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Head Teacher: Janet Clarkson

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## **March 2023**

We are nearly coming to the end of the Easter term and as ever it has been very busy with lots of fun learning activities across the school. We will be more than ready for our Easter holidays in a few weeks' time however before then, we are looking forward to meeting up with you all and reporting on your child's progress at our Parent Consultation on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2023. Please note your appointment slips will be with you by the end of the week.

## **Parental Engagement at Blackburn Primary**

We have introduced some new parental engagement sessions this term. Mrs McCarney has been involved with the Blackburn Community Food Insecurity Group and managed to secure funding to run cooking classes for a group of our parents. Mrs McCarney and Mrs Parisa Tajmiry have been busy planning and buying resources for our parents to try new recipes from around the world and last week the group made an Iranian chicken curry which was delicious! I really look forward to the days the Round the World Cooking classes are on but the aroma of exotic spices wafting up the corridor and into my office is almost too much to bear!

Mrs McCarney and Mrs Coombe will also be starting up the Families Connect Programme, initially for P2/3 families, on a Friday morning and the purpose of these sessions are to provide these families with lots of ideas and practical activities to support their children with their learning in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and play.

We have also created a family room for our parents to use in the school. This is a small room which parents can access initially at the end of the school day from 2.40 pm onwards and provide you with a free, private and cosy space to relax and meet with other parents or have some individual time to yourself. Teas and coffees will be available so please let Mrs McLay in the office know if you wish to use the room. We will be planning to have some dad's space so look out for more information in the future.

## **Breakfast Club**

Mrs McMillan and Miss Baxter who help run the breakfast club have been successful in securing a grant of £1000 from the Kellogg's Breakfast Club Grants Programme. Both Mrs McMillan and Miss Baxter will consult with the children to decide what they want to spend the money on but I know that games and a smoothie maker are high on the list. We will keep you posted through our social media channels on how the children from the breakfast club decide to spend the money and we are planning to host a Big Breakfast for our children and families after the Easter holidays. Well done to both Mrs McMillan and Miss Baxter for taking the time to complete the application.

## **P6/7 School Camp**

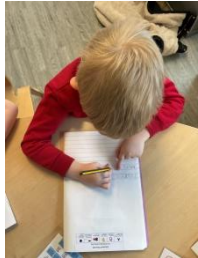
We are in the final stages of planning our residential school camp to Ford Castle in Northumberland for our Primary 6 and 7 pupils. Our pupils are going to Ford Castle when we return from the Easter with Mrs McCarney, Mr Riding, Miss Denholme and Miss Nicholson and I will be looking forward to finding out all the exciting activities that they are involved with throughout the week.

## **Blackburn Nursery**

The children from Hopefield Nursery will be moving to our new nursery at Blackburn Primary during the Easter holidays. It has been absolutely wonderful having our two year olds in the nursery up until now and we are so looking forward to having our nursery filled with pre and anti-pre-school pupils. There will be a lot of moving and shifting including all the Hopefield staff and this is a very exciting time for us all to develop our early years practice and play pedagogy in the school and new nursery.

## Primary 1 News

Primary 1 have had an exciting few months. We have been on a visit to the local library with our P7 buddies and have been doing lots of paired reading. P1 tried lots of different Scottish foods and learnt a song and a poem for Burns Day in January. We have been writing daily in our diaries and have been exploring addition and subtraction through play. Exploring our school grounds has been lots of fun. We have been on bug hunts for Our Art World project and looking at plants and how they are affected by the weather in our topic. We have also begun daily tooth brushing and having lots of fun doing it as a class.



The children in P1 have been learning all about books, authors, illustrators and how to sequence a story in their reading lessons. They have been practising their phonics skills when blending new words they are encountering and recognising punctuation in their text.

P1 have also been learning about 2D shapes, what they are called and how many sides they have. We went on a shape hunt around school, and were amazed at how many different 2D shapes we found!

## A1 News

A1 have been superstars! They have made Mrs Bryce feel so welcome and have approached this change in teaching staff like pros. Over the past few weeks A1 have been very busy cooking up a variety of different dishes during their weekly food technology sessions. One of our favourites had to be making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, which we enjoyed together at snack time. As well as making them, A1 also wrote a procedure, telling others how to make their own pancakes. Procedure writing will continue to be a big part of our writing focus for the rest of the term.



While out on local walks A1 noticed an issue when walking along a lot of the pavements between the school and the Mill Centre... dog poop! A1 decided action needed to be taken, so made posters to display on fences around the school, as well as sharing their plea with the rest of the school at assembly. A1's 'Pick up the Poo' presentation is available to view on the School Twitter page and school Blog.

Coming  
Soon...



A1 have achieved all of this while continuing to work hard on their space learning context. The boys and staff are busy preparing to share their learning at our class assembly scheduled for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. A1 parents, please keep an eye out for your invitation to this event which will be coming home in diaries soon.

## Primary 2/3 News

This term Primary 2/3 have been very busy getting back into the swing of daily class life. The start of the year saw us work closely on setting boundaries and allowing others the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings. We have been working hard and using timetables rock stars to help our memory of different timetables, both in class and at home.

For our topic this term we are exploring the Your Art World challenge thinking about the word PROTECT. We are looking forward to working with P4/5 on this exciting adventure of creating art. We look forward to sharing more about this with you at the art gallery we are putting together, more details to follow in the coming month.

We are also looking forward to planning and performing the Easter Service at **1.30 pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March at Seafield and Blackburn Parish Church** where we will perform some readings, sing an Easter song and tell you more about the Easter Story.



P2/3 children have been working hard on their phonics skills and practising their spellings and new words in sentences. During their reading sessions some groups have been working on sequencing events in their stories whilst others have been identifying nouns and adjectives in their text. We have also been working on different punctuation used in text and when and why it is used.

### P4/5 News



We were very excited to receive a delivery of fish eggs at the start of this term! Since then, we have been making sure we keep the fish tank cold enough by adding bottles of ice to the back. We also need to make sure that we are quick to spot any dead eggs or fry fish so that we can remove them and they do not contaminate the tank. As much as we would love to keep our new fishy friends, we will be taking them along to the River Almond in the next few weeks to release them!

We have been learning to use our powers of persuasion during our writing sessions. We each got to try some smoked trout before convincing someone whether they should or should NOT try smoked trout. We were very relieved to find out that Mrs Dunlop hadn't cooked any of our class fish for us to try!



We have made huge progress this session with our times tables using Times Tables Rockstars! Every learner has increased their knowledge of times tables and improved their rock status! Well done to the following three learners who have received the award for the most committed over the last few weeks:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Cameron

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Dylan

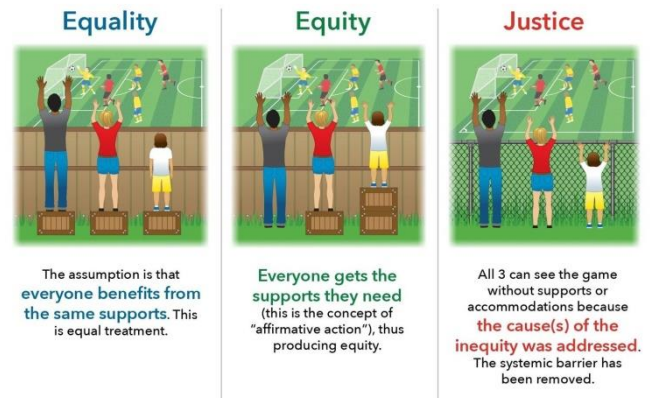
3<sup>rd</sup> place: Mason





## Primary 7 News

This term in Primary 7 we have been very busy working on our United Nations Convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC) project learning all about the rights of the child. After discussing all 54 articles, the class have been tasked with identifying one area where they feel they are being impacted and make suggestions through research and presentation on how to overcome some of the challenges they experience. Alongside this project, Miss Clarkson challenged our class to spend some money from the schools equity fund. After an initial teaching input from Miss Clarkson where the class discovered the meaning of equity by discussing this picture and others like it.



The class split themselves into four groups where they formulated an idea, researched how to carry it out and created presentations that were delivered to the whole school.



The whole school then had the opportunity to vote on the idea that they liked the best. The ideas included new P.E kit for all pupils (UNCRC article 27), healthy snack for all pupils (UNCRC article 27), playground packs for each class stage (UNCRC article 31) and also larger playground equipment to allow different games to be played (UNCRC article 31). After a very close battle, I am pleased to announce that the school will be purchasing playground packs for each class stage. The winning group have already been working hard with Mrs McClay to finalise the order.



Primary 7 have also been working on another new project to help support their buddies in P1 with their reading development. For 10 minutes each day the class are taking their buddies and doing paired reading activities that are designed to support the P1 class make progress in their reading.



## Reading Champions!

Literacy has always been high on the agenda here at Blackburn Primary. But in January we set out on an endeavour to find some eager pupils who would like to join us in campaigning for a LOVE of reading here in Blackburn. We were overwhelmed with excellent presentations and videos from pupils across the school. The successful candidates have already begun working on our Core Reading Accreditation Award for Reading Schools Scotland. They will be making book recommendations at assemblies and on social media, revamping our cosy book corners and planning a book event for the summer term. So keep an eye out for these things in the future.

## A2 News

A2 have loved having Alfie in to help with various aspects of our learning! He was more than happy to join in our class photo on our latest walk!



## P 5/6 News

*"What would it look like if different creatures were mixed together?"*

Primary 5/6 have been exploring this question in great depth. We have considered what "creature" means to us and worked collaboratively using different materials to experiment how our creatures may look when they are merged. We have incorporated lots of outdoor learning opportunities to research the creatures we have in our community. We are looking forward to investigating how creatures move, their habitats, and special features to eventually create our own!



## Numeracy

P5/6 have been learning about money and its relevance in society today. We have worked collaboratively and independently to add monetary values, give change, plan, and budget, and understand profit and loss. We have now finished our money topic and will be moving on to time.

## Writing

We have been looking at creating our own narrative texts based on fantasy stories. Children have explored characterisation, setting and writing an interesting plot in their very own imaginative stories. This term, we will be looking at procedure writing.

## Sport Education

Primary 5/6 have started their own Sport Education Season in PE. We have focused on the roles within sports and have worked in groups to take on the roles of referee, coach, fitness leader and score keeper. The children are in charge of planning their own PE lessons and are taking ownership of their learning by identifying the strengths and development opportunities within their groups to improve their skills/technique. The children will continue to work in teams towards a final sport event. We hope to see you there!



Primary 5/6 have been using active tasks and repetition to learn every day French vocabulary. We have recently been learning French through stories and incorporating STEM challenges into our language curriculum. Here is an example of when we learned the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' in French. We then created a chair that was fit for mamon, papa, or bebe l'ours and then described our chair in French.



**Dates for your diary**

Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 1.30 pm Easter Service Blackburn and Seafield Parish Church

Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> of March end of term

Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April Staff and pupils resume

Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April P 6/7 Residential Camp Ford Castle

Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May Bank Holiday

Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May In service Day

Pupils resume Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May

Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May Bank Holiday King's Coronation

Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May Victoria Day Holiday

Transition news, school activities and gala news will follow after the Easter holidays.