



KEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Hello, everyone.

As you will see by the pictures in this month's Newsletter, the learning in school has taken a very summery turn; with flowers, insects and all manner of other strange beasties being the context for activities across the curriculum. This and the recent spell of lovely weather gives us the feeling that summer is not far away...

Staffing

You may be aware, from recent items in the press, that teacher shortages continue. Considering that we still have a number of absences here, we are fortunate that we have managed to keep cover fairly constant. Miss Cruickshank continues, in P.6D. Mrs Ollason and Mrs Lindsey are working with P.4R, during Mrs Raymond's continued absence. We are grateful to Mrs Morrison for covering one of Mrs Virdi's days, while Mrs Simmers covers the other, on a supply basis. Mrs Virdi's absence will continue, in August, but I'm happy to report the return to Keith Primary of Mrs Perez, who will take on Mrs Virdi's days, from the start of the new session. Thanks are also due to Mrs McGettrick for working extra, to cover Mrs Dawson's absence. It's pleasing to report that Mrs Dawson has returned to work, this week. Things have also been more settled for support staffing, since the last Newsletter, but that is likely to change at the end of session, with changes in both allocations and personnel.



We pass on our thanks to our students— Pauliina Johnston who was working with P.2-3MR, Lauren Forsyth who was with P.3M and Megan Williams, who was in P.1AM. We wish them well for the next phase of their careers. It's been refreshing to share in their enthusiasm and their new ideas.

Pupil Equity Funding

Pupil Equity Funding, as you may be aware from press releases, has been awarded to schools across Scotland, to help raise attainment amongst particular groups. At Keith Primary, we aim to support children by targeting learning support to individuals and groups and also, to offer support and guidance to their parents. To this end, posts for a Family

Support Worker, a Pupil Support Assistant and Classroom Assistants will be advertised, soon. Since they are not teaching posts, we are very hopeful that we will be able to attract applicants!

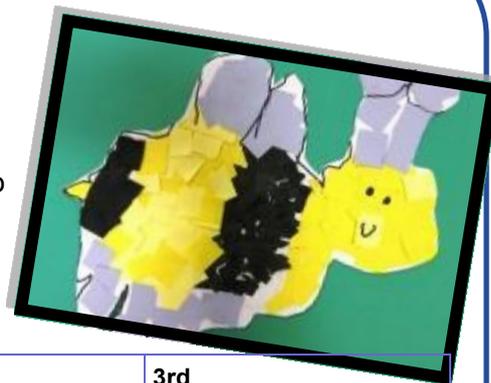
A Selection of Learning Experiences:

- Groups of P.7 pupils have been enjoying fantastic outdoor activities with **Outfit Moray**. Abseiling, gorge walking, cycling and hill walking have been some of the activities.
- **Transition visits** to KGS have begun, for some P.7 groups, whilst at the opposite end of the school, Nursery boys and girls have been visiting P.1.
- Both the morning and afternoon **Nursery** groups have entertained us with songs at **Assembly**. Well done, for learning all those words.
- Active Schools are continuing to run **Hockey** and **Street Dance** clubs, after school.
- **P.1** classes have visited **Tesco bakery** to see how the maths they are learning is used, in the community.
- Roy Scothern, an ex Moray janitor, has been helping some P.6 boys to build a **mud kitchen, for The Beeches**. Great fun to build—and to play with!
- **P.6D** shared the knowledge gained during their **Brazil topic**, at Assembly on 26th May. What a lot they've learned! Their rap was very popular with the audience, who joined in, during the encore.



Keith Spring Show

It has been yet another year, when Keith Primary have brought home prizes, across the board. Unfortunately, the way that Class Assemblies have worked out, this year, we've not had a free slot to announce the winners. So instead, this year, we have posted the winners in the table below. Many thanks to the members of The Frog Squad, who helped organise the entries. You will see items on display, at our Open Evening in June.



Class	1st	2nd	3rd
Nursery: Self Portrait	Brodyn Holmes	Jack Smith	Pippa Riggall
P.1: Individual Picture	Ava Weightman	Connor Milne	-
P.2: Individual Picture Craft Item	- -	Summer Mackie Lois Norgate	Calum Stables Lois Norgate
P.3: Handwriting Greeting Card Craft/Tech Article	Eilidh Hourston Euan Hendry The Beeches	Alistair Collison Kathryn Gray -	- - -
P.4: Greeting Card Individual Picture	Skye Betts -	Archie Laird Leah McIntosh	- Caitlin McKerrel
P.5: Handwriting Greeting Card	Cassie Rennie Lucas Simpson	William Morison Jessica Morrison	- -
P.6: Greeting Card Individual Picture	- -	Keira Forrest Slaney-Leigh Martin	Abbie Kellas -
P.7: Greeting Card Craft/Tech Article	Kari Runcie -	Fiona Stewart Aiden Johnston	- -
P.3-7: Award for best Exhibit in Craft/Technology	The Beeches		



Scholastic Book Fair

The recent Book Fair has resulted in us having an amazing total of £1014.13, to spend on reading books, for the school. Children in P.5-7 are already benefitting from the reading books purchased following last year's fair. This year, we intend to extend the range of genres and subjects covered by our range of P.4-7 reading books. Look out for them coming home, as homework readers! Many thanks to those who assisted at the Book Fair and supported by making purchases.

Marie Curie Fund-raiser

A group of very caring P.5 girls have been raising money for the Marie Curie Trust, following a sponsored swim, Chloe McWilliam, joined by Leah McWilliam, Abbie McWilliam and Catriona McKerrel, planned a fund-raising stall in school and raised a further £108. Well done, girls.

Infections

Occasionally, children are attending school with long-term infections, such as Molluscum Contagiosum. So that staff are aware that children may be unsettled, itchy and out of sorts and so that we may also be extra vigilant regarding hand-washing and equipment sharing, we'd be grateful if parents/carers would inform us, when a child has such an infection. Thanks to those who have done so, already.

Lunches

Could we please remind parents of children who arrive late e.g. having been at appointments, to phone school in the morning to let us know the child's lunch choices. Lunches are cooked to order, with no spares, to avoid wastage. Those unable to phone in, before 9:30 a.m., should send a packed lunch.





Gardening Group

The gardening group have been working hard, under the watchful eyes of Ms Stuart, Miss Hall, Miss Muir and Mr Reid. Thanks go to Mr Reid who's been in to water the plants over the very hot weekends.

Thanks also go to Mr Neil Kidd, who responded to our plea for a replacement greenhouse. We've since had a few other ideas and suggestions, which are in the pipeline.

"The Frog Squad" School Support Group

The next meeting is coming up on 12th June, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. All are very welcome.

ASN Parent Group

Please remember about this group for parents of children with Additional Support Needs. Rhona Wood, our Home School Link Worker, has set up this group which meets on the first Thursday of every month, from 9:30 a.m.—11 a.m. in the **KILT Base**, between the Community Centre and the Grammar School. If you've not been along, yet, it's not too late!

Playground Safety

In the mornings, our playground staff have noticed that some of the children—even younger ones - are not coming straight into the playground, on arrival, but are hanging around in the car park area. For children's safety, could parents please join us in encouraging children to come into the playground, when they arrive.

Classes for 2017-18

This is the time of year when we start to plan classes for the coming year. In a school the size of Keith Primary it's a much more complex job, than in the smaller schools. The configuration of the classes i.e. whether we have straight classes or composites, is a "numbers game"; we have to fit all our pupils into a given number of classes, according to certain rules. With pupil numbers changing constantly and staffing to be decided, things are still very fluid and it will be much nearer the end of term before we can finalise things.

Pupil Reports

This is an aspect of school life which has gone through a number of formats, over the years and it's still evolving. With developments in assessment and moderation, Scotland-wide, including new national assessments, this is an area seeing huge changes across the country, with a long-term aim of moving away from annual reporting towards a more fluid, on-going system. This year, the Keith Primary Reports have a new look. They are more detailed but have less writing, giving an instant overview of progress, in many more curricular areas and skills. More details will come with the reports, themselves. This updated format has also allowed us to generate the Reports later in the year, therefore including more of the academic year in the assessment.

Assemblies

Assemblies are always jam-packed, as classes share their learning and we celebrate birthdays and present Frog Certificates. Will all these elements, our final Assembly of the year, where we say farewell to our leavers, was becoming over-whelming! So, this year we are making a few changes, to ensure that our leavers really are the centre of attention, on that last day. A Celebrations Assembly will be held on the penultimate Friday. This will be the last Assembly when Frog Certificates are awarded and birthdays will be celebrated. We will also announce the winning House, for the session and present the Heather Stanning Award. This leaves the final Assembly clear to thank our Prefects and say our farewells to P.7s and other leavers.

Note that we will also "lose" an Assembly, this term, to the TMSA concert, on June 9th.

Please check the back of this Newsletter for dates when birthdays will be celebrated.

Coming soon...

- News of the Prefects' Coffee Morning and showcase of talent!



Dates for your Diary (Please note that these may be amended and others may be added)

More details to follow, by letter, for some events. (TBC = to be confirmed)

2nd June	Assembly, led by P.2H: 9:30a.m.— All welcome
5th June	Local Holiday
7th June	Pupil Reports out Nursery Information Evening, 6 p.m., in the Hall. P.1 Information Evening, 7 p.m., in the Hall
9th June	P.1 Performance,: 9:30 a.m.—By invitation TMSA Concert, for pupils: 1:30 p.m.—Pupils and Staff, only.
12th June	Frog Squad Meeting: 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room— All welcome
13th June	Open Evening: 4 p.m.—6:30 p.m.— family, friends and neighbours welcome
16th June	Assembly, led by P.5S: 9:30 a.m. — All welcome We'll be celebrating birthdays from 5th—18th June
21st June	"It's the Bees' Knees!" - performance by P.3M, P.3-4D & P.4R: 1:30 p.m.—by invitation
22nd June	"It's the Bees' Knees!" - performance by P.3M, P.3-4D & P.4R.: 6:30 p.m.—by invitation
23rd June	"Celebrations!" Assembly, 1:30 p.m., to include: Final presentation of Frog Certificates, this session House Winners announced Heather Stanning Award, for Term 4 We'll be celebrating birthdays from 19th June—23rd July — All welcome:
29th June	"Moving On Up!" - An opportunity to visit new classes for next session, in the afternoon.
30th June	"Moving On!" Assembly, 9:30 a.m., to include: Thanks to this year's Prefects and House Captains Next year's prefects to receive their badges Vote of thanks to this year's helpers Presentations and farewell to leavers— All welcome Early finish, at 2:20 p.m.
Looking ahead...	
14th August	In-service Day
15th August	First day of session 2017-18

School Lunches	
w/b	Menu
5/6/17	Week 1
12/6/17	Week 2
19/6/17	Week 3
26/6/17	Week 4

Regards,



Head Teacher



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Something to think about:

"Success is where preparation and opportunity meet."

~ **Bobby Unser**
(former motor racer)