weather**
- **Parent Council**
- **Scottish Poetry**

It's been a very quick term so far. The school has been buzzing and January just flew past. It's also beginning to get lighter at nights which is a good feeling. With the mid-term holiday coming up shortly Spring is just around the corner. Hopefully...

In the School

At the end of last year our P.6 pupils took part in the Fife Basketball Finals having qualified through winning the cluster competition. With it being the Fife Finals the competition was fierce. However, the team did extremely well finishing 3rd in the Plate competition. They conducted themselves with excellent sportsmanship and played very well against all the teams they were up against so well done to the P.6 team of Beatrice Hamilton, Ollie Bisset, Graeme Fisher, Harry Sinclair, Evan Murray, Iona McDowall, Myles Rankine and Jack Greer.

The enrolment for the new P.1 pupils started at the beginning of January. We started with a bang with over 40 enrolments within the first few days before it settled to a more normal pace. The window for P.1 enrolment is still open until March. If you know of any families in the area who have yet to enrol their child/ren please ask them to do so as it helps us work out numbers for next session.

Destination Judo were in the school delivering taster sessions. This proved to be very popular and looked to be great fun. Every class in the school had the opportunity to take part in a taster session.

After school football has recommenced this session with the P.3 pupils being given the opportunity to take part. All the spaces were taken up very quickly which is great. This will run for most of Term 3.

After school basketball has also recommenced with the P.7 pupils being given the opportunity to take part. Once again all the spaces were taken up very quickly.

The P.7 Brass instrument players recently took part in the Fife Festival of Music. Mrs Dowall the brass teacher said they did exceptionally well and were a credit to the school so well done to everyone who took part. That's Ari Stewart, Lucy Gallagher, Reyyan Boyaci, Amber Swanson, CC Rooney, Owen Gallagher and Aaroh Mohapatra.



In the School (Cont'd)

The team from the PARS Foundation were in working with P.7 on their PARS Tackle Health programme. This is a programme whereby the coaches come in and do some teaching about Health and Wellbeing, then some games/training takes place before a couple of PARS players come in and speak to the pupils. Following the visit we received an email from the people involved in the event and I felt it was important to share part of this email.

'Sandy and I agreed that they were immaculately behaved and fully focussed throughout, and demonstrated good knowledge of the H&WB outcomes.'

So a big well done to P.7 for your behaviour, focus and understanding.



FES who operate the school were very generous and recently bought us a defibrillator. This now sits in the front entrance at the office and can be seen as you enter. We are in the process of registering it with The Circuit who have a database of all the defibrillators in the UK. I am hopeful that we will never have to use it but in the event that we do, we now know that it's there.

The South Dunfermline Community Council very generously bought us a couple of very large Connect 4 games for our playground. We will get these out for the pupils to play with as the weather improves.



Severe Weather



It was a bit of a surprise when the school was closed due to the severe winds recently. I had watched the weather forecast the night before not particularly concerned but during the day after the red weather warning appeared it became clear that something was going to happen.

It is a rarity that the school is closed like this but certainly on this occasion it was, in my opinion, the correct decision. We were very fortunate that no damage occurred to the school and we were able to re-open on the Monday without any issues.

As I said in a letter earlier on this session if there was a school closure we would have a short meeting in the afternoon. Apart from some technical issues setting it up we went ahead with it and it seemed to go well with. It was good to have so many people on the call during the Friday afternoon, 131 in total. Hopefully this will be the only time we have to do this this year.

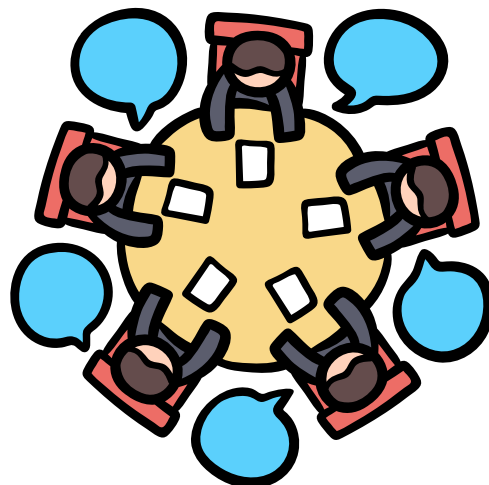
Parent Council

The Parent Council meets every school term and works in partnership with the school to discuss collective areas from parents or from the school, alongside meeting with local councillors when concerns arise for example speed limits, IT provision. Regular updates are also provided from the Friends of Masterton Primary School (Fromps), the gala representative and the Head Teacher.

The Parent Council also has oversight of any fundraising and this year has worked to put in a process to help the sustainability of what funding is used for, for example, the purchase of equipment for every school class, funding for class activities but also yearly supports the blue bags for P1, year books for P7 and contributes to the P7 leaving activities.

The Parent Council are a friendly bunch but would like to see more parents/carers come along to help keep momentum. They are also looking for some new members as they will need a new Chair and Vice Chair from August 2025. If this is something you would like to find out more about then please come along to our meetings. The next meeting is due to take place at the school on Tuesday the 25th of February 2025, 6:30-8:30pm. Regular information on meetings are publicised via Facebook.

Luisa Walker, Parent Council Chair



Food Waste

As you know we are focusing upon trying to reduce the food waste in the dinner hall. The Eco Group are continuing to record the amount of waste produced.

In the last few weeks it is noticeable that there are certain days where the food waste is higher. The highest waste so far has come from Menu 2 with sausages and mash as well as the chicken in gravy. The consistent message from pupils who throw away large quantities of food is that they do not like it.

With this in mind, please continue to discuss the menu options with your child. With your help, we can hopefully reduce the amount of food that is wasted every day. Thank you.



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, Nana Barbara and myself). The standard was very high with lots of quality performances. After deliberating the following pupils were chosen as the winners:

- 1st Ava Beck (P5b)**
- 2nd Luna Stevenson (P6b)**
- 3rd Harry Sinclair (P6a)**

Well done to all the pupils who learned their poems.



Dates

A quick reminder of dates for this term.

Wednesday 12th February	In-Service Day (School closed to pupils)
Thursday 13th February	Holiday (School closed to pupils)
Friday 14th February	Holiday (School closed to pupils)
Tuesday 25th February	Shared Start 9:10 - 9:40am Parent Council 6:30 - 8:30pm
Tuesday 18th March	Parents Evening 3:30 - 6:30pm
Thursday 20th March	Parents Evening 4:15 - 7:15pm
Friday 28th March	Easter Disco
Friday 4th April	School closes 3:00pm

Please note also that the date of the **Dunfermline Children's Gala** has changed from Saturday 21st June to **Saturday 28th June**.

And finally.....

I was recently made aware that Oliver Rankine (P.7b) has been playing cricket for Dunfermline and Carnegie Comets for 2 years. At their recent awards ceremony he was presented the 'Coaches Award' for his exceptional attitude towards his team mates and the game. It was great to hear this as I had no idea that Oliver played cricket nor was doing so well. Well done to Oliver!

Another thing that I was made aware of was that an ex-pupil Jamie Forrest signed for Dundee United. I was chuffed to bits for him because he has worked so hard to get to this point so a big well done to him. However, it would have been better if it was for Dunfermline Athletic.....

Regards

S Humphries
Headmaster

