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MASTERTON NEWS

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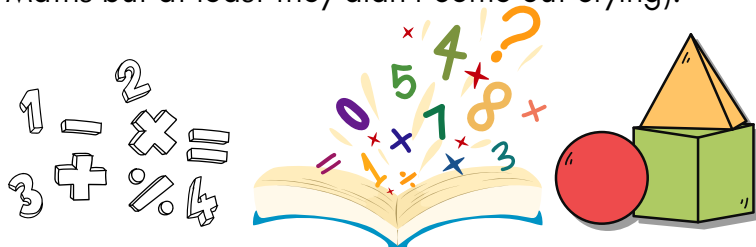


As per usual Term 4 has been very busy. It's always the busiest term in any primary school and this has been no different. No doubt I will have forgotten to add things so apologies if that's the case.

Enterprising Maths Challenge

3 pupils from P.7 took part in the Dunfermline High School 'Enterprising Maths Challenge'. It was the first time we've been able to send pupils to it because in previous years we've been too busy so it was good to be able to do this.

The team seemed to 'enjoy' their day of Maths (I'm not sure I'd use the word enjoy when it comes to Maths but at least they didn't come out crying).



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It felt strange writing this newsletter this month. It is my final newsletter for Masterton PS (or any school for that matter). After 36 years in teaching and 22 years as a headteacher this is it. I've written over 100 newsletters and probably only half of them were worth reading (maybe less).

In the School



A team of P.6 and P.7 girls took part in a girls' football tournament down at Pitreavie. They did very well winning 4 games and losing 3. Considering it was the first time they had played together as a team I was very pleased. Even the teams that beat us weren't miles ahead of us. A special mention goes to Sophia Murphy who scored directly from a corner. It's a rarity to see this happen. Well done to all the girls who took part.

On another very positive note the owners of the school building, Emblem, bought us a whole set of new football strips so that we now have a 'Home' and 'Away' kit. I would like to thank them for this. We wore the strips for the first time during our friendly game against Kelty PS and then during the Gary Riddell tournament. It should be noted that much to everyone's surprise the new strips are black and white vertical stripes. I wonder which team has a similar strip.....

Rotary Quiz

The Rotary Quiz team took part in the East of Scotland District Final in Aberdeen on Saturday 20th June. Following a very intense quizzing session they finished 4th overall. This was a fantastic result considering that over 300 schools took part. Well done to Evan Murray, Iona McDowall, Ajo Vignesh Srinivash and Rory Morton. I have to comment that they were undoubtedly one of the most committed quiz teams we have ever had. They spent so many lunchtimes/break times revising for the quiz that I'm not surprised they did so well. True dedication.



Balgownie Mains Farm

Primary 2 visited Balgownie Mains Farm near Culross at the end of May thanks to the Royal Highland Education Trust. It was a fabulous opportunity to connect our topic of "Food: From Farm to Fork" to real life experiences.

We walked through a huge field of wheat to visit Highland cows before meeting all of the other cattle at the farm. We saw the calves and the cows and most of us got a wee nuzzle or nibble from them! We met an extremely cheeky goat called Dougal and learned about how wheat is transformed from the plants we saw in the field to food for animals and humans. We even got to sit in a tractor!

It was an amazing day with amazing weather and we learned so much. Huge thanks to Claire at RHET and Maggie at Balgownie Mains for their hospitality.

Mr Cardus

In the School (Cont'd)

The P.1 pupils had a visit from Zoolab. Many revolting creatures were produced including a Fireball Python, an Australian Stick Insect, a Giant African Snail, a tarantula, North African Gerbils and African Bullfrogs. The children seemed to love the creatures and getting to handle them. On a personal level I would struggle to think of something I would less like to do than handle a tarantula.

P.5 had their iPads deployed to them in preparation for their move into P.6 next session. They are currently in the school and being used in class. When they move into P.6 they will be able to take them and use them at home.

Sports Day went well and we were blessed with the weather. There's been many a freezing cold sports day with drizzle in the air, which are not very enjoyable. However, the day stayed dry and relatively warm. In the afternoon Tesco very kindly handed in around 3 large trays of apples for the children during the day. We have a very good relationship with Tesco and they are always good to us, supporting us at many different events and occasions. All in all a good day.

8 pupils from P4 participated in the Dunfermline Mini Wimbledon Tournament on Tuesday 2nd June. Each pupil played several singles matches on a mini court against others in their group, before a well-earned lunch break. In the afternoon, the top schools in each of the four groups played for the medal positions and the other teams fought it out for the lower positions. Masterton 1 came top in their team and came 4th overall, whilst Masterton 2 came 5th overall. This was a fantastic achievement as some of the pupils had never played tennis before. It was wonderful to see their confidence improving with each match. The pupils had a wonderful day and it was great to see them chatting to other players, showing good sportsmanship and most of all, having lots of fun on the tennis courts. The atmosphere was superb and the weather stayed kind to us. Well done to all the players!

Miss English



Fife Music Instructors' Concert

On Wednesday 3rd June, all the Primary 5 pupils travelled the short distance to King's Road Primary School for the Fife Music Instructors' Concert. We were treated to a wonderful hour of listening to a full orchestra playing some familiar tunes, (including K Pop Demon Hunters!), followed by different groups within the orchestra playing together. This included a traditional Scottish music section with fiddles, a clarsach and drums, a piano piece with eight hands and pieces with two bagpipers and a bass drum; it was very loud! The morning ended with a rousing rendition of 'Flower of Scotland', with audience participation.

The pupils were engaged throughout, and it was great to see them practising their conducting skills, tapping along to the beat and learning about each section of the orchestra. We are very fortunate that Primary 5 had the opportunity to work with Mrs Mair earlier on in the year, as part of the Fife Youth Music Initiative, and that the Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils are offered the chance to have free brass tuition with Mrs Dowall.

Miss English



My Thanks to.....

I would like to thank Thana Mitchell for her editing of the newsletter and making it much more accessible over the last few years. A few years ago, during a conversation she offered to do some design work on my newsletters. I don't think she expected to be doing the newsletter for the next 4 years on the back of one conversation. However, I am genuinely very grateful to her.

During my time at Masterton there have been so many people who have worked here that I have lost count. Every person has made a valuable contribution towards the school in whichever area they have worked. This includes PSAs, teachers, janitors, gardeners, cooks, office staff, DHTs, supply staff, Out of School Club.... The list is endless. I'd like to thank every one of them for making Masterton what it is today. I'd also like to thank all the parents who have supported the school over my time here whether through being a member of the Parent Council/FROMPS or whether just turning up to events. Most of all I'd like to thank the children for just being brilliant. The pupils at Masterton are special and make the school a special place.

**THANK
YOU!**

thanks
for your
support

And finally.....



When I arrived at Masterton in January 2012 I didn't expect to still be here in 2026. Around that time I generally stayed places for 3 - 5 years and then moved on. I don't quite know what happened but here I am in 2026 after 14 and a half years. It will be strange in August when I don't have to go into the school the week before and start setting things up/preparing for the InService. Mind you I'm not complaining about it.

Over my time at Masterton I've always tried my hardest to do the 'right thing', whatever that means. I've focussed upon the children and trying to ensure that the school is a good place for them. I've tried to be visible and accessible. In fact one of the highlights of my day is sitting in the playground talking to the P.1s and 2s as they come out the dinner hall.

On the day the children start back in August I intend to be up a hill just before 9am. At 9am as the bell goes I will wander aimlessly over the tops and enjoy a walk in the sun enjoying nature. In reality I will probably be lashing down with sweat, the rain will be pouring and I'll be getting eaten alive by midges. I'm looking forward to it.....

Regards

S Humphries - Headteacher

enjoy
SUMMER

Happy
HOLIDAYS