

9th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a very productive term and we have had some lovely experiences we would like to share with you in a new format. Each term we will evaluate the breadth of experiences our children are having, and we will use the 'Four Context for Learning' as a template. Each class has considered some of the highlights and have shared them as part of this termly newsletter along with other news.

Staffing

We have recently done a recruitment process for support assistants, and we are hoping all the checks have gone through before next term. We will introduce our new people as soon as we can.

We will be advertising for a new janitor, as Alan is heading off to live south. We are very sad to see him go and wish him all the best in his new job. If you know anyone in the community that would be interested in a janitor job, please give them the heads up about this post.



Tracy has been working in Dounby nursery this term but will be back with us in Evie next term.

Karen Griffith, our strings teacher, is now back and strings tuition will be on a Wednesday afternoon as before. We sent our sympathy to Karen after a very sad family bereavement.

School Development



At the end of last term our parents fed back that we could focus on improving communication this year:

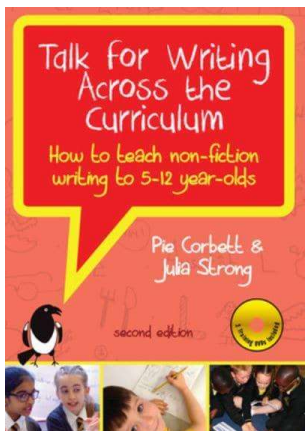
- We are very glad to say we have Seesaw up and running once more. The cost of Seesaw has quadrupled this year, so we hope to use it successfully and improve our communication as a result.
- Admin will continue to use emails for all core information and texts for emergency closures.

- We have dates for the diary for the year ahead on the school website, and we update these regularly.
- Our school phone systems have been reported to IT as not functioning successfully, including not having an answering machine or ability to transfer incoming calls to the HT office when Annette is not in.
- We will create a termly newsletter showing the breadth of learning and the highlights to give everyone a taster of what the school is doing across all the classes.
- We will have 2 progress meetings in the year with parents and carers. We have had one consultation meeting this term and the second is in March.

- We will add evaluated pieces of work to the Progress and Attainment folder in Seesaw, which will give you the level your child is working at and what their next steps are. This will have a few pieces each term for continuous reporting.
- There will be an end of year progress report with the levels of attainment. The art, music and PE teachers will give comments which are personal to your child and not generic as the previous year.
- We will have assemblies for our whole school community and for our parents and carers.
- We will meet regularly with the Parent Council as a body of parents who represent the whole parent forum. At these meetings we share our progress as a school and ask for parent's opinions when we are making decision about the school. Please come along and hear about what is going on and contribute to our school development.



If you have any thoughts or opinions, please let us know if we are being successful or if we can add something to our plan.



In-Service

Our school staff are on courses during the in-service days learning about Talk for Writing and Inclusive Practice. These are opportunities for professional learning which will directly impact on the children's experiences and improve our learning and teaching provision.

Learning across the four contexts

Primary 1/2 Term 1

Opportunities for personal achievement



In Primary 1/2 we have been developing lots of skills while we learn through play.

Interdisciplinary learning



We designed toys as part of our IDL topic.

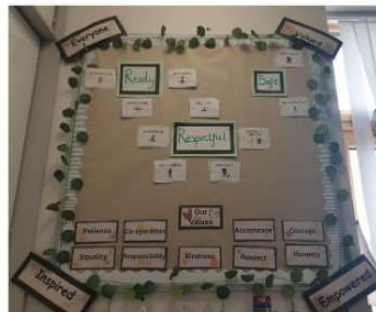


We have enjoyed learning in our outdoor classroom area.

The Curriculum 'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'



We have been learning about international Peace Day. as part of our work on Rights Respecting Schools.



We have been learning the school vision, values and aims



We had a visit during the Science Festival where we participated in experiments about air and learnt about how it moves.



Our focus for maths this term has been number.

As part of our literacy work P1 have been learning about the alphabet. P2 have focused on capital letters and using them correctly in their writing.

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects

Opportunities for personal achievement



We enjoyed the Science Festival

The Curriculum 'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

Interdisciplinary learning



We learnt about forces; friction, air resistance, gravity and buoyancy.



As part of Right Respecting Schools we explored International Day of Peace.



In grammar we have been learning about. nouns, tense and suffixes



Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects

Opportunities for personal achievement



P7 Junior Road Safety Officers

Mascot design for Orkney Inter island games 2025



P6 Outdoor Education

P6-7 Term 1 2023-24

The Curriculum 'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

Interdisciplinary learning



Growing, harvesting and sharing food crops



Glasgow Science Centre - Electricity

Discovery Science with Wizard Jake - OISF



Rights Respecting Schools articles 38 and 39



Primary 7 Buddies for P1 this term

Serving our Over 60s in the Community room.



Ethos and life of the school as a community

Making electricity circuits



Coding with Silicon Craft - OISF



Measuring, Shapes and calculating with robots



Curriculum areas and subjects

Dates for the Diary

Have a look at the website, all the dates are being kept up to date for the year ahead:

2023	2024
<p>AUGUST 21st August - In-Service Day 22nd August - Children Back at School</p>	<p>JANUARY 8th January - Back to School 25th January - Burns Supper (school dinner)</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 14th, 15th and 18th of September - P6 Outdoor Education Days 26th - 28th September - UNISON Strike Days 28th September - Parent Council Meeting AGM 7pm</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 15th February - School Disco tbc 19th & 20th February - In-Service Days</p>
<p>OCTOBER 9th October - Scottish Parliament Outreach Visitor for P6/7 10th October - Holidays Begin for Children 12th and 13th October - In-Service Days</p>	<p>MARCH 7th March - World Book Day 13th March - Progress Meetings with Parents and Carers</p>
<p>NOVEMBER 3rd November - Halloween Disco run by Parent Council 7th November - Parent Council Meeting 6pm 8th November - Fluoride Varnish Day 17th November - Children in Need Day</p>	<p>APRIL 1st April - Easter Monday</p>
<p>DECEMBER 1st December - Advent Calendar Activities Begin 1st December - School Based Christmas Tree Lighting December - Christmas Dinner tbc 18th December - School Based Christmas Service 18th December - Weekly Swimming Sessions End 22nd December - Christmas Parties and Last Day</p>	<p>MAY 23rd May - Parent Council Meeting</p> <p>JUNE 3rd June - In-Service Day 10th June - End of Year Progress Reports 19th June - Sports Day 25th & 26th June - Transition Days tbc</p> <p>JULY 3rd July - Leavers Service at 2:30pm</p>

Kind Regards

Emma Jane Rendall