

Roslin Primary School Newsletter



Term 1

School Website: roslin.mgfl.net

December 2016



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"Exciting Learning within our Friendly and Active Community of Roslin"

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a vibrant term 2 with all the children from Nursery through to P7. So much exciting learning has taken place both in the school and in the community. We continue to develop our Visible Learning culture within Roslin and have invited inspirational people to come and talk to our learners:

Former pupil David Gray spoke at assembly about winning the Scottish Cup in football. The children asked key questions and he said making mistakes was how he learned to improve his skills.

Caitlin McClatchey, Olympic and Commonwealth swimmer, spoke about her determination to succeed and how many hours a week she had to train to reach

her goal - you could have heard a pin drop while she was speaking as the learners were so inspired and keen to listen to her swimming journey.

Scott Quin, Paralympic swimmer, won Silver at the recent games in Rio. He explained how he was spotted by a coach at a local pool and then started training with Warrender in Edinburgh. He is a fantastic role model for all our learners.

The Scottish Visible Learning conference was held in Edinburgh. I attended along with Mrs Berry who spoke at the conference about Roslin's journey. The key messages from the day all link closely with what David, Caitlin and Scott were saying - the importance of hard

work, persevering, making mistakes, challenging yourself and growth mindset.

We finished the term with our wonderful Nativity "A Miracle in Town" and our Christmas Fair. Both events were well attended and a great success and there was a lovely happy community spirit around the school. A big thank you to the Parent Council for the Christmas Fair.

We finish the term with our Christmas Church service and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with your families.

Mrs Jo Wilson, Head Teacher

P3 have been very busy. We finished our topic of pirates with an exciting science lesson where we designed and made our own boats to see if they would float when they had treasure (coins) added to them. We found that the boats that had more deck space could hold more coins.



We learned how to use different media including paint and oil pastels to create beautiful artwork in honour of Remembrance Day.

We are also very excited to be starting a new topic called frozen planet where we will be learning about Antarctica. We will learn what the environment is like and which animals live there.



Our recent collection for Remembrance Poppies brought in a total of £86.41.

Primary 1 have been enjoying their drumming lessons with instructors from Infectious Grooves. They have been learning how to play the Cajon drum and putting sound effects to a story.

Primary 5 Maths

Recently P5 have been learning about decimals in maths. They started by using playdough to split the tub into tenths and hundredths. They were working in 2s or 3s. P5 had to show they had 100 hundredths without having to count them individually. Some did this by splitting their 100 into groups of 10. Others drew a hundred square and put their hundred in. Once they had finished they came up with 5 decimal numbers to make using their models.

By Ava P5



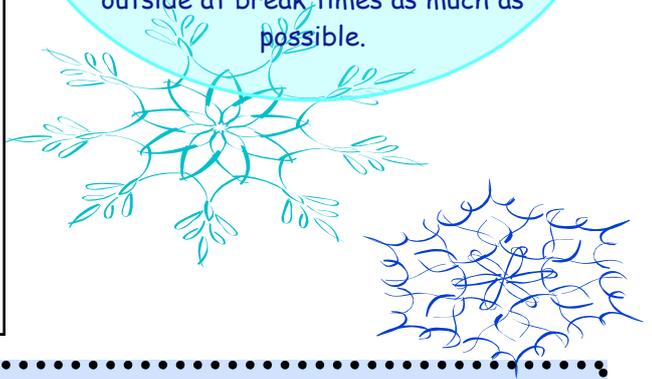
During book week, Primary 1 along with P2 and P3 enjoyed a visit from the librarian who read a story and talked about events that the library holds for school children. The Book



Bug bags were also launched and the Primary 7's came down to P1 and read one of the new books to their buddy before the books went home.

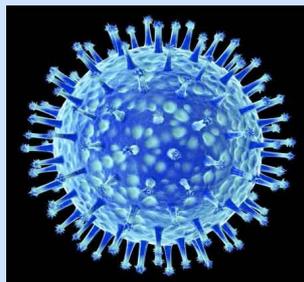


As the cold weather starts to approach, please remember to send your children in to school with a warm coat, hat, wellies and perhaps a spare pair of socks in their bag. We always like them to be outside at break times as much as possible.



Primary 6

Primary 6 attended a Pandemic Workshop at the National Museum on Chambers Street. The children found out about historic pandemics such as the 'Black Death' and more recent pandemics such as smallpox. There were interactive tasks that helped



to teach the children how pandemics could spread and they also looked at ways in which pandemics could be contained and stopped. During the trip Primary 6 also had the opportunity to explore the museum with the new Science wing and the animals being their favourite parts.

Aladdin

was the Panto theme this year!



Our Nursery to P3 pupils enjoyed their pantomime in school performed by Hopscotch Theatre Co. And our P4 to P7 children visited the Brunton Theatre in Musselburgh.

Both performances were brilliant and all the children had a fabulous time and behaved beautifully. A big thank you to the Parent Council for subsidising these events.

LEARNING COUNCIL

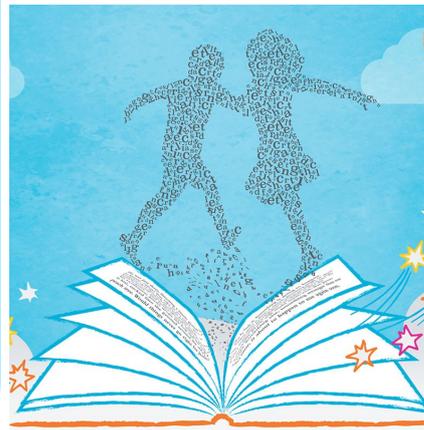
The Learning Council participated in our learning walk this term where they were to look for evidence of reading being encouraged in all areas of the school. Their evidence has been included in Mrs Wilson's final report. Since that learning walk, they have helped create a reading questionnaire for all pupils to get a better sense of how our pupils feel about reading. The Council ran a short story competition during Book Week and have been working well as a team!



P2

As part of our Religious and Moral Education, P2 have been finding out about Christian holy buildings. We had an opportunity to visit Rosslyn Chapel and Roslin Kirk. We played 'I spy...' in both buildings and had to find a variety of things we had learned about such as pews, pulpit and font. We also used our maths skills by counting and tallying how many crosses and stained glass windows we could find.

Later we created a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences between the two buildings.



READING CHALLENGE

Well done to all those pupils in P4-7 who are taking part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge! If you haven't started yet, there's still time! Challenge yourself to read something new, something different or a favourite from the past. Keep track of your reading in your Reading Passport and come chat to Mrs Berry anytime about the challenge.

P4 visited Dynamic Earth as part of their learning about space. They took part in a workshop to learn more about living and working in space. They had missions and experiments to complete and learned about how the human body is affected in space. We then had a chance to tour Dynamic Earth and had a great time. P4 thoroughly enjoyed their bus journey, keeping Mrs Berry entertained with beautiful singing!



Pupils had a "Spotacular" time in school dressed up with spots.

A giant Pudsey Bear, donated by Bank of Scotland Loanhead, was also raffled at the Christmas Fair.

We raised a whopping £237.60.

Well done to everyone.



Our Time Capsule

Every class contributed to our time capsule. Which has now been buried under our new school!



Edinburgh Castle Visit

On Monday 14th November, Primary 5 went to Edinburgh Castle. In the morning when we arrived, we were free to walk around and see everything. We saw the 21 Gun Salute, Mons Meg, St Margaret's Chapel, the Crown Jewels and much more.

After lunch, we went to meet a Castle Steward. She took us to the old prison and we got to see some old armour. It was brilliant.

By Eva Low, P5



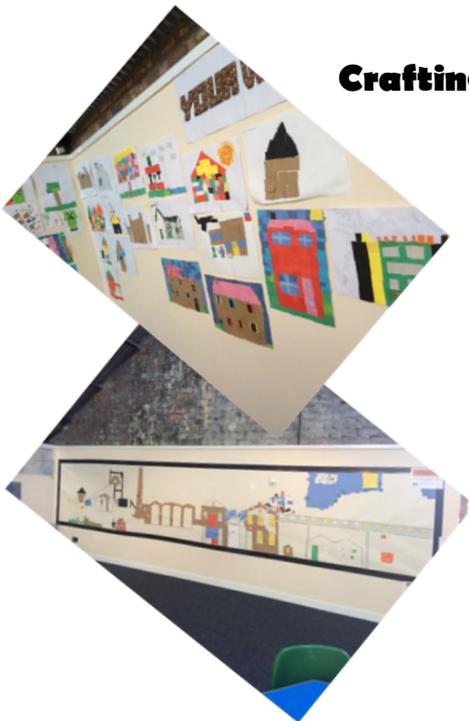
Crafting the Mine

P7 got the opportunity to spend a morning at Newtongrange Mining Museum on Tuesday 25th October.

The event was part of the Big Draw Exhibition and the pupils had the opportunity to try out a new game designed by staff at the Mining Museum. The game combined the ideas of Mine Craft with skills involved in mining coal, hence the name 'Crafting the Mine'. The pupils had to work together to collect as much coal as they could, making sure to listen out for the sound of a canary that would indicate gas in the mine or running water that could signal a flood.

Once the pupils had brought their mined coal to the surface they were able to sell it for money. At this point pupils were learning about the value of money used back in the coal mining days. They received shillings and pence for their coal which they could then use to buy equipment to help them down the mine.

The pupils also contributed to a mosaic mural of the Mining Museum that had been drawn on the wall by a local artist. It was this piece of artwork along with the pupils' own mosaic houses that was being entered into the Big Draw Exhibit.



Dyslexia Awareness



A huge thank you to all the pupils who volunteered to be part of our Dyslexia Awareness Team this year.

Pupils were involved in giving a short presentation to each class and distributing blue ribbons throughout the school to pupils who wanted to show their support.

The team's efforts culminated in their participation in an Assembly during Book Week where they especially chose the messages they wanted to give the rest of the school about Dyslexia.

Congratulations to all who took part.

VISIBLE LEARNING CONFERENCE

On Monday, 7th May, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Langdon and Mrs Berry attended the Scottish Visible Learning Conference at Murrayfield Stadium. The keynote speaker at this conference was Professor John Hattie, whose research on visible learning has inspired many teachers around Midlothian. Mrs Berry was invited,

along with two other Midlothian teachers, to present a workshop at this conference. This workshop featured some of the hard work and effort that has been done by the staff and pupils of Roslin to improve our learning and teaching environment. It was a very successful day with lots of positive feedback for Roslin!



P6 & P7 Rugby Festival

On 25th November pupils from P6 and P7 took part in the Rugby Festival at Penicuik Park. This was an opportunity for the pupils to put into practice the different skills and techniques they have been learning in school.

The pupils were a credit to themselves and the school showing great sportsmanship towards opposition players and the referees during each match.

The pupils were split into three teams and were drawn to play on different pitches against other teams from the Penicuik Cluster Schools. Thankfully the frosty weather didn't hamper proceedings and they landed lucky getting to play their games on the astro turf rather than the frozen playing field.



A Miracle In Town

The Infant Area put on show-stopping performance at their nativity on Friday 16th December.

They all looked amazing in their beautiful costumes, the hall was packed out with parents and grandparents and the singing got us all in the mood for Christmas.

Well done to everyone involved.



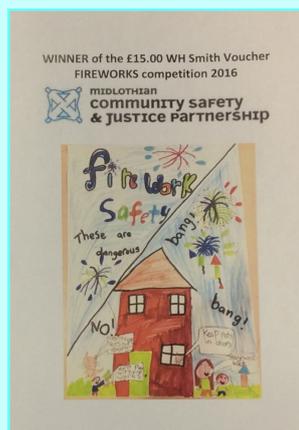
Firework Safety Poster Competition Winners

Before Bonfire night P4 entered a competition to design a Firework Safety Poster for Midlothian. We had to find out how to stay safe ourselves. Then we looked at lots of ideas of what a good poster looks like. Next we designed our own posters. Just before 5th November some people came to visit all of P4 and P5, Councillor Kelly Parry and our local Firefighters. They told us that we had both won WH Smith vouchers, as well as telling both classes about staying safe. They even brought a fire engine and we had our photograph taken. It was a very busy day.

By Isla and Freya, P4

Isla and Freya, P4, with Councillor Parry, Mrs Denham and our local Firefighters.

Winning artwork below





P5 Orienteering

On Thursday 24th November, P5 went orienteering in Penicuik public park. We practiced in the PE hall first then went on the bus to Penicuik. We were told what to do and got a map. They had numbers on it and we had to look for the numbers. They were everywhere. Some were close and some were far away.

Then we went back to school.

By Bryce Gray, P5



Outdoor Learning

Many classes have enjoyed walks to Roslin Glen this term and participated in a variety of outdoor learning.



Eco-Schools Green Flag

Roslin Primary School have now been awarded the **Eco-Schools Green Flag**. The assessment report stated:

"I enjoyed reading your Green Flag application and thought you had made a sound start to your Eco journey, working hard to reduce waste in school through your links with the Community Trade Waste Office. You have integrated your environmental work thoroughly into the curriculum and calendar via Eco-themed class topics and events such as Green Day and Water Week. In addition, you have monitored progress well and shared your successes with the wider community via your feed. Furthermore, you are to awareness-raising of Fairtrade support of worthwhile charities will feed in well to your Sustainable Development Goals Eco activities."



newsletters, website and Twitter be commended for your in school and for your generous such as Water Aid, both of which exploration of the UN's as part of your future

Well done to all the pupils, staff and parent helpers who have worked tirelessly to achieve this award.

We are very proud of our 3 pupils Lauren Kerr, Abbie Douglas and Evie Black, who represented Roslin Primary at the **Midlothian Schools Festival of Music** at the Usher Hall in November. They were fantastic!



Nursery News

For Book Week Scotland both nursery classes enjoyed a visit to the Library in Roslin. The Librarian, Carol, read a story and the children were then able to choose books to bring back to the nursery.

The children had the opportunity to bring in favourite books from home to share with the class and on the Friday they could dress up as their favourite book character.



P6a

Pentland Trek

We have been enjoying working with our Outdoor Learning Teacher, Eoin.

In October we went hillwalking in the Pentlands. Although the weather for the 2 groups couldn't have been more

different, both groups worked as a team and reached the summit of Castlelaw!



Parent Council News

The first term of the session always seems to fly past and this year was no different! We started with the Roslin Fun Day and we were delighted again to see all the posters designed by the children displayed around the village. We held a successful Bookshop which continues to be popular with the children and raise funds for our school. The now traditional Christmas jumper dress down day was followed by the Christmas Fair which was a very festive, sociable fun occasion raising over £1000. This year the format was slightly different with craft stalls in the main hall which were a popular addition and helped with a little Christmas shopping! Our fundraising has allowed us to contribute to the pantomime trip to the Brunton and the Hopscotch visit to the infant area again this year which the pupils always really enjoy. We continue to work closely with school looking at academic progress and contributing towards various aspects of day to day school life. Thank you to everyone who has helped out at the various events and in school.

If you have an idea for a social event or academic undertaking, please speak to one of us or contact school directly or come along to a meeting. We need volunteers to make these things happen so please get involved.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 25th January 2017 in Roslin Kirk. All parents are welcome to attend.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from us all!



Dates for the Diary:

- 23 December - Whole school church service 9.20am
- 23 December - School finishes for the Christmas Holiday at 12.00 noon.
- 9 January - School re-opens