



# *Bonnyrigg Primary News*

*October 2015*

*[bonnyrigg.mgfl.net](http://bonnyrigg.mgfl.net)*

## *October Holiday*

A reminder that school is closed to pupils on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October and for the following week after. All pupils and staff return to school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Happy holiday!

## *Macmillan Coffee Morning*

Thank you very much to all those who contributed home baking to our coffee morning on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. Thanks also to the PA for supplying tea and coffee and of course a great big thank you to everyone who came along and made the event a great success. The final total raised was £311.00.

## *Staffing*

We wish to say goodbye to Mr Drysdale who has been appointed Principal Teacher at Cornbank Primary School. We will miss him. Miss Herbert also went on maternity leave and wish her well with her new baby.

Mrs Allan was also recently promoted to Senior CCDW. Congratulations to her.

We also welcome Ms Bennett who will take P4 along with Mrs Douglas and Ms Howson who will be with us to take Mr Drysdale's class.

## *Safety in the Playground*

Please DO NOT allow children to bring leather footballs into the school playground. These balls are very heavy and children and adults have been hit with them before school starts. Children are allowed the use of balls at break times but these are softer plastic balls. Thank you.

## *Calendar of Events*

The calendar listing events in the school should now be available on the school website. Apologies for the delay in this.

## *Music Tuition*

In our previous newsletter it was mentioned that music tuition was available from Primary 5. Unfortunately this was an error and is only available from Primary 6.

## *Lost Item*

An item of children's jewellery was handed in to the office. Please contact us if you think it might be yours.

## *Active Schools*

A reminder that if waiting for children after an active schools club to wait outside and the coach will bring the children out to you.

### *Fingerspellathon*

Throughout October the children in P2 to P7 will be participating in a fingerspellathon to raise money and awareness for the National Deaf Children's Society. Children will receive cards with the British Sign Language alphabet to take home and practise as well as sponsor sheets if they would like to raise money for the charity - Let's Get Fingerspelling!!

### *French Assistant*

As part of the Scottish Government 1+2 Languages initiative, children from P1-P7 are learning French this year. To support this, we are pleased to welcome Albane Pringent, as a French assistant to support learning in classes. Modern Language Assistants are co-ordinated by the British Council and spend a year in the UK to improve their English.

### *P1 News*

Primary 1 have been really busy learning their sounds this term. We have also found out a bit about the brain and are looking at the language of learning with the rest of the school. Children have been really good at thinking about how practising, persevering and taking risks help make us all good learners. We have also looked at some information about Transport. Everyone has settled into school really well and the teachers are so proud of how well we can follow our routines.

### *P2 News*

Primary 2 have been focusing on Roald Dahl's 'The Twits' this term. They have enjoyed finding lots of WOW words in the story so far and have been practicing using them in their own imaginative writing. In PE, P2B have been learning about Visible Learning by practicing their skills, persevering when things are hard, taking a risk in games to win points and showing determination to beat their targets. Well done P2.

### *P3 News*

P3 have been very busy learning about the Human Body. We asked the pupils what they already knew and then what they would like to learn. They came up with lots of ideas, including wanting to learn about the brain, the heart, the skeleton, the joints and the senses.

They have also been learning how to be a good learner. They have presented their ideas about perseverance and taking a risk at the Visible Learning Gathering.

### P4 News

Primary 4 have been looking at how to be a good learner and we have been thinking about our 'comfort zones'. We have discussed what it means to feel comfortable doing something, what it feels like to be in the 'stretch zone' and also the 'panic zone'. We all aim to be in the 'stretch zone' as this is where the best learning occurs.

We have also been enjoying our trips to Lasswade High School to go swimming and many of us have been able to challenge ourselves in the water and take small risks.

We have been enjoying learning French with Albane Prigent, a French assistant and practising for our Harvest Assembly which we performed to our parents and carers last week.

### P5 News

In Primary 5 we have had a very busy first term. We have been learning about extinct and endangered animals through our topic 'Rockford's Rock Opera'. This is a digital novel and it is a great way for us to learn about the causes of extinction and what we can do to help endangered animals. We are really looking forward to our trip to Edinburgh Zoo on Tuesday 20th October.

We have also been learning about what makes a good learner. We have been focusing on a different word each week and reflecting on how we have demonstrated these qualities in and out of school. In ICT we have been persevering when learning how to code and we have focused on practising our times tables in Numeracy. Mrs Ireland and Miss Groom are so impressed by how much effort we have been putting into all of our learning.

### P6 News

P6A prepared and delivered a brilliant assembly about Roald Dahl for Roald Dahl's Dahlicious Dress-Up Day. This event raised a fantastic £270 for Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity. Thank you to all who donated, and for the effort that people went to with their costumes.

Both P6 classes have been learning about the brain in class and for home learning. In class we have made neurons out of play-doh, thought about "stress buckets" and learned lots of fabulous facts. For those children that are going, we are now on a countdown to P6 Camp, as it draws ever nearer! We look forward to seeing as many P6 parents and carers as possible at a short meeting on October 21st at 5.30pm. Please enter by upper atrium door.

## P7 News

P7B have been studying the Structure of the Earth and were lucky to visit Dynamic Earth to learn about super volcanoes and volcanic rocks. In science we have been creating experiments that demonstrate Eruptions, Earthquakes and the Earth's core pressure.

P7 have been involved in trials for a new boy's football team and played a tournament against other schools in Bonnyrigg where they won 5 of their games. Well done boys.

We have also been exploring classical music in both classes linked to our topic. We understand how music creates atmosphere and emotion.

We have been learning about mean, mode and median in maths.

In French we have been learning about family member's names and how to pronounce them. We have also been learning about French culture with the French teacher.

## Nursery News

A great big hello from all the staff in Bonnyrigg Nursery.

We have had a busy term so far with lots of new children joining us who have all settled in really well and are now part of our Bonnyrigg family. We have another busy term starting after the October break and are really excited as we lead up to the Christmas term which our children (and staff) become really excited about. Please take a few minutes to read the important information below and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact a member of the team.

### Wellbeing Meetings

Following parental feedback last year regarding communication, we have introduced wellbeing meetings this year. Your child's key worker will meet with you 3 times across the year, in addition to the Progress meetings that they already have. Four out of the six key groups have already had their meetings and we thank you for giving up your time to attend these.

These meetings are a chance for you to discuss your child's strengths with their key worker and also areas that you feel they need support in. In everything that we do we have your child at the centre and this will allow us to work together even more closely for the benefit of our little learners.

### Friday Afternoon Telephone Number

Please remember on a Friday afternoon if you wish to contact the nursery to report an absence or change to pick up arrangements to dial 0131 271 4571.

## *Nursery News (continued)*

### Nursery Improvements

Our priorities for improvement this year are based upon parental feedback, children's feedback and staff feedback.

#### Priority 1 - Children's group

- Developing key areas within the nursery in conjunction with staff, to incorporate further children's choice.

#### Priority 2 - Staff

- Planning, assessment and reporting
- Developing the curriculum including outdoor learning

#### Priority 3-Parents

- Parental feedback
- Outdoor working party - Developing our outdoor space.

There will be three working parties taking these forward and we already have two parents signed up to lead on Priority 3. If you are interested in joining this group please speak to Donna Scott who is the staff member leading this group.

### Pre-School Parents meetings

The pre-school parents meetings are scheduled to begin at the end of November. Further details about these will be issued separately with appointment time sign-up sheets soon after the October week. These meetings will be during the nursery day with your child's key worker.

### Picking up your child

At pick up time, your child will be working with their group and key worker. This is to allow a handover to take place so that you can ask any questions about your child's day or pass on any important information that we may need to know. For security, could we ask that you go over to your child's group to collect them, as this ensures that every child is with the adult picking them up and no one can leave by the nursery doors unaccompanied. Thank you.

### Christmas Trip

We are planning to take all of the children to see the Stick Man in Edinburgh. More information on this will be sent out in a separate letter with tear off slip.

Finally, the nursery team would like to thank you for your continued support this term including helping out in the nursery and with the upcoming trips. Have lovely October break and we will see all of our little learners after the holiday.

Thank you,  
The nursery team.