

Friday, 24th May 2019

Hope everyone enjoyed the Monday holiday, our last holiday before the big summer arrives on 28th June. Thank you to Mr Robertson for organising and leading such a good sports day. There were lots of positive comments on a day when the weather stayed fine and children had a great time in our playing field.

We're very proud of the Nurture work we're doing at Ferryhill in our Rainbow Room and this week teachers came from all over Edinburgh to hear about our work in this area. The children decorated rainbow cakes with Mrs Wood for our visitors, they've also been planting peas and are going to follow the instructions from one of our P3 pupils to grow sunflowers and see who can grow the tallest. We've had a strong focus on STEM this year. Learners across many stages have taken part in a wide variety of lessons such as programming/robotics, various scientific experiments, building boats, catapults, bridges and even electric cars. You can view a lot of what we do on our Twitter feed and the school website. In the Art club we made flowers from recycled materials such as milk bottles (home recycling), pipe cleaners (found at the back of the cupboard), sticks (from fallen trees by the cycle track) and left over paint. Cost £0, fun 100% - have a look below. Ferryhill choir is back for two special sessions this term. Anyone in Primary 5, 6 and 7 who would like to sing is welcome on Wednesday 12th June and Thursday 13th June 12.45-1.15 in the PE Hall. We look forward to singing with you. Mr Robertson tells us that in PE all classes have been developing their skills through team invasion games, gymnastics and athletics. Each year there will be some core activities pupils will revisit to make sure they're given the opportunity to challenge themselves and transfer skills they've learned to be as successful as possible. In PE pupils develop their mental, social, emotional and physical skills which they can use to be successful in all areas of PE and not just specific sports. In the last few weeks most classes have benefited from being able to improve their athletics outside in the back field experimenting with a number of different running, throwing and jumping techniques with some classes taking on different roles and acting as an athlete and a coach.

The nursery children have been finding out what plants need to grow and have been planting seeds in the nursery garden. Primary 2a have enjoyed tasting a variety of fruit from the rainforest with Mrs Bannerman. They've all created their own fruit kebabs and are looking forward to eating them. We've been keeping seed diaries to check how much the seeds have grown every week and are developing our measuring and comparing skills when recording the information. Primary 3A have been demonstrating their fantastic singing skills this week as they've begun practising some songs for their upcoming assembly. Parents will receive a letter soon to inform them of the performance date. They've been learning lots of information about plants and animals and how important they are to us and the environment we live in. Sofia's Gran came to visit P4A on Wednesday morning. She gave us a fascinating talk about life in Edinburgh's Old Town. We saw lots of interesting photos and heard about how things have changed over the years. The children had lots of interesting questions to ask too. A big thank you from P4A. The P7s had a fantastic time at Broughton High School as part of their transition. There were many different activities that they all had an opportunity to try e.g. rugby, basketball, gymnastics, football and making a delicious yogurt berry breakfast in the HFT department. Everyone had a great time, met lots of the teachers and made new friends ready for the big step in August.

Many congratulations to Ella in Primary 7 who has been selected to take part in the 60th Scout Gang Show. Ella has lots of rehearsals ahead of her before her debut at the King's Theatre in Edinburgh.

Going back in time, the school roll dropped from 652 in April 1961 to 448 in January 1966. Entries in the log book during the 1960s were mainly regarding staff provision and attendance. The school kitchen began operation on the 27th of November 1961. Television equipment was installed on the 27th of August 1962. A school inspection took place in October 1962. In March 1964 the Headmaster was informed that no action was proposed over the lavatory smells as there was no money. He contacted the City Architects but was not impressed with the action they took to seal the existing tiles. He protested this was not a suitable method of dealing with the matter. On the 25th of January 1966, 111 children were absent out of a possible 448.

Stewart Crabb, Head Teacher

