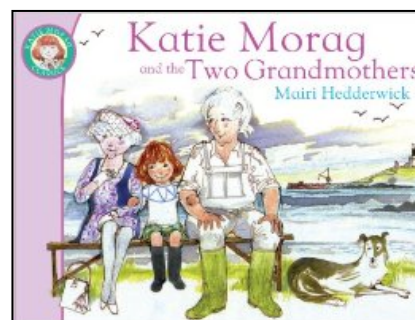


Thank you to Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 6 for leading us through some of your learning by leading at Assembly with the whole school community present, especially your family and friends! Thank you also for your patience and support over what has been quite a tricky period in terms of ailments to both children and school staff in what seemed like a very long winter period. A lovely close to the month of May awaits before final preparations for the summer term and the one or two learning experiences we have still to undertake, namely: P7 Residential, St. David's Got Talent, Fun Day, Sports Day, new P1 transition visits, P6 and P7 transition visits to St. David's High School and of course our Leavers Mass, phew! Here is a small taster of what some of the classes are learning this term...

Celebrating Success at St. David's Primary School

Primary 2 recently completed a class novel study based on Mairi Hedderwick's story 'Katie Morag and the two grandmothers.' Through our learning we were able to use a variety of skills developed from across the curriculum. We have had discussions about the characters in the book, our favourite characters, our favourite part of the story and why; we have acted out different scenes from the story, created Katie Morag kilt designs during art and compared the BBC's adaptation of the story with the book. We also enjoyed the opportunity of celebrating our learning with our parents and school by leading at assembly! This term we are going to be learning about the Earth, Moon and the Sun.



In literacy we have been continuing our focus on writing and using the VCOP strategies: vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation. We have seen a significant improvement and confidence in all pupils' writing. We have placed a huge emphasis on including description and adjectives into our writing in order to make our writing more interesting. Recently we introduced Bug Club reading into our learning. The Bug Club is an online application that will help pupils improve their reading and comprehension. We will be using the Bug Club at least once a week on the iPads in class and additional tasks may then be available to undertake at home.

In Numeracy and Maths this term we have been continuing our focus on number and using a variety of different strategies in order to calculate addition and subtraction problems, developing our mental agility. We are also going to be looking at time and to consolidate our learning with the 2x, 3x, 5x and 10x tables.

In French we have been learning how to say a variety of different animals and say what animals we have at home. We created a video and have uploaded it to the school Twitter for everybody to see. This term we are going to learn how to talk about our family in French. Click here to view the video from the school website Twitter feed: <http://stdavidsp.s.mgfl.net/>

This term in **Primary 3**, our class theme is Food and Farming. We are going to be learning about the food that we produce here in Scotland and how important it is to use local ingredients. We are going to be creating our own recipes using local ingredients and designing packaging for the food we make.



Through this theme we will be learning about the different things we can do to keep fit and healthy. We will also link our writing lessons into this theme by learning to write informative leaflets and posters to convince and persuade and enjoyed a wonderful learning experience with P5 at Dalkeith Country Park this week – check out our Twitter feed for further information or view via the school website page.

Primary 4 have been learning all about the weather in French. This term they will use their language skills to create a weather podcast that will be available on twitter each week. They have to identify the correct language to describe the date, area and weather for each podcast.

Our novel study this term is James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl. Pupils have been learning to read for information in order to describe the setting and atmosphere. We have used the information to create accurate characters using recycled materials. This term they will continue to read for understanding and learn to justify their opinions using evidence.



Through Science, we have been learning about different substances and materials and investigating how they can change from solid to liquid to gas. We will be discovering how some substances dissolve and learning about how crystals form through making our very own rock candy.

Primary 4 have already successfully prepared for and received the Sacrament of Confirmation earlier this term. Archbishop Leo Cushley celebrated the Sacrament in St. David's Roman Catholic Church alongside



Monsignor Chambers and friends from our cluster primary schools: St. Luke's, St. Margaret's and Sacred Heart, respectively. We are now learning about the life of Jesus and the ultimate sacrifice He made for us. This is in preparation for the class receiving their First Holy Communion through the Sacrament of the Eucharist in June. We ask that you keep all the Sacramental pupils in your prayers as they continue on their spiritual journey.

P4 Sacrament of Holy Eucharist – 11am Sunday 14th June 2015, St. David's Church



This term Primary 5 are learning about Our Body, Food and Fitness. As a class we have been planning our learning to build on what we already know. Through our interdisciplinary topic we will be developing our skills in Science, Religious and Moral Education, Health and Well Being, Technologies and Literacy and applying these skills across the curriculum. We will be developing our fitness through daily P.E lessons and learning about how we can sustain exercise through our lives. We will be learning about healthy eating and how we can build and cook healthy meals. We are also going to plant and grow our own vegetables! We will be learning about our bodies and the impact that our lifestyle can have on our body

and how our body changes as we grow. We enjoyed a visit to Dalkeith Country Park with Primary 3 to learn more out where our food comes from at the Food and Farming Event.

We will be learning how to use Higher Order Thinking Skills through our class Novel 'The Butterfly Lion', learning to recognise, answer and create our own lower and higher order thinking questions. We will also be developing our individual reading skills through Bug Club which we can access on any electronic device! Look out for many opportunities to enhance our reading experience at home!

In Numeracy and Maths we will be consolidating our mental strategies for the four operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also be learning the formal written strategies and applying these strategies to help us solve different problems. In Maths we will be learning about Time, Shape and Measure and applying these skills in a real life context. We are very excited for our final term in Primary 5 and preparing ourselves for the transition into Primary 6!

Primary 1 intake for August 2015 – Transition visit 1 of 2

Last week we were delighted to welcome for the first time our new group of Primary 1 children who will be joining the school in August 2015. The children met their P1 teacher and classmates and the parents/carers will spent some time going over practical arrangements in the school hall. Miss Dunnigan, Mrs Lumbard and Mrs Marc reported on a very positive afternoon and a wonderful group of children and parents/carers. The next visit will take place mid June!

If your child was not fortunate in securing a place at this time and you would like advice or support, please contact Mr Currie at your earliest convenience

Parent Council News

Race Night – Friday 22nd May – Another fantastic evening of racing and fundraising, courtesy of our very hard working Parent Council Thank you to all who have contributed through sponsorship, horses, raffle etc as well as the incredible amount of preparation and organisation behind the scenes of what was a fun-filled night for all! Mrs Jones was delighted with her hamper from the raffle!!!



Community Clean-up – suggested date of Saturday 20th June 2015 – if you can offer your skills, talent, time and energy as part of our ongoing playground improvement project please contact: stdavidsdalkeithpc@gmail.com

Also, Please visit the [school website](#) to access the most recent minutes of Parent Council (PC) Meetings. The AGM is planned for the first term of 2015-2016 where new parent members will be invited to join, so this is a good time to find out more about the work of the PC and their support of the school in helping to improve our children's learning and experiences.



Remember, when you shop online, if you first visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk find the online shop via this site before making a purchase, the school will receive a percentage of your purchase total.

Nut Free Zone

Please support the school in our efforts to minimise risk to children with allergies in our school. We have children attending our school with nut allergies – please support our efforts as far as possible by making our school a nut free zone!

Also, remember to keep your child's medical records up to date – let the school office know of any changes to your child's medical needs. Thank you.



This term Primary One will be learning about Growing Up. We have been discussing what we would like to be when we grow up and how the skills we learn in school will help us to achieve this. We have looked at the milestones in our lives, working cooperatively to compare and record the differences. We have linked this to our learning in Science where we are developing our understanding of the human life cycle. Primary One are also looking at the development of our skeleton and the ways in which our muscles work and how this changes during our lives. We have enjoyed locating the different type of joints in our bodies and how these work to help us move, comparing the movement to different points in the human life cycle. Our next step is to transfer our learning of the human life cycle and apply it into learning about the life cycle of different animals.

Primary One are developing their literacy skills even further this term. We will be working with our Primary Five Reading Buddies to develop our questioning skills and fluency in reading, we will be using an online interactive resource to help us develop our comprehension skills as well as continuing to work effectively in class in our literacy stations. This term our focus in writing is on our use of connectives to develop our sentences. Primary One will also have opportunity to self and peer assess the correct use of punctuation in their writing. We are furthering our spelling and blending skills by looking at and applying different spelling rules. There is so much happening in Primary One that there are not enough hours in the school day! What an amazing group of children and we can't believe they are almost completing their first year at the school – outstanding pupils!



Primary Seven have lots of fantastic and exciting things to look forward to this term! As it is our last term of primary school, we want to make it as special and memorable as possible! We have an amazing trip to London planned at the beginning of June so we will get the chance to explore the famous sights like Big Ben and the London Eye, get a taste of London culture and even see some West End shows! Many of us are really looking forward to going to Harry Potter Studios! We are really excited to have this opportunity and can't wait to make some super special memories.

We also have our long-awaited transition days at our high schools coming up. We will get the chance to meet some of our new classmates and build some new friendships, get to know the school and the teachers a bit better and we will be getting used to following timetables to get to our lessons. We are looking forward to this experience as we feel it will help us to feel more prepared for our move into secondary school.

We are really enjoying our learning so far this term too! In Maths, we have been focusing on 'Measurement'. We can now find the areas and perimeters of simple and compound shapes and have been applying this learning to real life problems. We have also revised telling the time and reading analogue and digital clocks. Our next step in measurement is to read and interpret timetables in order to help to prepare us for reading timetables when we go to High School.

In Literacy, we have been focusing on developing our use of openers in our writing and learning to write simple, compound and complex sentences. Our next step is to improve the punctuation that we use across a range of writing genres.

We have been using Bug Club to help improve our reading comprehension. We get assigned different genres of texts regularly and have the opportunity to answer questions about the texts and develop our higher order thinking skills too. Bug Club is great because we can also use it at home to really challenge ourselves and make extra progress. Our next step in reading is to develop our own questioning skills using Bloom's Taxonomy to challenge our own and our peers' thinking.

We had the chance to attend an amazing 'Come and Try Biking' Session at Iron Mills. We developed our cycling skills in different ways: we learned how to tracks stand, do the 'M' health check on our bikes (tyres, brakes, gears, pedals, saddle, tyres) and we got the chance to mountain bike through an obstacle course. It was a great opportunity to try out something new. In our PE lessons at school, we are taking part in some circuit-style activities to help to develop our fitness and become healthier individuals. We are also lucky enough to have some extra Rugby instruction too, which will help us to develop teamwork skills as well as increase our fitness levels! Olympics Rio 2016 here we come!





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St. David's Primary School



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