



Mr S Humphries - Headteacher
Miss E English - Depute Headteacher
Mrs N Mohammed - Depute Headteacher
Tel: 01383 602455

MASTERTON NEWS

DESIGN: THANA MITCHELL

FEBRUARY 2026



IN THIS ISSUE:

Dunfermline Children's Gala

Just a quick heads up about the Gala. The Gala will take place on Saturday 27th June. The theme this year is 'Sci-fi and Superheroes'. Lots more information to come over the next few weeks. I have spoken to Mrs Reid as she is our new Gala rep so she will be working closely with the school over the next few months to make this happen.

- Dunfermline Children's Gala
- In The School
- Transforming Learning
- Reminders
- Leavers

Although Term 3 is usually dark and miserable I always look upon this term as the term where we get a lot of learning done.

It's a long term and there aren't too many interruptions so we can focus upon learning and that's exactly what we have been doing so far this year.



In the School

A quick word from Mrs Beck about something which happened at the end of last term which didn't make it into the last newsletter.

The Dunfermline Children's Gala hosted an annual Christmas Concert at the Alhambra Theatre featuring choirs from various Dunfermline primary schools. For the second year running our school choir took part in this, performing three songs, 'When Christmas comes to town', 'Grandma got run over by a Reindeer' and 'Step into Christmas'. The children's dedication and commitment was evident to everyone who came along to support them. The choir should be immensely proud of how well they represented our school and we look forward to seeing their next performance as they take part in Scotland's Glee challenge.

Mrs Beck



Well done to everyone involved and a big thank you to Mrs Beck, Mrs Dickson and Miss English for giving up their time to take the choir.



The school basketball team have done extremely well recently once again qualifying for the finals of the Junior NBA. Mrs Mohammed described a very hard fought and tense qualifying campaign with no-one knowing the results until the following morning. However the team did very well qualifying for the finals which take place later this term. Well done to everyone involved!

Well done!

We have had a number of karate taster sessions over the last few weeks. JKS have been in and taken every class to give them this opportunity. It seems to have gone well with all the pupils I have spoken to enjoying it.

Transforming Learning

As part of Fife Council's Transforming Learning project the P.6 and 7 pupils received their iPads on Thursday 22nd January. To say there was excitement in the air that day is an understatement as I could hear a chant of 'iPads, iPads' in one of the lines. I quickly put a stop to that. The day went smoothly and all pupils who were in got their new iPads. I have yet to spend much time in the P.6 and P.7 classes for them to show me what they are learning but intend to do this over the coming weeks.



Transforming Learning (Cont'd)

As a staff we are all working hard on trying to develop our iPad skills and undergoing regular training. Some of us are finding it straightforward whereas other (myself included) are taking a little bit longer to get into the swing of things. No doubt we'll get there.

I would like to thank Mrs Stirling for leading on this for us. She has spent many hours sorting password, codes and things that I don't fully understand for the children to ensure that it was straightforward and smooth delivery.

One thing I will say is that there needs to be a balance between screen time and being active. Whilst we will develop our skills on the iPad, I don't want any children sitting glued to a screen all day and all night. Physical exercise, socialising and being outside is more important than a screen. Our lessons in school will also remain a mixture of everything.



Reminders

I have noticed that we have had an increase in the number of pupils arriving slightly late. Usually it is only a few minutes late but it has been noticeable. It is important that pupils arrive on time as there are lots of important things take place in the first 15 minutes so being late can cause a lot of issues. Please can you ensure that your son / daughter arrive in time for school. If late they need to enter via the front door so they can be accounted for on our registration system.

Don't Forget

Also, please can you ensure that your son / daughter has everything they need for the day. We have recently had a lot of things forgotten and handed in at the office. Although we don't usually take forgotten items the office staff have been very accommodating and have taken forgotten items. However, if they do forget items we have lots of items available that they can use. For example, if a child forgets their water bottle we have cups available in the class specifically for this. If they forget their pencil case we have all sorts of resources they can use. If they forget their coat we can provide a coat. If they forget their lunchbox, we can provide a lunch etc. There is very little that we can't provide as a school so don't worry if they have forgotten something because they won't go without.

**Don't
Worry**



**They won't go
without!**

Leavers

We will miss you!

It is with sadness that we have to say goodbye to a couple of members of staff. Mrs Mohammed will be leaving us to return to her position at Milesmark PS. I would personally like to thank Mrs Mohammed for her time at Masterton. She has been an asset to the school and nothing was ever too much. She worked ceaselessly for the children and her focus was upon doing everything she could to help and support them. I will miss Mrs Mohammed and no doubt she will end up in a permanent DHT position at another school shortly. Our loss is Milesmark's gain.

Mrs McNeill will also be leaving us taking early retirement. Mrs McNeil and I go back a long, long way. We carried out our teacher training together at Moray House many years ago and actually did our final placement together at Camdean PS in Rosyth before becoming teachers. We then never saw each other for many years as our careers took different paths. During this time Mrs McNeil had a wide and varied career being a HT, DHT and teacher at different times and different schools (as well as having four children). Finally around 11 years ago, she ended up at Masterton and has been here ever since. I would describe her as one of the pillars of the school with her strong and unwavering commitment to the job and dry sense of humour. In all the years I've known her she has never changed. I will be sad to see her leave (although no doubt will end up calling her at some point to carry out some supply work). Mrs McNeil intends to travel during her retirement as she has always enjoyed traveling to exotic places.

Enjoy your retirement Mrs McNeil. You have earned it!



Mrs Urquhart who previously worked at the school will be taking Mrs McNeil's place. We would like to welcome her back to the school.



And finally.....

As the short break takes place I'm looking forward to the days getting a bit brighter and a bit longer. I always see this holiday as the turning point in winter with Spring just around the corner.

Regards

S Humphries
Headmaster

