



ORCHARD NEWSLETTER

October/ November 2017

Entrepreneur Me

Over the last few weeks P5, P6 and L5/6/7b have been working with Entrepreneur me. Through a series of visits Matt has been developing business skills with the children. They have taken on different roles, made products and fed back to Matt on the skills they have learnt. As part of a whole day workshop the children worked in business groups to make products, get these through a quality control, interest buyers and turn ideas into profit. This was a great day which all children and staff enjoyed. The children will be inviting parents into school to see their products and share the skills they have learnt about.

The next part of the work will involve P6 and L5/6/7b choosing a local organisation and in their business groups make products to sell at our Christmas Crafts afternoon. They will do this from a loan from Entrepreneur Me. Any profit the children make, after their loan has been repaid will go to their chosen local organisation. This social enterprise will enable children to develop their business skills whilst realising these have had a positive impact on their communities.

Whilst this one has been taking place P7 have been working creatively with North Lanarkshire partnerships to write their own song and create art work for it. They will now work with Sally Wilkinson and our choir to practice this song and one other which they will perform at the Youth Music Initiative concert in March.

Partnerships are an integral part of our learning and teaching at Orchard. You will learn more of the partnerships we are developing in this newsletter.

Jill Woodward
Head Teacher



Learner Events



Shinning Stars

This term we will be working with Shinning Stars theatre group. They will be running a series of workshops with all our LCSC Classes. In a one off workshop we will also have a Makaton Choir with P6 L 5/6/7 a&b. We are really looking forward to developing this relationship with Shinning Stars.

Birthday Event

We emailed out information about our birthday fundraising day. Children should dress down that day. There will be literacy and numeracy birthday planning and learning activities in all classes.

In the afternoon classes and bays will come together in stages to watch a movie of their choice. There will be party treats in every class.

27th October is a year on from our official opening and we will plan other events this year. All fundraising goes to support wider learning events in school. Our birthday event is a £2 donation to school funds.





JRSO Reps.

Pupil Voice!

All mainstream children and some children in the LCSC are again part of a pupil voice groups. The groups give children a voice in the school and the ability to lead their own ideas and initiatives under themes of: Health, Road Safety, Rights Respecting Schools, Outdoor Learning, Eco and Fairtrade. All P1 mainstream children then experience the themes of these groups through active experiences.

Children will be developing the ethos and curriculum of the school. They will be leading assemblies and events for other classes. Our pupil groups run in blocks of 5 weeks so there is one learning block each term.

This year we will have one additional pupil voice group and this is our School Improvement Pupils (our SIPs). This group will have 2 members from P3-7 and 3 members from LCSC classes. The P5-7 will also work with Nursery-P2. The group will meet with Mrs Woodward and Mrs Mackenzie once a month and they will lead evaluations with classes, have a say and input in the school's Improvement Plan and the school's development of Pupil Equity Funding. I am also hopeful that this group will be able to talk to the Parent Council and visitors as their work develops this year.

Pupil Equity

All schools in Scotland were awarded money this year for Head Teacher's to spend to have a positive impact on closing attainment gaps across Scotland between children leaving in the most and least disadvantaged areas.

In Orchard our focus has been to increase digital literacy and the use of ICT to engage more learners in class. To develop our approaches to sensory learning and through bringing in coaches increase the number of after school clubs. We will also be purchasing equipment to engage children in wellbeing activities and investigating how we can use the whole campus to offer alternative learning approaches.

We have also purchased additional resources for literacy and numeracy to target learning needs and have two members of staff who are working with small groups of children and organising parental workshops.



Christmas Events

Christmas is a busy time both in school and at home. It is also a time of change that many children find challenging as many of the routines they have established change. We aim to have both yourselves and staff well informed in advance of Christmas celebrations.

Just after the in-service day we will issue a special Christmas newsletter detailing all events and activities in school in December. We will also use our text messaging and Twitter to keep you up to date through the month.

Every class will take part in one of our Christmas parties. The children can be collected at 11.30am from the school office on the day of their party to go home and get changed. If going home children must be back for 12.30pm. Those remaining in school will have lunch first and will come in supervised to get changed.

This year we will have our Christmas jumper day on Friday 8th December. Children can come to school in Christmas jumpers and tops and we will have a range of fun activities. In the afternoon parents are invited into the school from 1.30pm to purchase Christmas crafts made by the all classes, have a look around the school and join us for coffee/Tea.

On Wednesday 13th December we will have a whole school Poptastic Christmas Concert. There will be two performances one afternoon and one evening. More details of all events will be in our newsletter out mid November.

Parent Voice

As you have read we are very keen to ensure that we capture and take into account pupil voice in the school. Just as important is capturing parents voice. We are working hard to make this as easy as possible for parents.

At parents night we will have a short survey on iPads for parents to complete and in the next few months we will trial texting out a question a month which need a one answer reply.

Thank you for your support!



Uniform & Photographs

All our P1 and L1 children looked so smart in the new intake photograph in the Wishaw Press. Our photographer will be in school on Wednesday 22nd November. All children will have an individual photograph and be part of a year group photo. We will send home a letter asking if you would also like a family photograph with other children in school.

Our uniform is currently supplied by the Wishaw School Shop. We are aware that there were some issues this summer and with the parent council we are looking at additional suppliers to give you more choice.

We also take uniform donations for our uniform bank. We can wash these in school if that's easier. Please ask at the office if you could use our bank it will also be out at parents night.



Parent's Night & Workshops



Our first Parent's meeting with staff to discuss your child's progress in class is Thursday 2nd November. This year we are, with most North Lanarkshire schools trialing a new way of booking appointments with staff. You should have received a letter detailing how you do this online. If you are unable to access this the please call the office and staff will make the appointment for you. This system allows you to select a specific time to see the member of staff, there will be no notes to miss in diaries or school bags. This is a

great opportunity to meet your child's teacher discuss their learning, see their work and have a look at some of the resources we are using in school. The Scholastic Bookfair will be available that week and on parent's night.

We also have a series of parental workshops planned and this will continue all this session. We have a workshop on 30th October for Sumdog and a series of workshops to explain the reading strategies we use in school these are on 31st Oct for P1, 3rd Nov P2-3 and 7th Nov P4-7. If you have n't returned a slip for these events but are interested please contact the school.

On Thursday 23rd November we will have a parental workshop from Tree of Knowledge. There is more information on the back of this newsletter.

Tootoot!

Tootoot is a new tool we will be trialing in the school. It gives children a voice when they feel they have something they would like to share with staff but for whatever reason this cannot be done face to face initially. Children will have their own login for Tootoot and when they log something, it will be anonymous initially giving children the confidence to have their own voice. As the purpose of Tootoot is not to take away from face to face meetings and support the leadership team can identify the child requesting support.

Though Tootoot is online it does not mean that children will have access to staff 24hrs a day. Children can log a query or support question at any time but this will be answered by staff during the school day. We will pilot this with P5-7 from 30th October. We will launch this to those classes this week. If this is useful to children we will launch to younger classes.



VSE (Validated Self-Evaluation)

All schools in North Lanarkshire are supported by a team of Education Officers and Continuous Improvement Officers. Part of their support is to come into schools and with visiting Head Teachers complete a validated self-evaluation visit. This visit looks at what we as a staff feel the strengths in the school are, talking to learners, visiting classrooms and speaking to parents and partners in learning.

We use the Education Scotland document How Good is our School 4 to evaluate what we are doing in Orchard and this will form part of the discussion with the team. Our validation team will be in school on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th November. We will of course share their conclusions with you all following the visit.

Dates & Events

Below are dates that you will need for term three.

Monday 23rd Oct	Flu Immunisation Programme
Tuesday 24th Oct	P7 Tree of Knowledge Visit
Friday 27th Oct	Parent Council Meeting 6.45pm Snapshot Jotters home Sleep Scotland—drop in clinic 1st Birthday Celebrations Bookfair in school
Week beg 30th Oct	Parent's Sumdog Workshop
Monday 30th Oct	Parents Literacy workshop P1
Tuesday 31st Oct	Parent's Night
Thursday 2nd Nov	Cross Country Trials am
Friday 3rd Nov	Parents Literacy workshop P2-3
Monday 6th Nov	Gospel Hall in P6 & 7
Tuesday 7th Nov	Parents Literacy workshop P4-7
Wednesday 8th Nov	SPCA workshops
Friday 10th Nov	Football Festival Gospel Hall Assembly VSE visit
13th & 14th Nov	P7 half day visit to CVHS
16th or 17th Nov	In-Service Day 3—school closed to children
Monday 20th Nov	School Photographs
Wednesday 22nd Nov	P6 Tree of Knowledge Visit
Thursday 23rd Nov	Parental Tree of Knowledge Workshop—pm Football Festival
Friday 24th Nov	Snapshot Jotters Home
Friday 1st Dec	Poetry Day P6 & 7 Sportshall Athletic Event



Parent Council

In session 16-17 the school was supported by a strong parent council. In the initial year the council focused very much on fundraising events in partnership with the school. The parent council raised a significant amount of money to support the school on events for all and to enable the school to add new equipment to the mainstream playground.

This session the parent council has also planned a range of events for children which will continue to raise funds, now focusing on supporting school activities and equipment for the LCSC playground. The other part of the council's work will be supporting and being involved in school improvement priorities. Both improvements and fundraising need a strong Parent Council and we do still have spaces for new members. Our parent council next meet on Tuesday 24th October at 6.45pm.

As well as new members the parent council will need support of helper and volunteers at events. If you would be a willing helper please let the school office know!

Snapshot Jotters

Some parents have asked about more formalised homework. This is not something we plan to move to at Orchard Primary. We will be developing the activities in the Shared Learning sheets and looking at other ways you can share learning with your child at home such as Sumdog and Active Learn. One way we do share class learning and your child's evaluation of this learning is through the snapshot jotter. How much we can share with you in the jotter does depend on children's attendance at school. As with any jotter we use in class if a child is off that day's work will be missing. What also impacts on how much we share with you is not getting the jotter back to us. It is really important to return the jotter the following Monday. The jotter is used across the month as part of your child's learning and their own evaluations of their learning. It is therefore really important that like a reading book it is back in school.



Tree of Knowledge

One of the partnerships we will be working with in Term 2 is Tree of Knowledge. They will be delivering workshops engaging children, staff and parents in fresh and motivational approaches to learning and to supporting children's learning. There will be a workshop for P7 and P6. We will also have a staff day of learning and motivation for the whole campus. After our in-service day in November we will have a parental workshop in the evening after school. Information will come out at the start of November.