



Mid Calder Primary Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

March 2015

Another term has passed back so quickly. It has been an extremely busy term in the school and nursery. The focus of our learning has been centred around the Healthy Families Healthy Children project. Throughout the school there has been a progression of learning around the importance of a balanced diet as well as the importance of exercise. Each class has made a business link with some visits continuing into next term. Many thanks to the parents/carers who came along to the open morning at the start of March.

I wish you all a very relaxing Spring break.

Nicola Thompson
Head Teacher

VSE Report

As you will know a team of Education Officers and Head Teachers visited our school this session to look closely at three quality indicators from How Good is Our School. During this time they observed learning; spoke to pupils, parents, staff and partners. From this focused visit the school has updated its self-evaluation summary. This can be found on the 'School Information' section part of our school blog:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/>

Based on the above information collected we evaluate ourselves against the quality indicators as follows:

Our school:

- 1.1 Improvements in performance – **Satisfactory**
- 2.1 Learners' experience – **Good**
- 5.1 Curriculum – **Satisfactory**
- 5.3 Meeting learning needs – **Good**
- 5.9 Improvement through self-evaluation – **Good**
- 8.1 Partnership with the community, educational establishments, agencies and employers - **Good**

Our nursery:

- 1.1 Improvements in performance – **Satisfactory**
- 2.1 Learners' experience – **Good**
- 5.1 Curriculum – **Satisfactory**
- 5.3 Meeting learning needs – **Satisfactory**
- 5.9 Improvement through self-evaluation – **Satisfactory**
- 8.1 Partnership with the community, educational establishments, agencies and employers - **Very Good**

VSE Report Highlights



- Progressive, skills-based progression pathways developed from experiences and outcomes are being implemented in all curriculum areas with a focus on maths and language to ensure breadth, depth and progression in learning across the school.
- The use of ICT to support learning is increasing and is well integrated at second level.
- Leadership at all levels is developing through a range of working groups and coordinator roles of which staff are encouraged to take ownership in order to drive forward improvement across the school. Collaborative clusters now allow teachers to plan across stages to ensure consistency of learning for pupils and to ensure progression within a level which is leading to improved learning experiences for pupils
- The nursery curriculum provides valuable opportunities for the development of talking and listening skills through role play and real life experiences, for example the pizza restaurant and visits to the post office.
- We have effective partnership working which makes a difference to the quality of support for learners. Staff are committed to the aims of joint working and engage actively with partners, community representatives and agencies.

Staffing

Mrs Tempany and Mrs Clement will be retiring at the Easter Break. Mrs Tempany has been at the school for nearly twenty-four years and Mrs Clement nearly twenty-five years. We wish them both a long and happy retirement.

We welcome Mrs Mackie to Mid Calder Primary School. Mrs Mackie will have an open door after school on the first week back after the holidays (20th – 24th April) for P4 parents to pop in and say hello at the end of the school day.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Brown and Mrs Cockburn who are also leaving at the Easter break. We wish them well in their new ventures and thank them for their dedication to Mid Calder Primary School over the years.

We welcome Mrs McNamee, an experienced nursery teacher, who will be covering in the nursery next term. Mrs Findlay will be moving to the nursery for the morning session as a nursery nurse and Mrs Aikman will be a full time nursery nurse next term.

Classes for next session

We will continue to have an eleven class structure next session. There will be a 'straight' class at every stage and a composite arrangement at each stage.

We will continue to follow the West Lothian Council Composite Class policy when arranging children into classes for next session. This policy can be found at:

http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2249/Composite-Classes/pdf/Composite_Classes.pdf

Next term we will hold an information evening about composite classes.

Please note that whilst the school acknowledges that parents/carers may have a class preference for their child, the school will be following the West Lothian Council policy when forming classes for next session.

Achievement Assembly

Our term three achievement celebrations will take place on Friday 24th April at 11:10am. Invited parent will be notified via groupcall by tomorrow (Thursday 2nd April).



Polling Day

As the school is used for voting the primary school will be closed on **Thursday 7th May**.

The nursery will be open on this date.

Transition



Primary 7 pupils have taken part in Design and Technology workshops in school and at West Calder High School (WCHS), these will happen next term for the remaining P7 pupils. Next term peer mentors from WCHS will visit Primary 7 to support work that has taken place in class in regards to social and emotional wellbeing.

Dates for your diary:

- Transition days at WCHS: 16th, 17th & 18th June
- Parent meeting & tour of WCHS: 18th June

Information about other high schools will be issued to parents when received by the school.

Good Food Show Open Morning

On Friday 6th March, MCPS opened its doors to parents, carers and friends in order for pupils to exhibit their learning through our school Healthy Families, Healthy Families context for learning.

Our guests spent time in their children's classes taking part in a wide range of activities including; food tasting, dancing, exercise, quizzes, information sessions, crafts, demonstrations, and lots more. Feedback included that parents felt they had a real grasp of what their children had been learning, and they enjoyed spending time in with their child in their learning environment.

You can view photos from the event on our blog.



Dalguise

Primary 4 and 5 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a residential to Dalguise at the beginning of March.

This residential had a focus on exploring first level health and wellbeing experiences and outcomes for the pupils, as well as developing themselves as independent thinkers.

Despite the snow, rain, wind and some sunshine the pupils had a fantastic experience and a big thank you to the staff who accompanied the pupils on this residential.

You can view photos of the residential on our blog.



Primary 6 & Primary 7 School Show

Next term the primary six and primary seven pupils will be performing 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. Auditions have been held and parts have been cast. The show will be performed on Tuesday 26th May and Wednesday 27th May. More details to follow next term.



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/>

PSA

The PSA would like to thank all the new parents that came along to their meeting this month, the next meeting will be on **Monday 11th May**.

Thanks to the PSA and everyone who supported the recent Movie Night event which raised £247.51 for school funds. The PSA are currently running a design an Easter Egg Competition and winners will be announced at our assembly on Thursday, this has raised £118.40. The closing date for purchasing a personalised shopping bag has been extended until **Friday 24th April**, you can pick up an order form from the school office.

Titanic Museum, Belfast

Recently Primary 6 and 7 pupils were offered the opportunity to visit the Titanic Museum in Belfast; this trip had a focus on applying the pupil's prior knowledge and skills within Social Studies and Science in a real life context.

We had a very early start of 3:30am and a long bus and ferry journey to Belfast. A big well done to all the pupils who represented our school in a positive way and thank you to the parents/carers and staff for supporting this trip.

Photos from this trip will be posted to the blog.



Dates for your diary

Thursday 2nd April – Church service at 1.30pm; Last day of term

Monday 20th April – New term begins

Thursday 23rd April – P2/1 to Pizza Express; P6 parent drop in

Friday 24th April – Achievement assembly (parents by invite)

Tuesday 28th April – P4 visit to Tesco

Wednesday 29th April – P4/3 visit to Tesco; Parent Council meeting at 7pm

Thursday 30th April – P3 visit to Tesco

Friday 1st May – Dress down day

Monday 4th May & Tuesday 5th May – Pupil holiday

Wednesday 6th May – P1 to Pizza Express

Thursday 7th May – Primary school closed to pupils (nursery open)

Friday 8th May – P2/1 assembly at 10am

Monday 11th May – PSA meeting at 7pm

Friday 15th May – PSA Spring fair at 12.45pm

Monday 18th May – School holiday

