

The Redmyre Review

May 2017



Well that's us into the final few weeks before the summer holidays...not that we are counting or anything. May has been a busy old month as usual and thankfully it is nice to see the weather getting a wee bit warmer.

Hearing Specialist

On the 3rd of May we were joined by Alison Robb who is a specialist Hearing and Sensory loss teacher who works for Aberdeenshire Council. She came to speak to the P7 children about one of the children she works with who has a hearing impairment who will be joining their year group at Mearns Academy after the summer. The children were interested to learn all about how they can help support and communicate with this pupil when they meet next term.



Sometimes people shout at him but the key is to just speak normally and he can read our lips.
Ross Mackenzie P7

Bikeability

Our P6/7 children have been busy over the last few weeks with their Bikeability training. Miss McMillan has been doing a sterling job taking them through their paces and they have now progressed on to practicing manoeuvres up in the village. Some of the Bikeability Scotland lead instructors will be joining us on the 12th of June to quality assure our lessons and ensure that the instruction we are providing for the children is fit for purpose. The Bikeability training provides children with a key life skill to keep them safe on the road, Mrs Hunter will be carrying out the assessment on 16th June and we would ask that children refrain from cycling to school on the main roads until they have passed this assessment and shown that they know how to stay safe.



Parent Group Fundraising Beat the Bog.



Our Parent Council held a very successful Coffee Morning on the 20th May in a bid to raise funds for the Beat The Bog Campaign. Despite the dreadful weather there was a good turnout and £467 was raised in raffle sales and entry tickets on the day. In addition to this, £350 in donations were received from Pallet Logistics, Huntings and Intervention Rentals. I would like to say a very, very big thank you to Dr Rachel Smith, the chair of our Parent Council, who worked tirelessly to bake, contact local businesses asking for donations and raffle prizes, make table decorations for the day, set up the tables the evening before and she also provided all the plants for the plant stall! I would also like to thank Mrs West, Mrs Moir and Miss McMillan for baking some excellent fine pieces for the event.

I would also like to remind everyone that the Bag Pack at Tesco Montrose is this Saturday. If you haven't already volunteered please, please, please do to help us raise money to improve our playground for all the children.



Our Pupil Council made a 'Beat the Bog' notice board.

Book Fair

Alongside the Parent Council Coffee morning the school also held its annual book fair. It was so heartening to see the children getting so excited as I opened up the huge book shelves when they arrived from Scholastic. They could hardly wait to get their hands on the books. We did an absolutely roaring trade on the day of the coffee morning and sold in excess of £500 worth of books. We saved the commission which we earned last year and have put it together with this year's commission and we now have £500 worth of commission which we can spend on Scholastic books for our school library. I will get the School Council on to choosing all the new books before we break for the summer holidays; in my experience, children just love to spend other people's cash!

On the subject of the library could I appeal for you to look out any library books which your children may have lurking down the sides of beds and behind chests of drawers so they can be returned safely to our library before the summer holidays? I would also like to take this opportunity to send huge thanks to Mrs Pauline Hay who has been coming every few weeks to help our junior Librarians run our very successful lending library. Mrs Hay doesn't even have children at our school anymore and we really appreciate that she is still happy to give up her time to assist us with so many things.

Preparing For Mearns Academy

The P6/7 pupils have had a few visits from staff from Mearns Academy over the last few weeks as part of their transition package. Mr Martindale, the head teacher, visited on 10th May to chat to them about what life is like up at Mearns and to answer any questions which the children might have. I am very proud to say that Mr Martindale later commented to me about what great children we have here at Redmyre, I couldn't help but agree.

Guidance teacher Miss Bush, Ms Anderson and Mr Westland then visited on the 19th May and informed the children about many of the practical things which they wanted to know about such as when they will get timetables, uniform requirements and, the most important thing, what sorts of things there are to eat in the canteen! These visits go a long way towards helping children feel more confident and relaxed during what can sometimes be quite an anxious time for them.



Mr Martindale told us that some classes are mixed with all abilities and some are not. He made me feel more confident about it all.
April Barham P7

Book Fair

Alongside the Parent Council Coffee morning the school also held its annual book fair. It was so heartening to see the children getting so excited as I opened up the huge book shelves when they arrived from Scholastic. They could hardly wait to get their hands on the books. We did an absolutely roaring trade on the day of the coffee morning and sold in excess of £500 worth of books. We saved the commission which we earned last year and have put it together with this year's commission and we now have £500 worth of commission which we can spend on Scholastic books for our school library. I will get the School Council on to choosing all the new books before we break for the summer holidays, in my experience, children just love to spend other people's cash!

On the subject of the library could I appeal for you to look out any library books which your children may have lurking down the sides of beds and behind chests of drawers so they can be returned safely to our library before the summer holidays? I would also like to take this opportunity to send huge thanks to Mrs Pauline Hay who has been coming every few weeks to help our junior Librarians run our very successful lending library. Mrs Hay doesn't even have children at our school anymore and we really appreciate that she is still happy to give up her time to assist us with so many things.

Survey Monkey

Thank you so much to those of you who responded to our recent Survey Monkey. These surveys, along with other data which we collect in school, are so important to us in terms of our quality assurance and in informing our Improvement Plan for the coming session. The results were very, very positive and we got some lovely feedback from parents which really does lift our spirits. I have attached the results for your perusal. In general it would appear that parents are very happy with the new reporting format this year with comments such as *'Much prefer this format, easy to read and nice that the kids get to contribute on it'* and *'Easy to see how my child is performing and any areas needing work to improve upon. It's clear to see that Redmyre know my child well as an individual'*. A number of parents commented that they would like some more notice of open days and other such events we hold at school. This is something we are completely aware of. This is our first year of developing our improved approaches to reporting and although we produced a reporting timetable of school events at the start of the session, it didn't have dates on it. Next session I anticipate that our reporting calendar, issued near the beginning of the session, will have dates attached to allow working parents to make arrangements well in advance.



Our New Primary 1s

We were delighted to welcome next session's Primary 1 pupils up to the school for a visit last Wednesday. The children enjoyed some time in their new class with the current Primary 1 children whilst the Primary 2 children moved up to spend some time in the middle stages class. The Primary 4 and 5 children moved up to spend time in the upper stages classroom. The new P1s also had the chance to meet their buddies. Buddies are the current P6 children who have been given the very important job of helping the new P1s settle in when they start in August. Given that Miss McMillan was in the infant class last week when the new P1s were visiting, I am assuming that you will have guessed that she will be moving to teach in the infant class next year. Unfortunately, as a probationer teacher this year, Mr Steer will be moving on to pastures new so we will be allocated a new member of staff by the authority. When I am informed of who this member of staff will be I will be in a position to make a decision regarding staffing for the middle stages class and upper stages class. I will let you know as soon as I am in a position to do so.



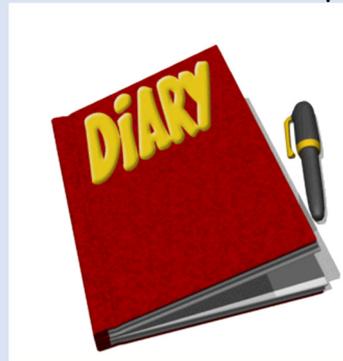
Yesterday the P6/7 class had a super treat as they had a visit from a real live detective! Emily's auntie, Jackie Knight, is a Crime Scene Manager with Police Scotland and she came in to tell the children all about her job. The children were fascinated to find out all about the different jobs which need to be done at a crime scene, the different types of forensic evidence which can be collected and how it is used to solve crimes. The boys and girls were also shown a cast of a footprint which was used as evidence in a real case and were shown how to take finger prints. Jackie also spoke to the children about some of the cases she gets involved with and the different circumstances which determine the level of seriousness of a case. The children all spoke very enthusiastically about Jackie's visit and found it really interesting; we may have a few budding detectives in our midst!



It was very interesting. She told us all about how the evidence is used in court to convict criminals.
Jessica Murdoch P7



Dates For Your Diary



P1/2 Forest School 6th June (Tuesday)

P1/2 Forest School 12th June (Monday)

Please, please ensure children have suitable outdoor clothing and footwear (wellies) for Forest School.

Health Week - Week beginning 5th June

Sports Day - 8th June pm (weather permitting)

15th June - Parents/Carers invited to a short session of Samba Drumming 11am

19th, 20th and 21st June- P7 Three day visit to Mearns

23rd June P6/7 Trip to Royal Highland Show (details to follow)

End of term assembly 29th June (PM)

Published Pupils



- Targets for all writing**
- Use capital letters to start sentences.
 - Use full stops to finish a sentence.
 - Spell most common words correctly.
 - Use Finger spaces.
 - Neat handwriting.

- Learning Intentions**
We are learning how to create our own stories.
- Success Criteria**
- I can create 2 sentences about the island.
 - I can use Capital letter correctly all the time.



Elsbeth (p1) wrote all about what she can sense on her own desert island.

on Elspeth Island I see
cheeky monkeys!
On Elspeth island I hear
monkeys march a
racket with the drums!
I can smell smelly
skunks • skunks

Emily (p3) has written all about the life cycle of a butterfly. The class have witnessed this whole process in their class room as they have had caterpillars sent to them a few months ago. The final butterflies were released yesterday.

Butterfly Life Cycle Amazing



Do you know the wonderful world of butterflies? Well I do. A butterfly's life is made up of four parts. First it starts as a egg.



Next the egg hatches. Can you guess what is inside yes it is a spectacular caterpillar. There are about 1000 different caterpillars. WOW that is a lot of caterpillars!



A caterpillar sheds its skin a few times, now it sheds for the last time and in a few days later it will curl up and it turns into a pupa...



Soon you will find the caterpillar emerging or is it a caterpillar NO! It is a butterfly.

Emily

Thursday 18th May 2017

The instruction book on how to be a CSI expert 101.
The equipment needed

The equipment you may want to take in your detective bag might include.

- a magnifying lamp, magnifying glass.
- a spectrometer.
- some utensils such as a teaspoon.
- some brushes and tweezers.
- lenses, a ruler and swabs.

What could you use as evidence and why is it important

Evidence	Why is it useful?
• DNA profile (from hair)	• so you can find out if there is a dangerous substance in someone's body.
• glass chips	• so they can match glass to a crime scene and if there is blood or clothing traces that were on the glass even better.
• glass, dust and splinters	• If these materials match the crime scene they can be used as evidence
• soil samples	• Soil can also stick to shoes and more items of clothing.
• pollen	• It can be matched to a crime.
• footprints and finger prints	• They can match a cast better than a photo so it can be used as evidence
• DNA (saliva, blood and hair) <u>trace evidence</u>	• It helps prove if a suspect is guilty.
Equipment used:	• This way people can see under
• magnifying lamp, tweezers, brush.	
• tweezers, gloves	
• microscope	
• test tube, glove, microscope	
• magnifying glass	
• ruler, brush, powder, water	
• test tube	
• microscope, lenses, magnifying glass.	

Jessica (P7) clearly knows exactly how to be a CSI detective already. Move over Horatio Caine!

Pictures

See	DNA
	<p>Glass chips</p>
	<p>Glass dust and splinters</p>
	<p>Soil samples</p>
	<p>pollen</p>
	<p>Footprint/fingerprints</p>
	<p>Trace evidence</p>

These are some fantastic instructions, very neatly set out and easy to follow.

