

Skene School Bulletin 3 30.11.16

Working Together, Learning Together, To Be The Best We Can Be



A message from Miss Hampton...

Where has this term gone? With just 3 weeks to go until the Christmas holidays, we are beginning to get into the festive mood. Nativity rehearsals have started and the choir are sounding great with their Christmas carols. Please keep practicing lines and song words for the Nativity to help us out

Please may I ask that parents continue to work with us to ensure pupils come to school fully prepared for the day ahead. More and more children are coming to school ill-prepared and this makes it very hard to teach the planned lessons when the children do not have the required resources. Thank you for your support with this.

Class News...



By Molly: In P1/2 we have been thinking about 2D and 3D shapes. A cube is a 3D shape and its net is made out of squares. Our topic is 'Nocturnal Animals' and we now know lots of facts about owls, hedgehogs and foxes. Our writing has been about this too and yesterday we wrote facts about foxes. In Art, we have been making owl pictures with coloured ink and coloured pencils. We look forward to showing you them next week. We have also been using our environment to help us with our art and colour work. We have been learning lots of new sounds. P2 have been learning about 'ew' and P1 have been learning about 'j' and 'y'.

By Mack: In P2/3/4 we have been reading more of Charlie and The Chocolate Factory. We are currently making WANTED posters - this is a link to the movie as some of the children have disappeared.

We went on a class trip to Tesco and went to the bakery there. Pete the Baker showed us how to make bread. We even saw a few familiar faces as we went around the shop... including my Auntie. We have been writing thank you letters to send to Tesco.



In Maths, we are learning about subtraction. It can be a wee bit tricky as you have to remember all of the rules to get the right answer. We have been doing lots of reading activities and are loving the new books!

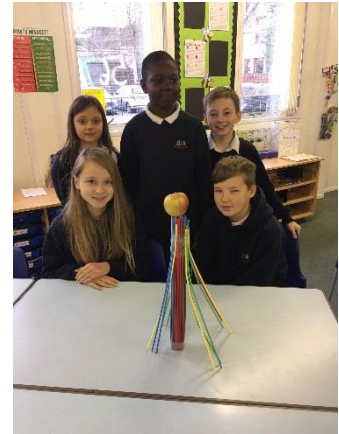
We have started preparing the Nativity and have done a couple of practises. We need to keep learning our lines to make sure we know them for the night.

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By Jess: In P5/6/7 we have been learning about animation. We are creating stick animations on Stick Nodes (ipad App) - we were allowed to choose the topic for these. We are now learning stop motion animations. We have been learning about Time, Angles and Shape in Maths.

In Writing we are developing our imaginative writing skills. We have written about 'The House on the Hill' and a variety of other topics using story starters such as getting off a train, climbing the stairs and then...



In PE, we have been learning a variety of Scottish Country Dances.

Google Expeditions

We were very excited to have the Google Expeditions Team in on Thursday 3rd November for our P3-7 pupils. We climbed Mount Everest, visited the Great Barrier Reef and saw Christ the Redeemer in Rio. The virtual experience was fantastic and the children were amazed that they could visit these places from the comfort of their own classrooms.



Play Leaders

All of our Primary 6 and 7 pupils have been training hard to become Play Leaders. Their assessment is this Friday and will be carried out by Matt, our Active Schools Coordinator. As soon as we have our new cohort of Play Leaders, we will create a rota and get organising games in the playground for our younger pupils.

MAD Award

This term we have introduced the MAD award for our Primary 4-7 pupils. This stands for 'Making a Difference.' The aim of the award is to acknowledge the hard work and volunteering that our pupils do for the school. Many of our pupils help with the library, lunch duty, litter picking, run lunchtime etc and we would like to acknowledge their work. There are 4 levels - Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Pupils must keep a record of all of their voluntary work and get it verified by an adult. Once they have achieved the desired number of hours for the level, they will be awarded with a certificate and pin badge.

Curling

Primary 5/6/7 enjoyed two Curling sessions at the Curl Aberdeen. They learned the basic skills and etiquette of the sport. This was organised by Active Schools.



Prayer Space

A very big thank you to the team from Kirkton of Skene Church who organised, set up and ran the Prayer Space for us on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th. The pupils in P5/6/7 worked with Rev Stella a couple of weeks beforehand to select some of the activities on offer. The Refugee Rucksack and the Love heart prayers were particular favourites.

Children in Need

We helped to raise money for Children in Need on Friday 18th November by having a dress as you please day. We raised £103.50 which has been sent off to the charity. Thank you all very much for your donations.

Rotary Young Speaker

A very big well done to Sarah Kay in P7 for representing the School at the Rotary Young Speaker Competition. Sarah presented a talk about Competitive Swimming. She spoke confidently and passionately about her chosen subject. Well done, Sarah!



Jazz

We have been enjoying Jazz sessions in school over the last few weeks, delivered by Mike Brogan. We applied for the opportunity back in August and were selected as one of just two schools in Aberdeenshire to receive it. There will be 12 sessions across the year, for all classes. The pupils and staff have enjoyed the sessions so far - it is great to hear a different style of music and selection of instruments in school.

Community Groups

Bear Grylls: The Bear Grylls group have been out and about



exploring the local woods and learning about our local environment. We have been tree hugging, measuring how old trees are, doing scavenger hunts and making 'feely boxes'. We have been supported by Alison, one of the Garioch Rangers, for several sessions



and we have loved having her expertise on hand. Yesterday, Alison joined us in the school grounds to create a bug hotel and to show us how to use a Kelly Kettle. We had great fun ... and the hot chocolate was yummy too!

Healthy Heroes:



The Healthy Heroes have been working hard to plan and prepare a Healthy Tuckshop. They researched different fruits and vegetables, looked at budgeting and were comparing the prices of each item in different shops. The healthy snacks were a big success today!



Snapshot Jotters

Following on from my email a few weeks ago, you have now had the Snapshot jotters home twice - once for writing and once for reading. They will come home again on Friday to show you what your child has been learning in Maths. Please use this as an opportunity for discussion with your child/children about what they are learning, how they are finding it, their success and areas for development and allow them the opportunity to share what they are proud of. Please also take the time to write a comment on the work. It is not an opportunity for you to mark the work and write critical comments, more an opportunity to support and praise the hard work of your children. The pupils and staff really do hope to receive more comments for their Maths work.

Barcaple 2017

Just a reminder of the forthcoming payment dates for next year's calendar/diary.

- Payment 2 is due between Monday 23rd January and Friday 27th January - £100
- Final payment is due between Monday 20th February and Friday 24th February - £100

Parent Council

A very big thank you to the Parent Council for their continued support. With their help and fundraising we have now reached a 1-1 allocation of ipads. I am now working with the Technologies team at Aberdeenshire Council to agree how we move forward with this.

Calendar sales are going well. This is one of the big sources of income for the Parent Council. Please, if you have not already done so, return your payment or calendar ASAP. The Parent Council will be supporting our trip to the Pantomime by paying for the bus and an ice cream at the interval. A very big thank you in advance for this.



Please note the next meeting is on Tuesday 6th December at 6pm.

Names on belongings

We ask that you please name all items of clothing and footwear that belong to your child/children. The pile of unnamed items is ever increasing, especially in Primary 1/2 and no children claiming them. We will put them out at the Open School event on Tuesday. Please

look and see if you recognise anything. All of the staff would be very grateful of your support with this.

Whole School Panto Visit

With only two week to go until our trip to the panto, I would like to confirm the details.

Date: Friday 16th December.

Bus leaves **School**: 12:45pm

Bus returns to **Milne Hall Car Park**: approximately 5:00pm

Lunch Arrangements - ALL pupils to have a packed lunch.

Forms must be returned to Lorraine ASAP if you would like a school lunch. They are made to order.



Road Safety

As you are all aware, we continue to have safety concerns with the crossing at the Half Mile and the junction to the school car park. Thank you to Mrs Toshney who is helping to drive this forward, contacting our local councilors again, members of Aberdeenshire Council and an MSP. We will keep you informed of any progress that we make.

Sad News

It is with great sadness that I share the following news with you all. Sadly but peacefully, Gavin Dunbar, a previous Janitor for Skene, passed away on Tuesday afternoon. He was a unique and amazing person and was very fond of our school, pupils and staff. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time. Miss Law will represent the school at his funeral next week.

Dates for your Diary:

- Friday 2nd December - Play Leader Assessments for P6/7 pupils
- Tuesday 6th December - Open School 3:45 - 5:45pm
- Tuesday 6th December - Parent Council Meeting 6pm
- Wednesday 14th December - Whole School Christmas Party in the Woods
- Wednesday 14th December - Christmas Jumper/Bobble Hat Day
- Thursday 15th December - Christmas Lunch
- Thursday 15th December - Choir singing at Pitcairn Lodge Care Home 2-3pm
- Friday 16th December - Whole School Trip to the Panto
- Sunday 18th December - Carols by Candlelight
- Tuesday 20th December - Nativity at Kirkton of Skene Church, 6:30pm start
- Wednesday 21st December - Last Day of Term
- Wednesday 21st December - Christmas Parties
- Thursday 5th January - Back to School

Happy holidays!

