



Halfmerke Primary School Newsletter



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Working and Learning together to achieve

March 2017

I can't believe that we have been in this fantastic new building for 8 weeks! It is very different from our former building and staff and pupils have settled in very well. It is great to watch it transform from a building to a working school. At last our pupils have a working environment to be proud of.

Of course we still have work going on round about us, but gradually the snags are being fixed. Work is currently going on in the old building to prepare for the demolition of this. Until this happens the playground and car park cannot be completed. It is likely to be September before everything is fully completed. (Maybe by that time I will have all of my boxes emptied!)

Unfortunately, as it has taken a bit longer than expected to find our feet, the Spring Service is cancelled. P4/5 were due to take the lead in this unfortunately Mrs Munro is off ill. The children will celebrate Easter and spring in a normal assembly on Friday.

Learning Round Up

P1 and P2 are working on an Inter Disciplinary Learning topic (IDL) based around Fairy Land. Did you know that there was a castle in our open area- complete with draw bridge and arrow slots? Ask them about their writing based on Cinderella's slipper.

P3 Have found out about Africa in their IDL. During their assembly they reported on this piece of learning. My thanks to **Mr Kelly** and **Band Supplies** who helped out by lending us cables and mike stands.

P4 Have taken their learning into the past and have been finding out about the Ancient Egyptians. Ask them if they can write their name in hieroglyphics.

P5 Ask P5 to explain how they are going to find out if an object is heavier in water than out of it. They are working on gravity in science and have been set this challenge. I am sure that everyone who came to parents night were impressed with their lighthouses but have they told you about the mystery of Flannan Isles?

P6 It wouldn't be P6 without the **Titanic**. The class are finding out about what it was like to be a passenger on the ship. Ask them about the character they have created.

P7 Have just finished World War II. Like the real thing it lasted a long time - having been started in the old building before coming across here. Their personal choice learning was superb with everyone sharing their learning on a topic they researched at home. The skills they learned and demonstrated in presenting their work are a good indication that they will continue to be successful learners at high school. Now they are really grown up and in literacy are reading Macbeth by William Shakespeare.

Hair

Please ensure that you are checking your children's hair on a regular basis. Head Lice are easy to catch and spread very quickly in a school. It can take perseverance to get rid of them totally and even after treatment heads need checked to ensure that no eggs have escaped the treatment.

Girls with long hair are advised to wear it tied back in school and particularly at PE.

Water

Research indicates that children learn better when they are hydrated. Children should bring a bottle of water with them to school - sports tops are best to prevent spillages. There is a facility to top up water through the day in school if children finish the bottle they have brought from home.

Pupil Voice

All our children are a member of a **Halfmerke Voices** group. The groups meet together every 4 - 6 weeks and have written action plans.

This is a new venture in Halfmerke where the children take the lead in driving an improvement forward in the school.

Our groups are - Pupil Leaders (school Captains and House Leaders)

Pupil Council

Eco

Health and Well Being

Halfmerke in the community

Halfmerke Rights Group

Learning outdoors group.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Cross country : I am very grateful to Mrs Buchanan and Mrs Fawbert who trained our P7 Cross Country Team. On the 3rd March they took part in the Cross Country Race at Strathaven.

Although they didn't get into the next stage of representing South Lanarkshire EVERY ONE of them completed a very difficult course. Well done. 😊 The children must have enjoyed it as they asked that the club continued until the end of term.

Parent and Pupil Club (Tuesdays) : This has been a very successful club organised by our Active Schools Co-ordinator. It is aimed at P1-3 and is an opportunity for families to try out various sports together. It is well attended and enjoyed by both pupils and parents alike. Again pupils have asked for this club to continue after the break.

Basketball: Our Active Schools has also organise a basketball club on a Thursday afternoon.

This is aimed at our P5 and P6 children and has been well attended.

Netball and Football : Our teams have been busy representing the school at netball and football festivals. The teams have been a credit to themselves and to you. Everyone has commented positively on their behaviour and attitude when they are out of school (and we have even won a few games!) Well done everyone 😊

Achievements

Jennifer Brownlie (P5) won a gold medal in acrobatics during the Scottish National Championships and a gold medal in floor work with a partner. We are proud to have a Scottish champion in our school! **Jamie Boyd (P4)** **Reuben Sie (P4)** and **Gregor Boyd (P2)** have been successful in their swimming. All three won medals when swimming for their Boys Brigade.

Samantha McMillan (P3) took 2nd place when she participated in her Gymnastic Group competition and her Badge assessment. Keep going girl! **Brooke Devine (P4)** has achieved her Pre-Primary Grade Award in her Majorettes.

Please keep children's achievements out of school coming. Drop a note in their homework diaries to let us know, Some are too shy to let us know by themselves!

Parent Council Events

A very successful disco was held on 20th March - the first in our new building. This was enjoyed by all the children who attended. My thanks to the parents who came along to help with this.

Decorated Egg Competitions

A challenge from our Parent Council and an opportunity for you to work with your children. Decorate a hard boiled egg and bring it into school on Friday. There are two prizes for every class.

Family Fun Disco

After running a successful disco in September the Parent council are organising another one for families on Friday 28th April at the British Legion, 7:30 till late. Tickets £3 for adults, £1 for children. This is open to all families, friends and community. For tickets please contact Mrs Craigie or Mrs McCracken or send the correct money with your request in an envelope marked for the attention of Mrs Caigie.

School Uniform

There will be a change in the way this is sold. Our Parent Council will no longer issue and collate order forms. Our supplier, who is currently working at incorporating our new logo onto our uniform will set up a pop up shop and will set up an internet ordering system.

By far the cheapest way to buy the uniform pieces is to come along to a pop up shop as this will not incur delivery charges to yourselves.

Our first pop up shop is scheduled for Thursday 18th May between 3:00 and 5:30pm.

Class Dojo

This is now set up in all classes and forms part of reporting system. Please bear with us - some of our teachers are more confident in using it than others who are new to the system.

Getting in Touch

If you need to get in touch with myself or any of our staff, please do so by phoning the office, writing a letter / email, or by dropping in. I cannot guarantee you that I will be available to speak to you immediately but I will get back to you as soon as I can. If possible let office staff know what it is about.

Dates to remember

Friday 31 st March	School Closes 2:30pm
	Dress Down Day theme - Spring
	Parent Council - Decorated egg competition
Tuesday 18 th April	School reopens 9:00
Friday 28 th April 1:30	P4 Class Assembly. P4 parents are invited to this assembly
Monday 1 st May	Holiday
Tuesday 2 nd May	Child Smile P1 & P2
Thursday 4 th May	INSET day - school closed to pupils
Wednesday 10 th - Friday 12 th May	P7 Residential Robinwood
Thursday 18 th May	School uniform Pop up shop*
Friday 26 th and Monday 29 th May	Holidays
Friday 16 th June 1:30pm	P7 Leavers Assembly
Tuesday 20 th June	Celebration of Achievements
Tuesday 27 th June	School closes 1pm

Please remember to check updates on our website www.halfmerke-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk.

And finally.....

Staff and Pupils wish you a Happy Easter.

Here's hoping that the sun remembers to shine during the school holiday and that everyone has an enjoyable time.

REMEMBER THAT SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2:30 ON FRIDAY 31ST MARCH AND REOPENS ON TUESDAY 18TH APRIL AT 9:00

Yours sincerely,
K Douglas (Mrs)
Head Teacher