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MASTERTON NEWS

DESIGN: THANA MITCHELL

MAY 2025



Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO)

We recently took part in a 'Stand Against Speeding' initiative with the community police. We created a Junior Road Safety Team who joined police officers to take tallies of passing vehicles on Aberdour Road outside the school. They did very well and helped remind vehicles to stay within the speed limit. Our JRSO team will continue to be involved in communicating Road Safety messages throughout the school session.



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I think that we have been a bit spoiled with the fantastic weather this month. The sun has split the sky and every day has been great. It lifts the spirits too. Hopefully it continues (with any rain taking place at night when we are sleeping).

STEM

On 24th April two groups of pupils from P7b went along to The Carnegie Conference Centre to celebrate a day of STEM. The class had taken part in the STEMOVATERS project on being 'Climate Smarter' and Reyyan, Amber, Millie & Bailey created an eco 'Homeless Shelter' with solar powered heated blankets and rainwater filtration system. The girls linked in the UNCRC Rights of the child and looked at the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and picked out No Poverty and Zero Hunger as well as Clean Water and Sanitation as the most important goals to focus on for homeless people.

The other group consisted of Gregor, Mia, Noelle and Adi who created an eco 'Hospital' and had self-charging ambulances, patient entertainment at their bedside from coded microbits. They had also looked at the UNCRC Rights of the child and Global Goals and focussed on goal 3, good health and well-being and looked at ways a hospital could be more sustainable.

Both groups underwent various STEM challenges throughout the day which were led by lots of visiting local businesses and learned which skills they would require for a world of work in STEM. They enjoyed a question and answer session with some of SHELL's workers who had sponsored the day's event. They then had a slot to present to the visiting judges and a prize giving presentation at the end of the day. Everyone had a great day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Mrs Wilson P7



Masterton Mile

The Masterton Mile took place on Friday 16th May. It was a gorgeous day with the sun splitting the sky. It was great to see so many pupils taking part, some running, some walking, some racing and some just dawdling around enjoying the walk. It's very much a community event and an important part of our calendar.

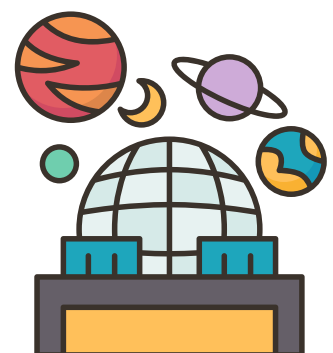
We raised just over **£9,000** – a fantastic amount!!



Any funds raised will be spent for the benefits of the children. This year we will be asking the children for ideas as to what we should spend the money on. No doubt they will come up with lots of different ideas but hopefully we can decide on something which benefits everyone.

Planetarium

P.4a and 4b had a visit from the Planetarium related to their space project. It looked great taking up the whole hall. All the pupils I asked said it was great and really interesting.



Scottish Book Trust - Silver Reading Award



A Silver Lining for the Summer Term

Many congratulations to all staff and pupils for achieving our Reading Schools Silver accreditation!

The Reading Schools programme, developed by Scottish Book Trust, is an accreditation programme for schools that are committed to building a reading culture for their learners and communities. The programme supports schools to build a reading culture, where every pupil is encouraged to feed their imagination through books. There are three levels of accreditation - Core (Bronze), Silver and Gold. Last March, we achieved our Core accreditation and we have spent the last year working towards our Silver accreditation.

Staff have been busy undertaking a variety of professional development activities to enhance the way that we teach reading skills and finding out more about the positive benefits of reading for pleasure. Our Reading Ambassadors have been helping with the organisation of our libraries, celebrating our authors of the month and suggesting new materials for our class libraries. Finally, all of our classes have been engaging with so many books, in so many ways, that it would be impossible to write about them all, but much of this work went on to form the evidence for our award.

We hope that everyone will continue to support us to maintain our reading culture and encourage reading for pleasure by engaging in our various reading themed activities throughout the year. Highlights from the past year include our celebrations for World Book Day, gifting of book bags, book swap events, the purchase of many hundreds of new books, trips to the library and organising of paired reading buddies for many classes. Look out for information about the Summer Reading Challenge set by the librarians. Announcements will be made soon at assemblies and shared with families thereafter.

Mrs Stirling

reading
goals



Achievements

As anyone who reads the newsletter knows I like to include a bit about significant achievements of pupils outside of school. Well, I was recently informed that Abbie Innes (P6.b) and her partners were crowned Scottish Champions at the Scottish Acrobatic Gymnastics finals in March. This meant that they qualified to compete at the British finals.

WELL DONE!

Last weekend they represented Scotland at the British Acrobatic NDP finals at Stoke and brought home a bronze medal for Scotland. That is a fantastic achievement and to finish 3rd in the UK is outstanding. Well done to Abbie!



Sports

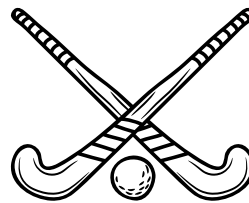


The school football team took part in the St Margaret's Football Festival at the start of May. We were very fortunate as the weather was dry and warm. The team did exceptionally well finishing runners-up overall.

We have now qualified for the last 4 Fife Cups being the only Primary School in Fife (that I know of) who have managed this. We are looking forward to taking part at the end of the month.

Following this we took part in the Dunfermline HS Fife Cup qualifying tournament. This was a highly competitive tournament where the winners went through to the Fife Cup final. After 3 very tough matches we emerged as winners qualifying for the Fife Cup at the end of the month. I was very pleased for the team as they battled so hard against some very strong teams.

Miss English took a team of pupils to take part in a Hockey Tournament at Pitreavie. They had a very enjoyable day and were a credit to the school. Well done to all the pupils who took part!



Classes

Next session, 2025/2026, the school is likely to be the biggest it has ever been with around 440 pupils (I think this is the 4th year in a row when it has grown to be at its biggest). As a consequence of this we are likely to have very little wriggle room when creating classes.

At this point the **most likely** structure of classes across the school will be as follows:

P.7a and P.7b
P.6a and P.6b
P.5a and P.5b
P.4a and P.4b
P.3a and P.3b
P.2a and P.2b
P.1/2, P.1a and P.1b

P.4, 5, 6 and 7 are capped at a maximum of 33 pupils.

P.2 and 3 are capped at a maximum of 30.

P.1 and P.1/2 are capped at a maximum of 25.

As you can probably tell a number of classes in the Upper School will most likely move on without any changes. Some restructuring will need to be carried out further down the school. It is also worth noting that we will be at capacity at a number of stages and will be unable to take any new pupils during the new session unless someone leaves.

Whilst I am relatively clear on the number and make up of most classes, staffing has still to be resolved. As always there will be some changes to the teachers. As soon as I am able to let you know, I will do so as I always feel the earlier I do so the better.

Parent Council

The Parent Council had its last meeting of the year in May. All minutes from the Parent Council are added to the school website.

Due to pupils moving on from P.7 to S.1 a number of members of the Parent Council will be leaving and positions will become available. Mrs Luisa Walker (Chair) and Mr David Adamson (Vice Chair) will be leaving. I'd like to thank both of them for all the hard work they have put in over the years. It's not always easy trying to be the chair and link in with the school and parents but Mrs Walker has done a remarkable job showing patience and leadership. The Parent Council is now in a very strong position to help lead the school forward in the next few years.

Amanda Fyffe (Gala rep and organiser) will also be leaving as her son moves to High School. A big thank you to Mrs Fyffe as well. The Gala is always a great event and part of the heritage of Dunfermline.

As you can imagine we will be looking for new members of the Parent Council. In the meantime, Mrs Donna Henderson (Treasurer) will be stepping in as interim chair (as you can't be both treasurer and chair for an extended period of time) and Miss Nicole Hendrix as Vice Chair.

The Parent Council has a very important role in the school. They provide support and challenge. During meetings we discuss important items related to the school as well as discuss fund raising events.

The Parent Council also has a critical role during events like, for example, HMle visits (His Majesty's Inspectors of Education - not that we are expecting a visit). They also take part in the recruitment of the senior leadership team. For example, two members of the Parent Council sat on the interview panel when Mrs Mohammed was recruited. They were also consulted by the Local Authority when the catchment area was reconfigured and High Schools changed. All very important changes which needed a strong parent voice to be heard.

Come August dates for meetings will be shared and you are welcome to come along to meetings. Sometimes people just come along and listen to meetings until they understand how it fully works before becoming involved. There are also opportunities to help out at school discos, fayres etc. This is sometimes though the fundraising arm of the Parent Council (FRoMPS - Friends of Masterton Primary School). There will be lots of opportunities to become involved so if you think it is something which might interest you, look out for meeting dates in August. There is 1 meeting per term as well as the AGM so in total 5 across the year.

Parent Council



Dates

Just a quick reminder of the dates for the rest of the term.

Monday 2nd June	Holiday (School closed to pupils)
Tuesday 3rd June	InService Day (School closed to pupils)
Wednesday 4th June	Potted Sports (In school only)
Thursday 5th June	School Sports (Parents may attend) 9.30 -10.30 P.1 - 2/3 11.15 - 12.15 P.3 - 4 1.30 - 2.30 P.5- 7
Friday 13th June (Provisional Date)	Reports Out
Friday 13th June	Summer Sizzle (More information to come out soon)
Saturday 28th June	Dunfermline Children's Gala
Wednesday 2nd July	P.7 Leavers Assembly (P.7 Parents only)
Wednesday 2nd July	P.7 Leavers Evening
Thursday 3rd July	School closes at 3 pm for the summer holidays

Please may I remind you that no photographs should be taken during events unless it is only of your child/children.

And finally.....

As we head into June there will be lots of information coming out about classes, school reports, teachers and events. Keep an eye out for emails. Although I have set provisional dates for everything there can be a bit of slippage for whatever reason, but I do like to try to keep to the set timeline. Hopefully I will be able to see you at some of the different events we have going on over the next few weeks.

Regards

S Humphries
Headteacher

