



# Halfmerke Primary School Newsletter



Telephone: 01355 221982

Email: [office@halfmerke-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@halfmerke-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

Web Site : [www.halfmerke-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.halfmerke-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

Working and Learning together to achieve .....

October / November 2015

## Updates

### **New- Build Up Date**

As you are aware work has started on our new building and we are enjoying watching the work taking place. You can imagine the excitement when the temporary road way was completed through the show park and the diggers found their way into the school grounds. Fencing encloses the building site but please remind children not to play near the area. There is no longer a multi sports area and we no longer have the luxury of the grass areas around the school - but it will all be worth it.

### **Playground**

During the October holiday week South Lanarkshire Council made good their promise to resurface the playing area in the junior / senior play ground.

## Reporting to Parents

### **On going Learning**

Parent: "What did you do in school today?"

Child: "Nothing."

If this is a typical conversation in your house ( as it was in mine) then don't let them kid you! It is an absolute joy to walk round the school and find out about the children's learning. They are enthusiastic and this shows in their willingness to talk about their current learning. Hopefully some of these tasters will help you open a conversation with them about their learning.

P1 have worked well with their phonics and are starting their more formal reading skills. Ask them about Mimi and Jasper who are working on getting ready to learn and other social skills ! P1/2 have been looking at Autumn and have made a super display with autumn colours and items they have found while out and about. Ask them what they included in their display and where they found the items.

P3 are enjoying learning about multiplication and are having fun with 'Active Planet'. I am sure they will be able to tell you all about this if you ask them.

A sneaky peek into drama with P3/4 saw them enjoying bringing their class novel to life with some superb work on 'The Twits'. You can also ask them about the money work they were doing in maths.

Primary 5 are enhancing their numeracy and maths skills with 'Maths Chats'

Ask Primary 6 children about their characters in the style of Roald Dahl and ask them about 'Angeles Loss'.

It has been a trip down memory lane with the primary 7. Inspired by their novel 'Boy', the children have looked at sweets from a bygone time and have produced a mouth watering display with sweeties in jars. To balance this you can ask them about their 'Food and Fitness Diaries'. If you want to talk about science work you can ask about Planet Earth (infants) or Magnetism (older children) and you may be interested in finding how they are developing their ball skills in PE or how P6 and P7 are enjoying learning about Volley Ball.

## **UNCRC** (United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child)

As a whole school we are working on making children aware of their rights as set by the UNCRC. These should be inherent in all we do as a school.

This term we are concentrating on Articles 28 and 29 concerning the right to an education. Children have a right to learn and to an education which develops their personality and talents to the full. As a school we will be looking at how we respect this right. We will also be linking this Right with the Health and Well Being indicator of 'Achieving'.

## **Snap Shot Jotters**

The jotters are part of our reporting procedures and will be sent out once a term. Thank you to everyone who took the time to add a comment in your child's snap shot of learning jotter. Many parents pointed out that they would like to have a longer time to discuss the work with their child. I have therefore made a change in how these will be used. Next term the children will work in the jotters for a whole week and will bring them home on the following Monday. The jotters should be returned to school by the Friday.

## **Open Evening**

Our children would like to invite you to see their work and learning on:-

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November between 6:30 and 8:30.**

This takes the form of an informal evening where the children are in charge of showing off their school and their hard work.

## **Car Park**

A huge thank you to the parents who are finding alternatives to coming into the car park. This is helping our children to keep safe. **Children are not allowed to cross the car park and should use the path and not the road entrance to enter into the school.**

## **Contact Numbers**

Please ensure that the school office has an up to date telephone contact number in case you need to be contacted in an emergency. This is especially important as we are coming up for winter and who knows what the weather will bring? As always we will endeavour to keep the school open but in the event of an emergency closure it is vital that we have an up to date number for you.

## **House Leaders**

At our elections for House Leaders, I was very impressed by all the children who put themselves forward to stand for this post. All had thought hard about why they wanted to be a House Leader and every one of them gave a clear and confident speech to the rest of the school saying why they should be elected. Taking part in this democratic process is a fantastic learning experience for all the children.

After the votes were counted two children from each House were duly elected as House Leader.

**Elgin : Cameron Winchcole and Sammy Kelly**

**Kelso : Jodie Blair and Shannon Gallacher**

**Stirling: Craig Newton and Molly Hannah**

### **Dress Down Days**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October our Pupil Council organised a Mad Hat Tea Party in aid of McMillan Nurses. This was a great success with over £365 being raised just by having fun! I was astonished by the level of creativity the children demonstrated in their hats which included variations of the Mad Hatters Hat, a hat with a train track and train, hats made from scratch, decorated hats and even two children who had come as a set - wearing a cup and a tea pot! Thank you to everyone who donated a cake or two - the children thoroughly enjoyed them.

Your next chance for showing your creative sides is on **the 30<sup>th</sup> October** where our next Dress Down Day Theme will be "Dressing Up". Please do not send children to school with props such as plastic swords etc.

### **Outdoor Play and Learning**

Children learn in a variety of ways both in and out of the classroom. At Halfmerke we believe that children also learn through outdoor play. A little rain will not stop us from going outside so please ensure that your child has appropriate outdoor clothes.

We will however operate an indoor interval when the weather is extreme.

### **Flu Vaccinations**

Our date for flu vaccinations is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. There is no need for parents to be present at this.

### **Hallowe'en Disco**

Our Parent Council are organising a disco for the children on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Please do not send the children with props such as light sabers, swords etc. Please remember that ALL children should be collected from the school hall by an adult at the end of their disco.

Once again, I am grateful to the members of the Parent Council for organising this event.

### **Achievements**

Don't forget to look at our achievements wall when you are in school for the Open Evening and don't forget to let the school know of any of your child's achievements. If you want to send in a photograph of your child we will display it on our board.

P1 **Milly McHugh** has joined Rainbows and can now go on a two wheeler bike.

P2 **Abigail Jenkins** earned her 10m and 15m back stroke swimming badges and **Nathan Fawbert** took part in the Victoria Park run and took part in the Scottish Cross Country mountain bike race in Forfar.

P3 **Jamie Ward** took part in 'Pedal for Scotland' completing the Junior 6 mile cycle to raise money for Alzheimer's Scotland and completed the Junior 1 mile run in the Great Scottish Run.

**Ellie Macfarlan** sat her Starlight Award exams in Level 2 Modern and Ballet and Pre Primary Tap.

P4 **Ben Buchanan** took part in the Great Scottish Run Family mile. **Leana McHugh** caught three mackerel while fishing in Rothesay. **Jennifer Brownlie** moved up in gymnastics and has joined Tumble.

**P6 Lewis Craigie** participated in Young Masters Golf Academy and passed Bronze level with distinction. **Carly Barrett** took part in Club Champs at Athletics and Did REALLY well at the Long Jump. **Hayden Legowski** performed in the Village Theatre in Studio 32's production of 'Oliver'. **Joni Barrett** took part in the Club Champs at Athletics. **Nicholas Fawbert** came 5<sup>th</sup> in his first run when he competed at Victoria Park and took part in the Scottish cross Country mountain bike race in Forfar.

**P7 Sammy Kelly** moved up to Guides. **Eilidh McIntosh** took part in the production of Dirty Dancing in the Village Theatre. **Mirren Kerr** attended the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association work shop where she had tuition on the tenor drum.

### A few dates for your diary

Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Session 1 of P1 - P4 Parent / Child Club organised by Active Schools
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Dress Down for a pound day. (Theme Dress Up)
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	School closed to Pupils (INSET day)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Evening
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Winter Cheer
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Flu vaccination
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 Parents Nativity
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity Service
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	School Closes 2:30
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School Re-opens 9:00
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> ,Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	School closed. 10 <sup>th</sup> February is an INSET day for staff
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents Appointments
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	P6 Swimming block starts
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> , Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	School closed
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	School Closes 2:30pm
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens 9:00
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Holiday
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET day - school closed to pupils
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	P7 Residential Robinwood
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Curricular Evening (TBC)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> and Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Holidays
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	School closes 1pm

Please remember to check updates on our website [www.halfmerke-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.halfmerke-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely,  
K Douglas (Mrs)  
Head Teacher

