



Meadowburn Primary School



Bun Sgoil Innis an Uillt

January 2018



Welcome back and the very best wishes to you all for a happy and prosperous 2018.

LEARNING THIS TERM

The children will all be busy learning about an aspect of Scotland at the start of this term and will be studying topics including Scottish Wildlife, Myths and Legends, Food and Farming & Landscape. The learning in these topics will be further enhanced through our Burns Assembly on Friday 26th January. The Burns Assembly will be led by our P7 pupils with our P6 pupils also performing. All parents/carers are welcome to join us in the school hall for this event at 9.30am on Friday 26th January. After their Scottish Studies, all classes will move on to an 'Ancient World' topic. The key Social Studies skills that will be developed through this topic are:



Social Studies - People, past events and societies

Analyse, interpret and evaluate evidence

Develop sense of chronology

Compare/ contrast past with present

Evaluate impact on society today

HISTORY



STAFFING UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Rutherford to Meadowburn Primary who will be the Primary 3 class teacher for the remainder of the session. We welcome Mrs Rutherford to the Meadowburn team!

All being well, I plan to start my maternity leave in February. The Education Authority will organise cover for my maternity leave, the position is currently being advertised. I will keep you updated with any information when I can.



ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

So far we have had a cold winter but haven't had much snow however who knows what the Scottish weather is going to throw at us? In the event of adverse winter weather that could result in the closure of the school please note the following:

- Should it be necessary to close the school we will post information on our website and use phone/ Groupcall service to contact parents/carers. Please ensure we have your up to date mobile phone numbers and email addresses by notifying the school office of any changes as soon as possible.
- Subsequent school closure days will be notified on the EDC and the Meadowburn websites and Twitter page, and via local media. Updates will be given daily to keep you informed.

Please note: Groupcall & Twitter are a one-way communication feed, we will not respond to replies however please phone or email the office at the school if you require any further information or clarification.

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCE AND ILLNESS



The attendance of the majority of pupils at Meadowburn Primary School is very good and good attendance is vital for children's progress. A child's non-attendance can be due to a number of reasons e.g. illness or family circumstances and as Head Teacher I monitor attendance on a monthly basis. Communication between home and school is always key and I think that it is important that parents are informed when their child's absence levels reach a stage where it could be impacting on their child's learning and his/her ability to reach his/her full potential. In these circumstances I will be issuing a letter and contacting parents by phone to have a conversation or arrange a meeting if necessary. The same procedures will be followed if late-coming is having a similar disadvantageous impact on a child's learning. Being late regularly for school means valuable teaching time is missed and it can be unsettling for the child. If your child is late he/she should enter through the main door and report to the school office, not just go directly to class. Should your child be unaccounted for a member of the office staff will call you before 9.30am to ascertain his/her whereabouts. If your child is home at lunchtime and is unable to return for afternoon lessons please call us before 1.00pm.

CELEBRATING WIDER ACHIEVEMENTS



We recognise and celebrate Wider Achievements in a variety of ways in Meadowburn such as through our Assemblies and display in the main hall. Please continue to complete Wider Achievements slips so that your child's Achievements can be recognised in the school. Our next Wider Achievements Assembly will be held on Friday 2nd February. Could I also remind parents/ carers to send in any photographs, certificates etc. for your child to add into the Outside Achievement section at the back of their Learning Story.



WORD AWARE UPDATE

Word Aware is an initiative that promotes increased vocabulary awareness, encouraging children to widen their vocabulary by exploring a variety of words within their contexts.

Since August our P1 children have completed activities on a variety of different words.

Highlights of the programme include:

- * 'Concept Cat' visiting a different child's home each week. The children then document the visit by taking a photograph of 'Concept Cat' performing the word of that week e.g. between, near & through.
- * Displays are in both P1 classrooms that are regularly updated, a further display is on the P1/2 window so that parents can see what word is being explored that week from the playground when picking up and dropping off their children.
- * 'Concept Cat's' word of the fortnight is announced by our P1 children at assemblies so that all of the children in the school can use that word and display it's action when speaking to P1 children.
- * P1 children wear stickers displaying the word so that the older children and adults can use the word in context through informal conversations with the children.

The initiative has been going very well and the P1 children are making great progress with this.

We will continue to keep you updated on their progress.



ON-GOING PARKING ISSUES

Unfortunately, over the past few months there have been several complaints made from some of our local residents regarding the inappropriate parking of cars to drop off/ pick up children from the school and nursery. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask parents/carers to think carefully about keeping everyone safe when parking in the local community. Please park with courtesy and consideration to others; allowing pedestrians to be able to walk on pavements, space for prams to get past if required and without blocking any driveways/ road exits.

DATES FOR DIARIES:

- 15th January Nursery & P1 Registration Week (Nursery - on-line application)
- 26th January Burns Assembly (involving P7 and P6 pupils)
- 29th January Whole School Art Day
- 2nd February Wider Achievements Assembly
- 9th February Valentine's Assembly (led by Mainstream Nursery pupils)
- 12th February Holiday
- 13th February Holiday
- 14th February In-service Day
- 16th February Chinese New Year Assembly (led by Gaelic Stream Nursery pupils)
- 20th February Book Fair Week
- 16th March Wider Achievements Assembly
- 23rd March Easter Assembly (led by P6 pupils)
- 27th March Big Topic Open Evening
- 29th March School closes at 2.30pm for holidays
- 16th April Pupils Back to School - Health Week



To all parents/carers, I would like to say that if there are any aspects of school life that cause concern or that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch right away, phone, email or pop in to the school office and we will do our best to help.

Mrs C. Doherty
Acting Head Teacher

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