

The Redmyre Review

June 2017



Well here we are at the summer holidays already. How this year has whizzed by. The flip flops have been looked out and the buckets and spades are at the ready as we all look forward to some rest and recuperation before beginning back in August.



We began June with a visit from Jill Reid who is the librarian at Mearns Community Library. She came to tell the children all about this year's summer reading challenge. The summer reading challenge is a great way to keep your children occupied during the summer holidays as well as being a super way to encourage them to read. This year the reward for reading the required number of library books is a free book to take home and keep. There are many other activities going on in the library over the summer which will keep the children amused. For more information visit the Aberdeenshire Council Website and search Summer Reading Challenge or Mearns Community Library.

The Critters Man

Staff and children alike were delighted to welcome The Critters Man to the school this month. He arrived with a menagerie of animals for the children from P4-7 to see and learn about. He had a tarantula, an iguana, a giant snail and many other critters for us to look at. The staff in particular were all rather taken with Rocko the Racoon. This treat was arranged and paid for by the Parent Council. Due to the Critter Man having double booked himself he was only able to see the p4-7 classes however he will be back next session to visit next session's P1-4s.



Parent Group Fundraising **Beat the Bog.**

The Beat The Bog campaign is going well. The parent council held a very successful bag pack at Tesco in Montrose on the 3rd June which raised £880.48. I would like to reiterate how grateful we are to all parents, children and staff who gave up some (or all) of their Saturday to come and help.



Some of our Bag Packers with their buckets

Please see the note below from Dr Smith and Mrs Moir regarding another of their fabulous fundraising 'quests'.

"Following our application earlier this month, our Beat the Bog at Redmyre project has been shortlisted for a public vote in Tesco's #BagsofHelp initiative.

Vote in Montrose or Brechin Tesco stores during the months of July and August to help us secure a Tesco #BagsofHelp grant.

Beat the Bog will be one of three choices in store to vote with using the blue 'tokens' given to you each time you shop. Please ask at the checkout for your tokens as everyone counts and vote for us.

We are guaranteed £1000 grant for being shortlisted, but if we came second place in the vote this would be doubled to £2000, and if we won the store vote we could receive up to £4000 towards our Beat the Bog fundraising.

Please help us, spread the word to family and friends, and use your shopping through the school holidays to raise money for school.

We will hear in September where we came in the vote, and how much we will receive in the vote, and how much we will receive in the grant."

There is even more good news on our Beat The Bog campaign. I was very surprised to receive an email from one of our Grounds Supervisors yesterday. I met with him this morning and he and his team are going to get busy over the summer holidays putting in a drain to reduce some of the waterlogging which occurs after the rain and they are also going to dig down and put a bark surface around our timber trail to allow children to go on it even when the grass is very wet. I think I know who we need to thank for this surprising turn of events but I couldn't possible comment!



We had to help people pack bags at the shop. The people were kind and generous. They gave us lots of money.
Jack P1

Preparing For Mearns Academy

The Primary 7 pupils had their last taste of Mearns Academy before the real thing in August as they enjoyed a three day visit to the school. The children had to catch the bus were told their classes for next term and spent the three days following their timetable. All seems to have gone very well and they're all raring to go!



It was a lot different from primary school as we got to move around classes. The food was nice, the teachers were nice and I learned new things.

Erin P7

Health Week

The first week in June saw us having our health week. Unfortunately we chose the wettest week of the century so we couldn't do as many outdoor activities as we would have liked. We were, however, delighted that smoothie making with Mrs Mitchell was an indoor activity which didn't have to be cancelled because of rain. We all had a lovely time when she joined us with a huge box of Castleton berries and her liquidiser to help the boys and girls make lovely, healthy smoothies.

All the children had a wonderful time when we had a visit from a Cat from 'Circus Sensible'. Cat came armed with all manner of goodies to help the children learn Circus Skills. She had them all juggling, spinning plates,

spinning hoops and balancing peacock feathers on their noses! I was just thankful she didn't have her flying trapeze with her although I'm fairly sure all our boys and girls would have made a valiant attempt at that too.



The Thursday of Health Week was, of course, our Sports Day. Let's just say I won't be trusting Sean Batty's weather forecast again! When the heavens opened at 1pm it really was too late to postpone given that people had taken time off work. Never mind, the children didn't seem to mind coming out in the rain to run their races. I would like to give a huge thank you to the former Redmyre pupils who came from Mearns to help give out the stickers at our sports day. They were Joe Black, Grant Hendrie, Rachel McArthur and Robbie Creighton. They were great sports and remained quite cheerful despite getting a soaking. In my haste to get out of the rain that day, I forgot to have our new P1 pupils run their race. Thankfully I was reminded by a vigilant parent so I managed to catch a handful of children to run before everyone dashed away under brollies. I can only apologise if your little one didn't get a chance to take part.

Whole School Trip

The last day of our health week saw the whole school setting out to Stonehaven for our Whole School Trip and Sponsored Walk. The children all had a turn at indoor bowling and a tennis lesson at the tennis club. Because it was such a wet day we couldn't go on the outdoor putting green but the bowling club actually have a rather fabulous nine hole, indoor, crazy golf course which we were allowed to use. It had brightened up a bit in the afternoon for our Sponsored Walk however we had heard on the grapevine that the Mineralwell Park was very waterlogged. We decided to have a brisk walk along the prom towards the harbour and back again followed by a wee play in the park at the leisure centre. We were really grateful that Mrs Adam, Mrs Watson and Mrs Barham were able to come along and help us on the day. I am also absolutely over the moon not to mention flabbergasted to tell you that we raised £1700 in Sponsorship to go towards school funds. Your incredible generosity means that, next session, we will be able to purchase some more laptops for the children to use. Thank you!



I really liked the crazy golf especially the hole that had a monster truck which you had to get the ball through.
Ellie P2

Potted Sports

Thankfully we had better weather for our Potted Sports. The activities which we use are designed and organised by our P6s every year and this year they had organised a super range of fun activities for the children to work on in their teams. The children then stayed in their teams to compete in the relay race which we didn't do on Sports Day due to the weather. The points from the Potted Sports and the relay race were added together and the Gold, Silver and Bronze teams were presented with certificates at our End of Term Assembly. We were delighted that Mr Mearns, Mrs Welsh and Mrs Adam were able to come along to our potted sports to help us keep the scores. I liked the running race where you had to jump over the red things, it was designed by Elena.



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Katie P1



Harry and Ollie on the crazy golf course. I'm pretty sure that's how Tiger Woods got started!

Mrs Blundell's Bench

Last Monday we took delivery of an absolutely stunning bench for our playground which was made in memory of Mrs Eileen Blundell. We held a short dedication ceremony which was attended by Mrs Helen Shanks who was the school's QIO when Mrs Blundell was the Head Teacher and Mr Dave Smith who was a close colleague of Mrs Blundell. It was also lovely to welcome Mr Blundell who 'cut the ribbon' on the bench and was the first to have a seat on it. The bench was made by the very talented people down at Milltown of Arbuthnott and is situated at the front of the building by the steps where it will remain for everyone to enjoy for many years to come.

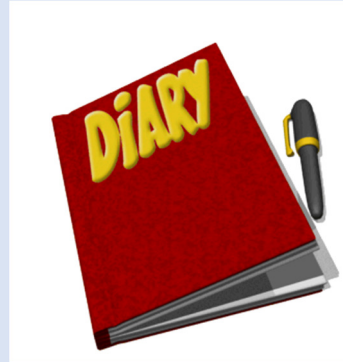
The Royal Highland Show

The P6/7 class and staff had a fabulous day at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh last Friday. They arrived back having collected lots of lovely freebies and telling stories of all the delicious foods they had tasted. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank East Coast Viners for paying for this whole day.



There were tents for Aldi's, Tesco's and Co-Op and we got to try different foods such as strawberries, pancakes and brownies.
Calum P7

Dates For Your Diary



30/6/17	Last day of term
21/8/17	In Service (Staff only)
22/8/17	Back to school for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and restful summer break and we will look forward to seeing everyone in August.