



Kirkhill Nursery & Primary School

'Playing, Learning & Growing Together'

Celebrating our January & February Successes—Looking Back

March/April Newsletter

We have had a very busy start to 2018 in Kirkhill with lots going on in all of our classes. Our children continue to amaze us with their hard work and commitment to learning and this is showing in the continued success they all achieve on a daily basis in school. We are also very proud of all of our children's achievements out of school and are keen to celebrate these in school. If your child has success out of school then please encourage them to let us know so that we can celebrate their success in school.

Community Cupboard



Our Community Cupboard was launched on Wednesday 17th January with a visitor from Scotmid/Co-operative coming along to help with our launch. The Community Cupboard holds a number of non-perishable food items which any of our families can access if they require a food parcel to help out at home. Mrs McDonnell and a group of P3 children are continuing to restock and monitor the items in the cupboard. Many of us find it difficult to make ends meet, at times, and so if you would like a food parcel sent home then please ask at the school office, via your child's class teacher, a member of the senior leadership team or by sending a note into school asking for a parcel to be sent home.

Hot Choc Friday



We have had two Hot Choc Friday's in January and February with the focus at our first meeting being the celebration of children who had gone 'over and above' in school. We were very pleased to share in their achievements which were firmly linked to our Kirkhill School Values. At our second meeting we had a discussion about what the children have been learning with Mrs Clark in numeracy and the work some children have been doing on reading and recognising words with Mrs Alston. Everyone agreed that these had been helping them with their learning and that we should definitely have these groups again next session.

Sharing Our Learning



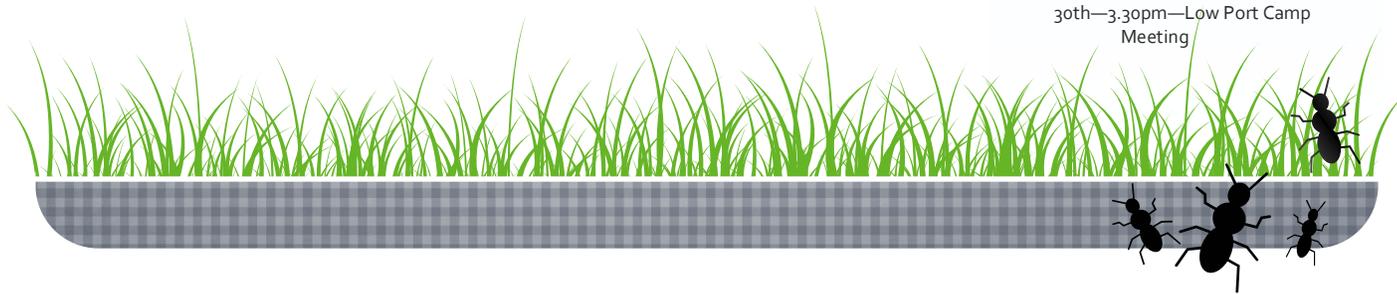
Thank you to everyone who came along to our third Sharing Our Learning event on Monday 22nd January. It was great to see so many of our children sharing their learning with their parents/carers and engaging in the work they are doing in their classes.

DIARY DATES - MARCH

- 5th—Bags2School sent home
- 7th—4pm-6.30pm—Parent Consultations
- 8th—World Book Day
- 8th—4pm-6.30pm—Parent Consultations
- 9th—Kirkhill Chatter
- 9th—11am—JRSO/Walking Ambassadors Assembly
- 13th—P7s to Easter Code—Strathbrock Church
- 13th—PM—Choir to Glee Competition—Howden Park Centre
- 14th—3.30pm—P7 Camp Meeting
- 16th—9.15am—P2/1 Assembly (Sports Relief)
- 20th—Golden Club Event (2)
- 21st—5.30pm-6.30pm—Pre-school nursery—P3 Spring Disco
- 21st—6.45pm-8pm—P4-7 Spring Disco
- 23rd—11am—Easter Service in Kirkhill Primary School
- 23rd—11am—Nursery closes for Easter break
- 23rd—12.25pm—School closes for Easter break

DIARY DATES - APRIL

- 9th—Children/staff return
- 16th—3.30pm P5/6 Broomlee Camp Meeting
- 17th—P7 to Kingswood Transition Camp
- 20th—P7 return from transition camp
- 25th—6pm—PSC Meeting
- 26th—8.50am-9.20am—P1 & P2/1 Shared Start
- 27th—Dress Down Day
- 27th—AM—P7 to Cluster Football Festival
- 30th—P5 & 6 to Broomlee
- 30th—3.30pm—Low Port Camp Meeting

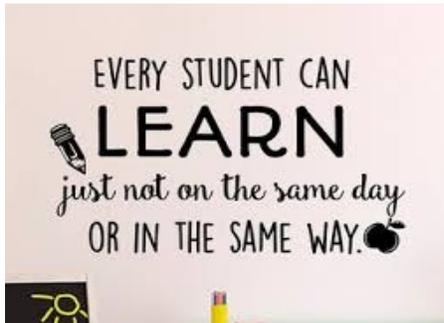


Looking Back – January and February



Assemblies

Well done to our P7 and P7/6 classes on delivering excellent assemblies during February to all of our classes. We enjoyed learning more about the 20th Century during P7's 'One Moment in Time' assembly and learning all about 'World Book Day' from our P7/6 class with visits from JK Rowling, David Baddiel, Enid Blyton, Little Red Riding Hood and the Oompa Loompas'.



Scots Assembly

We were well entertained at our annual Scots Assembly by our talented children who recited Scots poetry and by Grace who showed her Highland Dancing talents to the audience. Congratulations to all of the children who learned a poem, to those who were class and stage finalists and to Alyssa (P2) and Amy (P7) for winning the overall early years and upper school prizes.



Lovell Big Build Competition

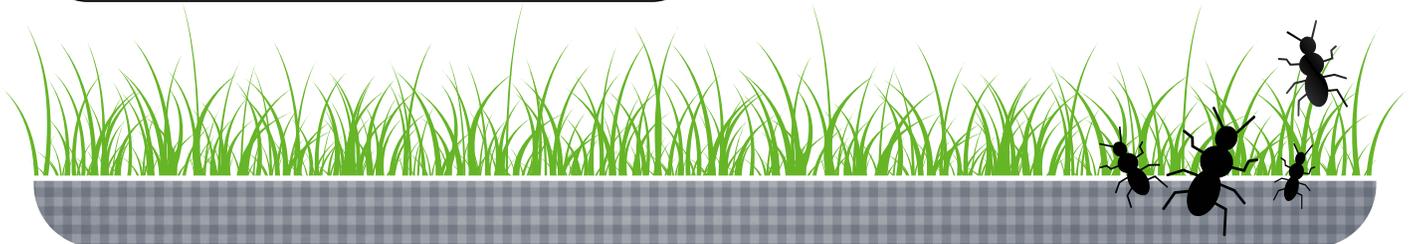
Congratulations to Alexander, Amy, Gemma and Justin on their third place award in the Lovell Big Build Competition for their Pet Hotel design. We are so proud of their achievement.



Learning Rounds

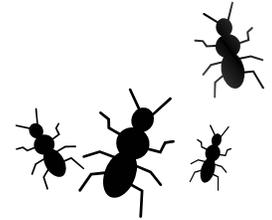
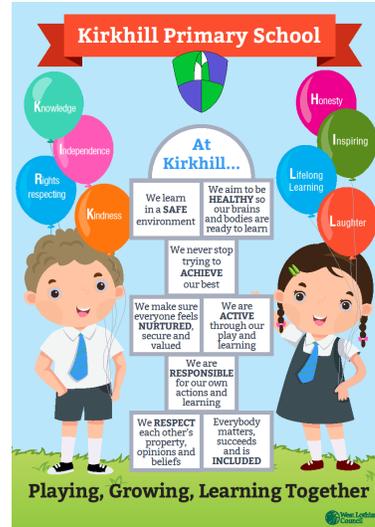
On Monday 30th January 2018 members of our Quality Improvement Partnership (Armadale PS and Whitdale PS) joined us to take part in a Learning Round. The focus of this was on the totality of the curriculum and the learning experiences across the curriculum for all of our children. We were delighted that the team including members of the Kirkhill team were able to validate our self-evaluation and highlighted the following key strengths:

- * The nurturing, caring ethos in the school.
- * Well behaved and polite children.
- * Positive relationships between children and staff and each other.
- * Vision, values and aims clearly evident across the whole school community and embedded into the work of the school.
- * Children engaged in learning activities and being supported and challenged, when required.
- * Positive feedback from class teachers who give children encouragement to achieve to their full potential.
- * Displays across the school are relevant to the learning taking place across the school and the engagement of children in learning.
- * High expectations of learning shared with children and consistently applied across the school with class teachers engaging in learning activities with children.
- * Curriculum Journey is reflective of curriculum rationale and shows clear progression.
- * Teacher leadership clearly linked to SIP priorities.



Vision, Values and Aims

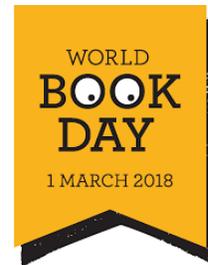
We are delighted to have our Vision, Values and Aims poster on display across the school which links to our school ethos. All of our children should now have brought a postcard with the poster on it home with them to share with you. A number of our P5-7 children have taken up leadership roles as Values Hunters (self-named) and will be looking out for children who are displaying our values in school. Children who are spotted will receive a Values Voucher which they will be able to use to get a prize from the Prize Box.



Looking Forward—March and April

World Book Day

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day in Kirkhill on Thursday 8th March with lots of fun learning activities planned for the day. Details of our plans were sent home on Tuesday 20th February. If you haven't yet received this then please check for details on our blog or by contacting the school office who will get one sent home to you.

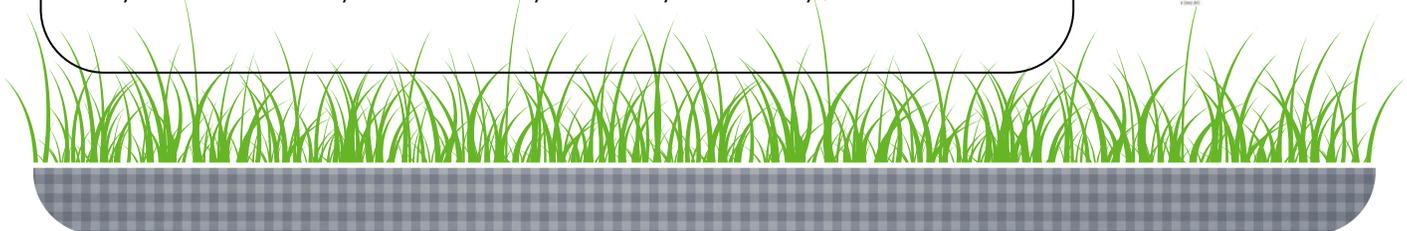


Book Fair

The book fair will be in school on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th March and books will be available to buy during both parent evenings. This is a super opportunity for you and your child to browse around all the lovely books and select any you would like to purchase. Pupils in P1-P7 will also visit the book fair with their Class Teacher during class time (please make sure your child has money with them if they wish to buy one this way.)



There is a difference
between **NOT KNOWING**
and
NOT KNOWING YET
-Shelia Tobias



Professional Learning

Our staff team have continued to engage in professional learning with the following staff learning taking place:

Mrs McCann continues to develop coaching skills through her participation in the West Lothian Coaching for Success programme.

Mrs MacMillan, Mrs Alston and Miss Brown have visited other schools in West Lothian to learn more about autism and Primary 1.

Miss Thomson delivered a very informative session to teaching staff on IZAK 9 and how this can be used to help develop problem solving skills in maths.

Mrs McDonnell led the staff in a training session on floorbook planning which is currently well used in the nursery and is now evident at other stages in the school.

Mrs Shankland and Mrs Bowden attended training in Glasgow on supporting older children with autism in mainstream schools.

A number of our staff have been reading 'When the Adults Change Everything Changes' by Paul Dix to inform their professional practice.

Mrs Sneddon attended a weekend training session on Bal-a-vis-x to support children in play therapy.

All teaching staff continue to work with cluster colleagues in Professional Learning Groups to carry out practitioner enquiry projects on Reflective Reading.



Easter Service (please note change of venue)

Our Easter Service will take place in Kirkhill Primary School on Friday 23rd March at 11am with Reverend Smith joining us to celebrate the festival in school. We would like to invite all of our families and friends to join us for the occasion.



Choir—Glee Competition

Our choir have been very busy working with Mrs Smith on preparations for the West Lothian Glee Competition which will take place at Howden Park Centre on Tuesday 13th March at 6pm. We hope that our families and friends will purchase tickets to come along and cheer them on.

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Camp Meetings

- ⇒ Wednesday 14th March 3.30pm—P7 Transition Camp Meeting for parents/carers in Kirkhill Primary School
- ⇒ Monday 16th April 3.30pm—P5/6 Broomlee Camp Meeting for parents/carers in Kirkhill Primary School
- ⇒ Monday 30th April 3.30pm—Low Port Meeting for p4 parents/carers in Kirkhill Primary School



Sports Relief

Our Primary 2/1 and 6/5 children are currently putting plans together for Sports Relief which takes place on Friday 16th March. Please look out for more information coming home regarding plans for the day.



PSC—Spring Discos

Our Spring Discos will take place on Wednesday 21st March at the following times: Nursery Pre-School—P3 5.30pm-6.30pm and P4-7 6.45pm-8pm. A flyer will be sent home very soon with details of the decorate an egg competition and tickets costs. Theme for the evening is 'Dress to Impress'.



Community News



St. Nicholas Church - Messy Church

The next messy church is on 11 March. Please encourage children aged 3 and up to come and bring an adult - parent, carer, grandparent. We meet from 12 -2pm in Strathbrock Church Hall starting with filled rolls, fruit, tea and juice. We have games, crafts and stories. There is no cost. We hope to see you there.

Thrift Shop held first Friday of every month. The next one will be 2 March from 10-12noon in Strathbrock Church Hall. Good quality clothing for all ages, books, dishes, kitchen goods, bed linen and curtains are on sale. Please come along and bring a friend. Tea, coffee and home baking are available.

Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade

There are places available in both of these group - Monday for girls' starting at 6.45 aged 5 and upwards, Boys meet Thursday starting at 6.30 aged 5 and upwards

BUSC Easter Holiday Clubs

Broxburn United are now taking bookings for all holiday camps forecast for the year ahead and in particular the upcoming Easter Holiday camps which take place in April. All dates, times etc can be found on their website at: <http://busc.org.uk/latest-news/2017/2/21/easter-holiday-camps>

If you are interested in booking your child's space on the camps please e-mail a.forbes@busc.org.uk with the following information:

Name, DOB, Age, Postcode, Medical Conditions, Permission to Photo





Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you to our children and families for their support during a very challenging time and hope that you were all able to stay safe and warm and had fun in the snow and were able to spend some time making memories that will last a lifetime.

Many thanks go also to Mr Cairney and Ms. Cairney for their hard work and effort in clearing paths to the school and nursery building. They have not only had Kirkhill to clear but also the other three primary schools in Broxburn so we are very grateful to them for braving the weather and making it into our school.

Snow Closures

As this newsletter was due to be sent home the country was gripped by severe disruption and schools closures as a result of 'The Beast from the East' and Storm Emma hitting us with force.

Based on the red and amber warning in place West Lothian Council took the decision to close all schools and council nurseries on Wed 28 Feb, Thurs 1 March and Fri 2nd March. This is not a decision that is taken lightly and was based on risk assessment and information from Scottish Government, Police Scotland and the Met Office.



It has meant that a number of planned school activities have not been able to take place including World Book Day celebrations and our JRSO/Walking Ambassadors Assembly.

We hope to all be back in school on Monday and so have rescheduled these events for the following:

World Book Day—Thursday 8th March—events will remain the same although we are disappointed that Mike Nicholson, children's author, will be unlikely to run the workshops for the P4-7 children. We hope that he may be able to visit at another time.

JRSO/Walking Ambassador Assembly—Friday 9th March at 11am in Kirkhill Primary School—all parents/carers/friends/families invited to come along.

Euroquiz Heats—we will let you know as soon as we have any information regarding a rescheduled date for this.