



Kilsyth Primary

Our School
Vision:

High
Expectations
for All

Pride in Our
School

Ambition to
Achieve and
Succeed

Rights and
Responsibilities



We follow our
4 school values
and aim to be:

Responsible
Citizens,

Successful
Learners,

Effective
Contributors,

Confident
Individuals

September / October 2015 Newsletter

Hello and welcome to our Term 1 Newsletter

Our first term has come to a close, how fast time flies with all the busy work that has taken place in Kilsyth Primary. In this newsletter each class will update you with the learning that has been taking place.. We have news from the Parent Council, School Blog, School Improvement, Clubs and Key dates for your diary including parent's Night on Wednesday 7th October. I look forward to seeing you all then.

Louise Duncan

School Blog

This year we intend to give our school Blog a high profile. It is envisaged that the Blog will be the principal way in which the school communicates with parents and the Community and will urge you to visit it on a regular basis. We have a Blog already but at present we are updating it to reflect daily school news and posts from each class. We hope in the future to link it to a Twitter Feed so you can have instant feedback of what is happening in school. It will take over from newsletters that will become a termly rather than 2 monthly issue. We will keep you up to date with the progress of the Blog. In the meantime you can visit our blog yet please bear in mind that it is continually being re-populated with up to date information.

The link is:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/KPSBlog/>

Head Lice

From time to time it is good practice for us to ask parents to check their child's hair for head lice. Now is one of those times that we would recommend you to be extra vigilant and take some time to check your child's hair.

Clubs A number of school clubs will be up and running after the October holidays including Fundamental games aimed at the younger classes, Football for older classes, Glee Club and lots more. We are bringing a professional coach in to school to work with the children and so there will be a small charge of £1 a week but I am sure you will agree that this is excellent value for a quality Service. Other clubs will also charge this small fee to be used for resources and props.

Kilbowie

Our pupils all had a truly wonderful time at Kilbowie Outdoor Education Centre last month. The pupils enjoyed absolutely fantastic weather and so could enjoy many outdoor water sports to the full including sailing, canoeing, gorge walking and other pursuits such as climbing, safari and of course the Thursday Night Disco. Thank you to all the P7 for their exemplary behaviour and to all the staff Miss Rooney, Miss Marshall and Mr Rankin for accompanying the children. I am very grateful for the personal time you gave up to be there for the children. I also enjoyed a 2 day visit for the first time and have to say that the care and attention the staff at Kilbowie give the pupils is second to none. I would like to extend my thanks also to the staff there for everything they do to ensure the pupils enjoy a truly memorable experience.



We value your views. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries or concerns.

P1

In term one the P1s have settled in very well to their new school surroundings. They have been working very hard on forming and recognising their numbers to 10 and also phonemes/common words from the active literacy programme. Through a variety of play based activities and group activities the children are enjoying developing both numeracy and literacy skills through fun contexts. The children have also been learning about the five senses topic in science. They have enjoyed going outdoors to listen for sounds, participated in our taste and smell experiments. Play activities on a daily basis have ensured the children are set purposeful learning challenges based around their topic All About Me in a fun and stimulating environment ensuring a smoother transition from nursery. Next term will be just as enjoyable for the p1s with lots more exciting topics and experiences for learning!



P2/3

The children in Primary 2/3 have been out and about looking for signs of autumn. They made sketches of a tree in autumn, collected some interesting seeds and leaves and created some lovely pencil drawings of these to add to their autumn display. The children have enjoyed sampling a range of autumn berries including blackberries and blueberries.

In class the children have been carrying out a science investigation to discover what a healthy plant needs to grow. They have used cress seeds for this and are looking forward to eating their plants at the end of their experiment.



P4

Primary 4 have been working on the Human Body for our topic work. We have been learning new vocabulary associated with the skeleton and have learnt new scientific terminology for the bones. We have carried out investigation by measuring our bones linking this with our numeracy work. We are learning about the focus of the blood in our bodies and have carried out research using the website kids health on the i-pads. Our topic work links in with our literacy.

P4/5 Primary 4/5 have settled in well to their new classroom. The class have set their own class rules and personal targets for the term. The pupils have been working on place value, addition and subtraction during maths time. Lots of discussion has taken place about positive role models and who the children look up to. The pupils have also been experiencing their own rights and the responsibilities. The class will also be exploring the history of Britain in their new topic 'The Romans'. The pupils have the opportunity to become the class VIP for the week too. Those who have shown consistent hard work will be chosen and rewarded by being given the opportunity to sit at the class 'Star Zone' for the week.

P6

Primary 6 have settled very well into their new class and are working very hard in all curricular areas. In literacy they completed narrative stories and read the Enormous Crocodile. They have thoroughly enjoyed it. In maths they have focused upon data handling in which they conducted a school survey. They have also been extending their knowledge of number in place value up to a million. The class have been extended their knowledge of Roald Dahl and studied him in their class topic work. Work included portraits, keynote presentation skills and creating their own version of the Oompah Loompah song. The class showed great maturity in helping the younger children in the school on the themed Roald Dahl Day. Well done P6!

P7

The class are focusing on three novels at the moment: Fantastic Foxes are reading 'The Eye of the Wolf' by Daniel Pennac; Chocolate Factories are reading 'Natasha's Will' by Joan Lingard; Giant Peaches are reading 'The Thief Lord' by Cornelia Flunke

We have looked at our prior knowledge and our expectations of the novels, as well as working on our visualisation and metalinguistics strategies. We are beginning to look at how to layout main ideas of a chapter, and will also be moving on to doing some inference work with these novels shortly! The class have had a chance to share information about their novels during class and peer discussions, and have made some interesting predictions about characters/plot lines!

In maths, we are focusing on our addition and subtraction strategies, and we are using Heinemann Active to explore different strategies for addition and subtraction of a wide range of numbers. We are focusing on mental strategies at present, and are using a range of activities to explore different strategies and decide which ones are most useful for certain types of sums.

We are currently working on our Global Citizenship Topic. So far, we have been exploring the history and development of human rights, and why they are so important within our society. We have used lots of different thinking routines to decide which rights we think are more/less important to us, and have begun to research the differences in how rights are met in our country compared with other countries around the world. In exploring the rights within these countries we have started to learn a little about the different cultures of other world countries, and have been able to see that sometimes rights can be met in different ways in different countries.

Additional News

Parent Council

The Parent Council took place last month. Thank you to everyone who came along.

The following parents were elected to office:

Chair Person - Jayne Fotheringham

Secretaries - Kirsty Hamilton and Nicola Abate

Treasurers - Sandra McCartney and Nicola Burns

Playground/HT liaison - Frances Swindells.

The parent Council have undertaken a Mary's Meals Back pack collection and have set dates for the Parent Council Discos these are:

Halloween Disco - Thurs 29th October 6.30 - 8.00pm;

February Disco - Thursday 18th February;

May Disco - Wednesday 25th May.

Thank you to all members for your continued hard work and commitment to the school.

Key Dates for Term Two:

Tues 27th Oct
Parent Council
6.30pm

Thurs 29th
Oct
Parent Council
Disco

Friday 6th Nov
P4/5 Parent
Assembly

Friday 13th
Nov
Interim
Reports
to Parents

Monday 16th
Nov
In-Service
Day

Friday 20th
Nov
School Panto

Tues 24th Nov
Parent Council
6.30pm

Friday 27th
Nov
Xmas Fayre

School Inspections

Last session the school was inspected by Local Authority through a School Improvement Visit and a formal Inspection by Education Scotland. Each visit endorsed the work of the school over the last 2 years and gave guidance and support for continuing our journey of improvement

This inspection found the following key strengths.

- Very courteous, enthusiastic and confident children who enjoy their learning and are proud of their school.
- Clear and effective systems which ensure well-matched support for children who require additional support in their learning.
- Staff teamwork to improve children's learning experiences.
- The strong and effective leadership of the headteacher in developing and moving the school forward.

We discussed with staff and North Lanarkshire Council how they might continue to improve the school. This is what we agreed with them.

- The school should continue to develop the curriculum.
- As planned, the school should continue to raise attainment.
- With the support of North Lanarkshire Council, the school should ensure that developments continue as planned.

We were delighted that the inspection was positive and successful and are already planning ahead to the future. Our improvement priorities include

- Continuing to develop planning, assessment, moderation across the curriculum
- Continue to develop Health and Wellbeing
- Continue to develop approaches to support all our learners

We will also be involved in raising attainment through the School Attainment Challenge.

Telephone / Text Messages We ask that you telephone the school as soon as possible on the first day of your child's absence to prevent the school from contacting you. If you do not contact the school then the school will endeavour to contact you as soon as possible. The school will now have to pay for every text message sent to parents. Last year our bill reached over £600. I am sure you will agree this money would be well spent elsewhere. Please ensure therefore that you check and act on all school bag correspondence and make good use of our school blog.

140 years Celebration

The school will be 140 years old in 2016. We are currently planning the celebrations and have set up a Centenary Hub Group. Key partners are Kilsyth Historical Group; Port Arts Foundation; Quaver; Rotary Club; Artists and Storytellers/ Writers. The celebrations will include rich learners experiences and sharing events. There will be more information to come. In the meantime if you feel you would like to come on board or help in any way please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Parent's Night

Parent's Night takes place on Wednesday 7th October where you are able to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher and view your child's work. We look forward to seeing you there.

October Holidays

The school closes for the October break on Friday 9th at 3.00pm. Have a happy October break everyone and look forward to seeing you all at the start of the new term on Monday 19th October.