



Newton Families Together Meeting 18.1.22

Headteacher's Report

Learning and Teaching Term 2

All parents will receive an updated Sharing Learning Leaflet explaining what the children will be learning in Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing and other contextualised learning on Friday 21st January.

School Partnerships Term 2

Children in Need – P7 organised a dress down day for Children in Need.

Active Schools – John McCallum, worked with small groups on a Friday

DHS Sports Leaders are working with P3 each Wednesday.

Dunblane Cathedral – Rev Colin Renwick shared a Christmas Service for the children

St Blanes Church – Working with local church leaders and chaplains, P.7 children had the opportunity to engage with an interactive programme to explore a 'Christmas Journey' to tell the Christmas story through multi-media and hands-on experiences, enabling children to experience this story - whether familiar or not - in a thought-provoking way. This involved meeting some of the characters of the Christmas story as the children walked through the events and took time to process and reflect on their learning. Pupils engaged with quizzes, learned a Christmas song with Makaton actions and made a Christmas decoration.

One of the chaplains messaged the school to share '*The children who attended the Christmas journey were a credit to the school. Their behaviour and engagement in the activities was excellent which made it a pleasure for the whole team working with them.*'

Scholastic Travelling Book Fair – This was a successful event organised in school and online. Thank you to parents who purchased books. From this the school made over £1640.58 for our school to spend on books.

Staffing

Nursery Senior ECE – We would like to welcome Emily Brodie to the nursery team as Senior ECE. Emily was an ECE at Callander Nursery and we look forward to working with her at Newton.

P1G – Miss Gow has decided to defer her probationary teaching year and left Newton at the end of November. Mrs Whitehead will continue to teach P1 on a Monday and Tuesday with Mrs Russell covering Mrs Whitehead's non-class contact time then she takes over the class Mrs Russell Wednesday – Friday.

P2M – Mrs Brown will teach P2M for a day and an afternoon each week

Rosa Pridden (reception) – will go on Maternity Leave from Friday 4th March.

Laura Moore (RCCT Teacher) – will go on Maternity Leave from Easter Holidays

Natalie Currie (Office Admin) is leaving us and will be moving to an admin post in St Mary's Dunblane, Her post has been approved and we await this going to advert.

Covid Recovery Plan/School Improvement update

Learning Teaching and Assessment - Literacy and Languages

As part of our improvement work, we have a free trial of a resource to support improvement in Literacy with a view to purchasing if teachers feel it is appropriate.

On November 29th all staff participated in a professional development session with Michaela McDonald, Education Officer, on the teaching of writing across Early, First and Second Level. This was a collaborative and interactive session for staff with a particular focus on important elements of teaching writing including preparing children to write, hooks and stimulus, success criteria during writing and assessment information. This culminated in staff discussion and agreement of 'What makes an Excellent Writing Lesson at Newton?' which has been documented and shared with all staff.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths through Play and Learning

All classes now have challenge boxes and challenge cards purchased using the Maths Week Scotland Small Grants Fund

Staff are using Newton's Play Framework as a basis to encourage learning through play throughout the whole school.

Pupils and staff wish list regarding resources have been purchased and are available for children within their classrooms and open areas. Particular resources such as lego, knex linking to world of work engineering and STEM as well as books, crafting and board games have all been purchased.

Thank you to parents who have handed in resources, books etc.

Assessment

A draft guide explaining 'How is my child assessed?' was issued to all parents last term just before parent consultations took place. We hope parents found this helpful. This guide was developed using the Assessment Framework already in place and parents will be issued with an updated guide following any amendments the work of the 'Assessment Group' make.

Mrs Brown is currently working with Education Scotland and colleagues across the authority to be an Assessment Lead.

Digital Learning and Teaching

Connectivity continues to be a concern but has improved due to Stirling Council Providing the school with Gigacubes to boost our remote access. This is ongoing, and work is being done across the local authority to improve this. We have ordered and are awaiting 18 iPads for use at P1 and will hopefully be able to purchase another Interactive Panel.

Chromebooks for P4 have arrived and will be distributed once these have been configured by the IT Team. At the moment P4 will not bring their chromebooks home.

Diversity

Mrs Spence attended a professional learning opportunity on 'How does gender inequality affect attainment, wellbeing and participation?' This will feed into and support our continued work.

Wellbeing

During a staff development session, Mrs Campbell shared information with staff to continue to support and reflect on wellbeing. She shared two models of wellbeing with staff - ABC from NHS Education Scotland (Self Awareness and Taking Steps to preserve your own Wellbeing) and The 5 Ways to Wellbeing. This was an informative and interactive session to support staff.

Nursery Works and 1140 update

The Nursery works have now been completed and the nursery have moved back into their beautifully refurbished space.

Grounds Update

Thank you to Mrs O'Halloran and Mr Norve who came along to help plant the Woodland Trust trees with P5 pupils in the teeth of Storm Arwen! All of the trees survived the storm. Mrs Sharp also checked the trees last Thursday and all are still doing well.

The new bird bath and feeders are being well used by the local bird population. The Eco reps have a rota to feed the birds and this seems to be working well.

Throughout this term P4 classes will undertake experiments on the conditions for good plant growth with Mrs Sharp, and they will also be involved in this year's tattie planting, some vegetable planting and plant some flowering annuals in class from February for planting out in spring.

We will require to purchase a big bag of compost, early seed potatoes and seeds. The compost should cost around £60 and a further £20-£30 will be needed to cover other expenditure.

Linda Kane
January 2022