

Toronto Primary School

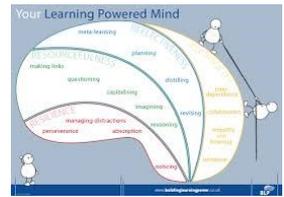
OCTOBER 2016



Welcome to our October newsletter. It's hard to believe how quickly this term has passed and that our October holiday is here! We hope everyone has a lovely break and that the weather is kind to us. I am sure you will have noticed the great progress with our building works. We are hoping that the work will be completed by late November and are looking forward to our new front entrance, offices, nursery garden and our fantastic new hall! Please read on for news and information from our school.

Lorraine Collins

Building Learning Power



This session one of our main priorities is '**Building Learning Power**'.

So, what is Building Learning Power? It's about learning the skills that we need to become better learners and developing a learning culture within our school that encourages children and teachers to approach difficulties in learning without fear of failure. It also allows children to take small steps in their learning and continue to develop their confidence as learners. We are developing staff and children's knowledge and understanding of the four main learning dispositions within Building Learning Power through:

Resilience - learning perseverance skills and trying hard not to give up

Resourcefulness - being able to use a range of learning strategies and knowing what to do if you get stuck

Reflectiveness - being able to think about yourself as a learner and how you might be able to do this better

Reciprocity - being able to learn with and from others, as well as on your own



These different learning dispositions are then split into different '**learning muscles**' that need to be exercised. This term, within Resilience, we have been working on the learning muscle of 'perseverance'. Hopefully, your child will be talking to you at home about what they have been learning in school to help them to persevere more with their learning.

Over the course of this session, our staff will continue to take part in Building Learning Power training. We are delighted that Mr Graham and Mrs Clifford are leading this development for our school. In addition to the work we are doing in classes we are also having a weekly assembly with a focus on Building Learning Power. Later in the school session we will be inviting parents/carers into school to share with you our learning about Building Learning Power. If you would like to find out more information you can follow this link: <https://www.buildinglearningpower.com/>

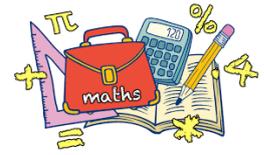
Moderation

This session, 'Moderation' is a cluster priority. This means our teachers have planned times to meet with other teachers from our cluster schools to discuss and agree levels and standards within identified areas of Reading and Maths. This work will further develop teacher confidence in assessing if a child has achieved a level within Curriculum for Excellence and the learning pathway across and within a level. Last month, the Scottish Government issued 'Benchmarks' in learning for English/Literacy and Mathematics/Numeracy. The Benchmarks will be a really good guide in helping our staff to assess if a child has achieved a level within the Curriculum. We will provide further information about school's attainment next term.



Mathematics/Numeracy

We are continuing to develop our Mathematics/Numeracy curriculum. We will work with the new Mathematics and Numeracy Benchmarks and review our planning to take the Benchmarks into account. Next term we will work with the Authority Numeracy Development Officers who will work in identified classes/groups to support staff to further improve our approaches to the learning and teaching of Mathematics/Numeracy and assessment. We are delighted that a large number of teaching staff are engaging with additional training being provided by the Authority. To find out more about the current benchmarks, please follow this link:



<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Pages/Curriculum-for-Excellence-Benchmarks-.aspx>



Science

This session, the Inveralmond cluster has received funding from Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (SSERC). SSERC is a service which supports Scottish teachers in delivering science, such as offering training and lesson resources. The funding given to cluster schools has been used to enable all primary teachers within the cluster to take part in high quality professional development to help ensure our teachers are equipped with the skills to engage pupils in active, practical science lessons and build confidence and motivation for the subject. We are looking forward to seeing some interesting science lessons in Toronto!

Parent/Carer Consultations

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended our parental consultations this week. It is very important that our pupils see the link between home and school and we greatly value the contributions you make to your child's learning. Hopefully, you will have seen lots of great examples of the different learning experiences your child has engaged with during term 1. Please read on to find out about some of the highlights from this term.

First Minister's Reading Challenge

We are pleased to inform you that we have signed up to take part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge. This is a national initiative launched by the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, to promote engagement in reading for all P4-7 pupils in Scotland. We held an assembly in school for all P4-7 children to introduce the challenge and issue pupils with their own reading passport given by the Scottish Government. Our pupils are really looking forward to taking part in this exciting challenge and reading some new titles. To find out more about the First Minister's Reading Challenge, please follow this link:



<http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/learning/teachers-librarians/first-ministers-reading-challenge>

Special Person Focus

At the start of this term, each class in the school studied a special person who has done a lot to develop rights for children and other people. This has been a great opportunity for the pupils to learn about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to discover how some people had to work very hard to be given the rights that we all take for granted. We hope you enjoyed looking at our special person displays in the hall.





Primary 6 and Primary 6/5 Learning Assembly

On Thursday 6th October, P6 and P6/5 welcomed their family members into school to share with them what they have been learning about Building Learning Power. The pupils worked really hard to learn their lines and also developed their presentation skills. Thank you P6 and P6/5 for a fun and informative assembly!

Primary 5 Handball Festival



Our Primary 5 children have been working hard on their handball skills in PE lessons for most of this term. As part of this focus, on Tuesday 11th October, they had the opportunity to take part in a handball festival along with Primary 5 pupils from the other primary schools in the Inveralmond cluster. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this festival where they demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and worked hard on the ball skills they have been learning in school. The children participated enthusiastically in the event and returned from Inveralmond Community High School full of excitement after a fun-packed afternoon.

West Lothian Council Cross Country Championships

Following success at the local cross country schools event, one of our P7 pupils Michael McNamara was selected to represent our school at the West Lothian Championships. Michael performed to his absolute best as was a credit to our school securing one of the top positions! Well done Michael!

National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCOS)

Once again this year, our Primary 4 pupils have been fortunate to receive tuition from NYCOS. The children are enjoying learning about rhythm pitch, beat and graphic notation. The children are also learning about staves, and were able to place do re mi and la on the staff to create their own tunes. The children also learned to place their hands in different positions to represent each note. They also learned songs and clapping games and have thoroughly enjoyed their weekly sessions with NYCOS.



House Captains and Vice Captains

We are very pleased to announce that following successful interviews, the following P7 pupils have been appointed as Captains and Vice Captains for their Houses:

Huron House	Captain Bobbi McWilliams	Vice Captain	Eli Burns
Blackfoot House	Captain Hollie McKinley	Vice Captain	Jack Brown
Cree House	Captain Abi Blair	Vice Captain	Olivia Barnard-Smith
Mohawk House	Captain Ryan Pickard	Vice Captain	Michael McNamara

We are confident that our new Captains and Vice Captains will do a great job leading their Houses and also develop their leadership skills in these important roles.





Residential Experience

We are delighted to inform you that we will once again be offering residential experiences to our upper school pupils this year. The Primary 5 pupils will be visiting Lowport Residential Centre in Linlithgow for a 2 night stay. A letter with more information regarding this has been issued to Primary 5 parents and carers. Our Primary 7 pupils have been invited to attend the Cluster Camp at Belmont in Meigle at the end of May. This is a camp organised for Primary 7 pupils by Inveralmond Community High School to assist in the transition process from primary to secondary school. More information about this trip will be provided next term.

Please note the school is under no obligation to provide these experiences for pupils and can not guarantee that this will be offered in the future. Each residential experience is dependent on our staff giving up their own free time with their families to provide this experience for your child.

P1 Parents/Carers Lunch

On the 22nd September we welcomed our Primary 1 parents and carers into school to have lunch. It was lovely to see so many of you and I'm sure you will agree that our Primary 1 children are already very independent in managing our lunchtime routines! We hope you enjoyed looking at the lovely photographs in the infant area during parent's night.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you once again for supporting our P7 pupils in this fundraising event. As you know, we raised a massive £1155.44! Your generosity is very much appreciated.



Looking Ahead to Term 2

Tempest Photos

On Tuesday 25th October, Tempest Photography will visit our school to take photographs from Nursery - P7. **Please note, this is the first day back for pupils after the October holiday.** We are looking forward to seeing everyone's smiley faces.

Harvest Assembly

On Friday 28th October we will be holding our annual Harvest Assembly. In the last few years we have received a fantastic amount of different foods that we have then been able to donate to the local West Lothian Foodbank. Donations of tinned foods/dry foods would be appreciated anytime when we return to school. We would like to thank you in advance for your support with this fundraising event.

Remembrance Day Poppies



During November our P7 pupils will be selling poppies in the school each day to support the Scottish Poppy Appeal. There is a suggestion of a 50p donation but all donations will be greatly received, thank you for your support.

Winter Illness

This is the season for coughs, colds and winter sickness bugs. Please could we ask you for your continued support in reminding children about good hand washing practices in order to prevent the spread of these illnesses.



Health and Safety

Unfortunately, despite many reminders, we still have cars dropping off and picking up children in the new school car park and the old school car park. We still have children running across the car parks to come into the main entrance. **Please note, the picking up and setting down of children in our school car park is not permitted.** This is for safety of our children and staff.



Parent Helpers

Thank you to all of our parent helpers without whom we would not be able to take our pupils on trips and outings. If you are interested in helping on future trips please contact Mrs Harkins at the school office.

Safe Arrivals

If your child is unwell and is unable to come to school, please contact the school office as soon as possible each day (**01506 431461**). If you do not contact the school office before 10.00am and we are unable to contact you, then in line with Council policy, the office staff will inform the Safe Arrival Team who will contact you by telephone or by visiting you at home. If you change your mobile or home telephone number or email address, please contact the school office with a note of your new number so that we can update our systems, thank you.

Rag Bags

'Rag Bags' have been issued—if you can, please fill with clean, unwanted clothing or bedding and hand into school on Tuesday 25th or first thing on Wednesday 26th. These are collected by the company, weighed and the school receives a small sum of money which we use to go towards ECO resources. Thank you in Advance.

Diary Dates

17 th October	October Holiday - school closed all week.
24 th October	In Service Day. School closed to pupils.
25 th October	School re opens.
28 th October	Harvest Assembly.
28 th October	Dress Down Day - 50p contribution, thank you.
18 th November	Children in Need Assembly.
25 th November	St Andrew's Day Assembly.
25 th November	Dress Down Day - pupils are encouraged to wear something tartan.
1 st December	P5/4 and P4 sharing their learning in class with parents/carers at 2.30pm.
8 th December	P3/2 and P2 learning assembly for parents/carers at 2.30pm
13 th December	P6/5 and P5 Christmas Party.
14 th December	Christmas Open Morning
14 th December	P5/4 and P4 Christmas Party.
15 th December	P4/3, P3 and P3/2 Christmas Parties.
15 th December	P1 Nativity at 9.30am.
16 th December	Wider Achievement Assembly.
19 th December	Nursery, P1 and P2 Santa Party
20 th December	P7 and P6 Christmas Party.
21 st December	Dress down day - 50p contribution, thank you.
17 th December	M&M Productions performing 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' Panto.
21 st December	School closes for Christmas holidays at 3.15pm
4 th January	School re opens.

