

Ferryhill Primary School Head Teacher's Weekly Newsletter

Friday, 31st January 2020

We've changed our weekly newsletter from attachment to text in email in the hope more parents and carers will read it. A few parents said they didn't know about the open morning last week. The dates were sent out at the start of the year and reminded in the newsletter on the 17th of January, so with that in mind we're conducting a 2 minute survey to ask parents how they'd prefer to receive news and communications from school. Please complete the survey by clicking:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/22HDDH6>

What's on in February

Our calendar for the year was sent out at the start of the year and updated in December. A copy is also available on the school website. However here's what's coming up in February.

February	Monday 3	P7A class to Art of Listening event
	Tuesday 4	P7B class to Art of Listening event
	Wednesday 5	Parent Council Meeting 6pm
	Friday 7	Bilingual Coffee Morning 11 am
	Friday 7	School closes for holiday usual times
	Monday 17	School reopens for everyone
	Monday 24 to Friday 28	Diversity Focus Week
	Thursday 27	P7A Class Assembly 2pm

Our Diversity Focus Week is coming up on the 24th of February. We have planned cooking from Ghana and India, Bollywood Dancing Workshop, Brazilian martial arts, storytelling and Highland Dancing. If you can help offer other activities please return the letter sent out by the Diversity Pupil Group or contact Mrs Modunkwu at the school.

Around the Classes

This week P1 have been learning about Chinese New Year. They enjoyed making paper lanterns and dragon masks as well as learning to write numbers in Chinese! P1/2 and P2 have started their new Scotland topic. We looked for Scotland on a map, learned some new Scottish vocabulary and discussed favourite Scottish foods. We hope to find out more about famous Scots. P3A have been working very well in Numeracy learning number bonds and using these for addition and subtraction. We have also been learning about Viking art and how to create art with repeating patterns. P3B have been learning to partition numbers this week. We have been learning the difference between 1, 2 & 3 digit numbers and their place value using units, tens and hundreds. We baked Rye bread, like the Vikings, with Mrs Bannerman and she said our number work when measuring ingredients was fantastic. P4A have been using mild, spicy and hot challenges during Big Maths and everyone is getting much better at remembering their fact families. We have started our new topic Old and New Edinburgh and learnt about Greyfriars Bobby and why there is a statue for him. P4B have enjoyed creating the beginning of their fact file, starting with Edinburgh castle. They have been working hard in maths using money to solve different problems. Next week they are looking forward to creating their own stories about Greyfriars Bobby. P5A have been working hard on 2D and 3D shapes this week. We have been learning about acute, obtuse, right and straight angles. We also enjoyed sharing our rainforest poems with parents and carers at the open day last Friday. In maths

this week P5B have continued with our angle work. We have been identifying different angles and looking at quarter, half and full turns going in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction. We are all becoming a lot more confident with practise. P6A have been learning about Climate Change and how this can impact on animal environments; leading to them becoming endangered. This week we used our map reading skills to learn the names of the continents and oceans. We focused on Australasian animals and their diversity. Together we discussed how many animals have lost their habitat due to the recent bushfires and a variety of ways that these animals can be protected and looked after. We researched Aboriginal stories and discovered the importance of animals to them, through the use of totems. Using this information and examples of their drawings, we created our own pieces of art using dots. In ICT we have been learning about coding and started creating simple codes using Scratch. We are hoping to soon start coding our own games to share with each other. P6B are looking at different methods to help raise self-esteem in HWB, learning how to take part in persuasive discussions, writing acrostic poems about Australian animals and using ICT to research 4 endangered Australian animals to build up a fact file about each one. P7B pupils visited the Standard Life Offices in Lothian Road. They were shown individual meeting rooms and how the technology in the room worked. The pupils observed a conference call from other branches of Standard Life in the UK. The group were then shown up to the 9th Floor, where meetings for VIP guests are held and the pupils were treated to a 270 degree panoramic view of the city through large windows. They heard from 3 members of staff who spoke about their roles in the organisation and a newly appointed apprentice talked about their journey into employment at Standard Life. They took part in group challenges, to show how individual strengths and weaknesses within the group led to the success/failure of a task. Some children visited the Ferryfield House Care Home in Pilton Drive. The children entertained residents, relatives and staff with a programme based on Scots Culture/Poetry week. Farah demonstrated her skills in Highland Dancing. Alba, Tommy and Kyle read out their acrostic, "Scotland," poems they had composed, Maci sang 'Auld Lang Syne,' and we all joined in; Owen read out a Sensory Poem of senses he used to smell, taste, touch, see and hear items within his environment and Kadinn and Daniel sang: "Oh, ye cannae shove yer grannie aff a bus!" The residents, staff and visitors were very grateful to the pupils for their individual/paired efforts.

P7 Benmore Visit

P7s are currently at Benmore Outdoor Centre for their residential activity week. Whilst it's been as cold and wet as it is here, everyone seems to have enjoyed the challenges they've faced and staff report how well the children have done. We look forward to welcoming everyone home on Friday. A huge thanks to Mrs Chapman, Mrs Rush, Mr Knott and Mrs Hickman for all the time they've given up this week. Without this good will from staff, we couldn't offer children this opportunity so, 'thank you!'

Stewart Crabb - Head Teacher

www.ferryhill.edin.sch.uk