

# Bonnyrigg Primary Newsletter

February 2018



## DATES TO REMEMBER FOR FEBRUARY



1<sup>st</sup> February – P3 to Dobbies Butterfly World

5<sup>th</sup> February – Sex Ed/Keeping Myself Safe Meeting for P5 – P7 Parents – 5.30 pm

15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February – School Holiday Closed to all pupils in School and Nursery

23<sup>rd</sup> February – Dress Down Day

P5 and P6 Show – Alice in Wonderland – More Information to follow

## EARLY YEARS (NURSERY AND P1)

### NURSERY

#### Winter

Our current theme in the nursery is 'Winter'. The children loved the recent first-hand experience of playing in the snow, describing its effects and thinking about how it makes them feel.

As we continue our theme the children will compare the winter weather to the weather we experienced in autumn. We will share our experiences of winter and learn lots of new information and descriptive language. We will experiment with water and temperature both inside and outdoors. We will look at winter art works and build up our own winter gallery.

#### Staffing

We welcome two new faces to our nursery team this session; Abigail Millar is our Modern Apprentice and will be in our nursery on Mondays and Donna Simpson is an HNC student from Edinburgh College. Donna will be with us on Wednesdays and Thursdays.



## NURSERY (CONTD)

### Parent Helpers

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to help in the nursery, we are very grateful for your support and look forward to working with you this term. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff.

### Clothing

Particularly in this colder weather, please ensure that your child is suitably dressed for being indoors and outdoors. Our doors to the garden are open for almost the full session and many of our children are enjoying being outside in spite of the colder weather.

Please also make sure that your child has a change of clothes on their peg as accidents do happen from time to time. We do have a limited selection of spare clothes but many children prefer to change into something familiar. If your child does come home in nursery clothes; please wash and return as soon as possible, thank you.

### Junk

We now need more donations of junk for the nursery. If you have empty cereal boxes etc please pop them in the red boxes in the cloakroom.

### Notice Board

Please take a couple of minutes to look at our updated notice board in the cloakroom/entrance foyer. You will find lots of useful information on these boards.

We have also started a new section where we are asking for feedback. Please take a couple of minutes to answer our latest question. Your feedback is very important and helps us to make improvements to our nursery.

Our current question is "How well do you feel you know the curriculum taught in the nursery and in what ways could we better share information with you?"



## PRIMARY 1

Primary 1 pupils have started our topic of Scotland. We are really enjoying learning about our great country. The children, as usual, are at the centre of their own learning by discussing what it is that they would like to learn and having their teachers providing the opportunity for that learning.

The children are really enjoying coming together as a year group for phonics sessions. They are getting a chance to work alongside their friends in other classes and experiencing the different teaching styles of the P1 staff.



## FIRST LEVEL (P2, P3 AND P4)

### PRIMARY 2

Primary 2 pupils have settled back into school well after the Christmas holidays and are looking forward to the busy term ahead. This term in Literacy we will be developing our imaginative writing skills through our Social Studies topic - comparing Africa and Scotland. As part of this topic we will be comparing the weather and climate, lifestyles and schooling, animals, music and culture. In Reading our focus is enjoyment and choice and we will be selecting texts and justifying our choices. In Numeracy, we are learning about money and applying our knowledge in a real life context in our atrium cafe. Our focus in Health and Well Being this term for PE is fitness and circuits and we also have a hundred acts of kindness challenge which is keeping us busy.



### PRIMARY 3

Both Primary 3 classes have begun 2018 by learning about Chinese New Year and the customs and celebrations associated with this festival. They found out about the food eaten, the decorations used, dragon processions and the traditional gifts given to children. They made Chinese masks, dragons and lanterns. P3A then presented their learning to the whole school in an assembly, singing and acting out the story of Chinese New Year. They did a great job and we are very proud of them.

Primary 3B has been reading *Hamish the Hairy Haggis* for Scottish Week and writing an alternative ending for the hilarious storybook. In maths, we've been using Bee-Bots to learn how to give accurate directions. We're also about to start on the exciting Learning Across the Curriculum theme of Ancient Egypt!



### PRIMARY 4

Last term Primary 4 were learning about China. Both classes visited the Edinburgh Zoo to take part in the Giant Lantern Tour and got to see lots of animals as well as learning lots of interesting facts about China in the workshop. Chris Jiang, a Teacher from Lasswade High School, has been teaching us Mandarin which is great fun.

This term we have been focusing on physical and social wellbeing, learning how to keep ourselves safe in different situations. Later on in the term we will be learning about Electricity.

Primary 4B pupils have begun a series of drumming workshops. We are looking forward to improving our skills and having lots of fun along the way.



## SECOND LEVEL (P5, P6 AND P7)

### PRIMARY 5

Primary 5 pupils have had a busy start since coming back from our Christmas Break. This term the children will have the opportunity to perform in our P5/6 show and to go skiing at the Midlothian Ski Centre (Hillend) and Primary 5A will also take part in a four week 'Drumming For Excellence' workshop.

In Literacy our focus is on developing our persuasive writing which we will be doing alongside developing our formal letter writing skills. In Numeracy we are continuing to develop our understanding of formal addition/subtraction methods and will be linking this to our learning in money (decimals).

Our topic this term has been provided through the 'Bonnyrigg History Society' annual competition and involves the children researching local shopping between the 1920s and 1970s. The children would appreciate any help/information that can be given from home on what shops used to exist in Bonnyrigg. We are all very excited at what is going to be a busy but fun term ahead.



### PRIMARY 6

Primary 6 pupils have started the year with great excitement. Coming soon will be a musical of 'Alice in Wonderland' which shall be performed by pupils in P5 and P6. Our auditions took place, at which our pupils demonstrated a huge amount of talent. After much debating, decisions were made and roles have been assigned! We will now be busy learning lines, singing songs, preparing scenery and props. This term we are having a focus on 'Big Deal Little Deal'. This will develop strategies for children to use and give them the ability to identify if something really is a big deal or can they deal with a situation themselves and overcome it by using these strategies.

Everyone in the school has had a Scottish focus this week and P6 have been set the task of learning the traditional Burns poem, 'Tam O'Shanter'. Primary 6 will compete in a poetry slam together. P6A worked hard to organise and perform a Scottish assembly for the school with poetry, music and Scots language galore!



### PRIMARY 7

Primary 7 pupils have started Term 3 with a flurry of excitement as we began working with the Primary 1s in our weekly paired reading sessions. The pupils love spending this special time with their buddies sharing stories. We are also studying Robbie Burns, his songs and poetry. We will be planning and holding a Burns Supper and enjoying a Ceilidh. We have an exciting visit to Edinburgh College coming up on Thursday 8th of March where we will be learning some Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths skills (STEM). More detail will be issued nearer the date. We are also working on our Primary 7/High School transition Science projects. We have been using fruit as cells and learning how to write a science report using the format we will need in S1.



## **PARENT COUNCIL/FUNDRAISING NEWS**

After all deductions and additions the final amount raised in December including the games, Christmas Fair and our choir debut singing at Tesco is **£4263.12**. Thank you to all the elves (adults and children) who helped in December. We hope you had fun and we made a lot of money along the way! We have asked the children and teachers for "wishlists" so watch this space to find out how funds will be spent.

Our next fundraising event will be the Spring Disco - more info to follow.



## **GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS**

### **STAFF UPDATE**

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Poppy Browne, our Drama Teacher. Poppy will be leaving us after the February break. We wish her well.

### **PARENTPAY**

Many thanks to everyone who has signed up for Parentpay. We have had around an 87% uptake. We would encourage everyone to sign up in order to pay for trips, lunches, TOPPS etc.

Once registered you can set up an alert to let you know when a payment item is available. To do this go to the Communication Tab, select Profile, Change Alert Settings. You then register your email address and phone number and can select whether you want texts or emails. You can also set a minimum threshold for lunches and if you go below this limit you will be sent a reminder.



### **UNIFORM**

We have been notified by Border Embroideries that they will no longer deliver online uniform orders to the school. All orders are now sent directly to your home address.

The cost for this is now £2.99 for customers who spend under £45 and free for spending over £45.

### **HOUSE BADGES**

The new houses have been decided and everyone should have now received their house name and coloured badge to wear with pride.

If your child loses their badge we can offer a replacement at a cost of £1.20. If they lose the butterfly pin at the back we have these too at a cost of 10p.

Please just send cash for these items and not Parentpay.

