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# Laurencekirk School Newsletter

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## June 2017

### IN THIS ISSUE

## Sports Day

by Mrs Millard

This year sports day was held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May and we had fabulous weather with the sun shining; the atmosphere was alive with excitement. We had huge crowds cheering all the children at each station encouraging everyone to push themselves a little bit harder.

### Marathon

The marathon course was set up and the children faced the challenge of completing the race in hot weather. Every child showed determination and worked hard to finish. As our spectators cheered, the children put on an extra spurt to carry them onto the finish. Our Mearns Academy helpers were amazing running the marathon alongside those who were finding the task difficult.

### Sprints

Our staff had worked hard to set up races on the field practising the different events prior to the big day. We had running, sack, hoop, skipping, relay and egg and spoon races which all earned points for the various houses. The children showed great sportsmanship cheering their friends along.

### Potted Sports

This year we had eight stations set up testing the skills of balance, co-ordination, aim and throwing. The children had to work together as a team to earn as many points as they could for their house and it was this event which decided the winning house. The Mearns Academy students were brilliant, explaining clearly each station, resetting obstacles, recording the results and encouraging the children to keep going.

### Nursery

Nursery held their Sports Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> May and they too enjoyed the good weather. Again the children were excited and worked hard to complete all the sporting challenges set in the various races and potted sports. Our Primary 7 Play Leaders helped with their day and all ran smoothly ending up with a picnic.

### Winning House

The competition was fierce this year with all the children working hard at each and every event to earn points for their house. In the marathon the green house had a lot of runners placed first and second but it was the blue house who won this event with 758 points. The yellow house did well in the sprints but the greens won this event with 213 points. In the potted sports the red house collected a new high score of 1843 points. When all the totals were added together the final result was close with only two points separating first and second positions.

House	Points
Red	2626
Blue	2624
Green	2518
Yellow	2407

Congratulations goes to the red house for winning the trophy this year.

### Thank You

A huge thank you goes out to everyone involved in making the day a great success; LPPC, Mearns Academy, Active Schools, parents, staff and the children.



### Sponsored Walk

Appreciating our community

Page 2



### Reporting to parents

Meaningful, regular reporting

Page 4



### Early Education (Nursery)

Page 4

## Sponsored Walk

by Mr Boyd

A highlight to our year is the annual Sponsored Walk. In recent years we have used this to raise money for enhancing our playground and I am proud to say that thanks to the £3126 so far raised this year we have reached our target for the Nursery playground equipment – funds that have been raised in the Nursery have been used for this, and are waiting on the remaining funds to come in from the school to see if we can not only have our Trim Trail in the new front playground but some other resources spread out around our infant and large playground. All outstanding sponsor money to the school office by 23 June.

The Parent Council has been working hard to promote our venture and the new housing developments have given us £2000 towards the equipment.

All children were a credit to our school and set off at a good pace to Denlethen woods. Primary 1s were looking for bears whilst Primary 7s were determined to set a record time. Other classes were keeping up the pace. A very **big** thanks to all the parents/carers/friends who came out and supported us. This type of activity requires careful planning and we could not do it without you.

## Glenshee Gallivantings

By Primary 7s



What a great week we all had. Kayaking, rope walks, gorge walking, raft building were some of the activities we did in the pouring rain but the children did not let this “dampen” their enthusiasm. A massive thanks to all staff and our parent helper who gave up their four days and evenings to look after the children.

## Active Schools Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs

By Mr Atkinson

With another busy school year drawing to a close it seems the ideal time to thank all of the staff and volunteers that have contributed to the extra-curricular sports programme throughout the year. With a wide range of activities on offer such as athletics, yoga, netball, badminton, country dancing and Holiday Sports Camps we are very lucky to have such a skilled and dedicated volunteer base that give up their time to offer these opportunities on a weekly basis. We would like to thank Pam Findlay, Leanon Mulligan, Sophie Macleod, Chantelle Reid, Louisa Craig, Mrs Millard, Mrs Cuthill and Callum Barkworth for their valuable contributions throughout the year. We hope that you enjoy the summer break when it arrives and we look forward to continuing the current programme and creating new opportunities next school year!



Many children conquered their fears of heights, water and strengthened their team building skills.

Many children had their first overnight away from their parents and embraced this.

Behaviour by all children was excellent and the children not only represented the school but their families well.



## Clothing Bank

Remember that we now have our own Clothes bin for any outgrown clothes.

The Parent Council receive funds from this and put it towards contributions to school trips etc.

## Bored during the holidays?



Aberdeenshire Summer Activities Guide  
[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/local/holiday-programmes/](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/local/holiday-programmes/)

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/recreation/disabilitysport/index.asp](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/recreation/disabilitysport/index.asp)

## Total Communication

by Mr Boyd



As part of Getting It Right For Every Child, we have been working towards our Bronze Award in Total Communication. This involves using symbols when we speak or display information. After all, when we drive a car, we don't see sentences telling us speed limits.

We are the first school in Aberdeenshire to achieve this. Well done to the parents who helped us, the staff who are all invested in it and the children who use it daily.

## HOT TOPICS



## STAFFING

We say a fond farewell to Mrs Wilson- a child in Laurencekirk and later a teacher, she is hanging up her teaching shoes to spend time with her grandchildren and family. Mrs Wilson has seen many children through the school as well as some children who have even had their own bundles of joy. You have worked hard and deserve time to be with family and friends.

Our school is not only getting bigger with bricks and mortar but we have also more children, meaning a thirteenth class has now been established. As such we welcome Mr Steer to the fold. Mr Steer has taught in our cluster already and we welcome him to the Laurencekirk family.

We also welcome Ms Brown. As the class sizes get bigger, management time also increases and non-class contact time does too. Ms Brown will therefore have a class.

## Pupil Equity Fund

by Mr Boyd

The Scottish Government are determined to close the gap in poverty in Scotland. Poverty can be seen in many guises and can include, money, local transport etc. With this in mind the Head Teachers of all local schools are putting together a plan to make Laurencekirk's poverty gap narrow.

## P7 departure

by Mr Boyd

Starting school in 2010 our bonnie little P1s were in their big uniforms with their shiny shoes and bags, heading to the "big school".

2010 was a special year for them joining school but each year thereafter was just as important as they moved from one learning experience to another and then became the responsible helpers for which they will be remembered.

### But what about the memories of the world in 2010?

- Video camera barbie – the doll had a camera inside it.
- To infinity and beyond! – Buzz Lightyear became one of the most popular Christmas toys.
- Toy Story 3 hit the cinemas
- Apple launched its latest creation – the I-Pad
- Number 1 on the week of starting was Club Can't Handle Me.

We certainly "gotta feeling" that this year group were going to have a fun time together and we wish them success, fun and lots of learning at Mearns.

## School Reporting

By Mr Boyd

Soon to come to your mailbox is the finalised copy of the new reporting platform for next year. In consultation with parents, guidance by Aberdeenshire council and regulations set by the Scottish Government the following will be seen as reporting to parents:

- 1- Class newsletters
- 2- Assemblies and class visits
- 3- Open Afternoons and Evenings
- 4- Learning Journeys
- 5- School Reports with levels- please note the Government have removed the option of reporting within a level. (Developing, Consolidating, Secure).

There will be some time taken to embed the new system.



## It's summer

by Mr Boyd

On behalf of all the staff, thank you for your support in a very fast year. From volunteers to dedicated parents we cannot educate without you.

We hope you enjoy the summer holidays (last day of term 30<sup>th</sup> June, 3.15pm) and will be ready to welcome you back on Tuesday, 22 August.

## Lunchtimes

By Mr Boyd

We are very concerned that some children (as young as P3) are having unsupervised lunches in the community. We are very clear that we **do not** encourage this. There has been news around the country of children who have sadly never been seen again when they have been exposed to this sort of unattended, vulnerable situation. Any type of home lunch is the parents'/carers' responsibility. Please log on to Ipayimpact to ensure your child is doing as they say they will for lunch.

## School Uniforms

by Mr Boyd

A year ago the Parent Council was commissioned with work to evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the school uniform.

A massive response was received from parents, children and some responses from the community.

A leaflet has now been issued to all parents regarding the expectations for school uniform; from day wear, formal wear and gym wear.

Please visit

<http://laurencekirk.aberdeenshire.sch.uk> for an electronic version of this leaflet and links on how to order.

As every school in the UK goes on holiday over summer, please get your orders in early.

## Early Years Corner

by Mrs Smith

Wow! What a busy term it has been. There has been so many wonderful learning opportunities for our children and staff to enjoy together.

Our pre-school children are now making weekly visits to their Primary One area where they are learning and playing together with all their new classmates.

Listening and responding to stories is a big feature in early years. We have welcomed 'Badger the Mutt' to school and nursery. Diane from BookBug has delighted the nursery pupils with stories linked to the topic 'All About Me.' The children really enjoyed listening to these stories!

Our Sports Day was a huge success with lots of sporting talent on display in the Parents Race. This event was very well attended and the children had a super time!



The boys and girls in Primary One are learning about growth and changes as part of their Health and Wellbeing learning. They enjoyed incubating eggs and the whole school was thrilled to welcome two baby chicks to Laurencekirk! We work closely with Poppies private nursery who have added our chicks to their flock!

Thank you to all our pre-school parents who attended our workshop on family learning. It was wonderful to see so many of you. Working together to support learning brings huge advantages for our children and we will continue to build on this. We have been delighted with the feedback on our home packs to date. If you are able to spare an hour to help us sort these out then please speak to any member of staff who will be delighted to enlist you!



Mrs Hillard has launched 'cosmic yoga' and many children are opting in to this.



Nursery are also learning about growth and change. We have nurtured caterpillars who have become beautiful butterflies. We released these in to the wild. We are currently taking care of tadpoles and discussing how they grow and develop.



Our Health Visitor Claire Nixon visited nursery to talk to us about healthy eating and how this is important for our bodies and minds. She was very impressed with the knowledge and listening skills on display.

## Bob the Builder is about to leave the building

by Mr Boyd

This time last year we were excited about the building we were going to be moving into in November (Nursery) and April (School).

We have been waiting and waiting and it has now finally come in June.

The new building will be available in August and we are working to provide clear information for the community groups that will move in with us. This includes the Out of School Club who are very excited about this.

These classrooms will not be used for certain year groups but will be allocated to particular classes each year.

Watch this space for our opening ceremony.

Please note that lining up and dismissal arrangements will remain the same.



## Parent Council

By Mr Boyd

Mr Boyd would like to thank the support the Parent Council has given the school this year.

Priorities have included getting a new uniform supplier, preparing to send questionnaires and hold group discussions with children.

Alongside the "business" of the learning in school, the Parent Council has also worked hard to raise funds for playground equipment and to subsidise the school trips.

We look forward to a strong Parent Council next year who continue to support the school, building links between community and school, helping to fundraise and to take forward the School Improvement Plan

## Health Week

By Mrs Smith

The children and staff have had a very busy week focusing on Health and Wellbeing. We have had lots of visitors to the school to help us with our learning and many of us have ventured out in to the local community to learn out there! Friends of Denlethen organized orienteering, we had bowling, basketball, rugby, golf, mindfulness, cooking.....and much more. All classes have been doing a "Daily 15" where they have been walking or jogging for 15 minutes in the playground. This has been a fantastic success and the teachers are looking forward to taking the learning forward. We hope to make next year's Health Week even better so if you have any ideas or can contribute in any way then please do see Mrs Smith!

## Diary Dates

Subject to change, addition and cancellation.

Date	Event	Times
Friday 30 June	P7 leavers assembly	9.30am
Monday 3 July	Summer holidays -School Closed	
Monday, 21 August 2017	In-Service Day – Staff Only	
Tuesday, 22 August 2017	Return to school for Pupils	9.00am
Monday 16 October 2017	October Holidays- School Closed	
Monday 30 October	School reopens	9.00am
Monday 13 November	In-service Day- Staff only	
Tuesday 14 November	In-Service Day – Staff only	
Monday 25 December	Christmas Holidays	
Monday 8 January	School reopens	9.00am
Thursday 8 February	Occasional Day Holiday	
Friday 9 February	Occasional Day Holiday	
Monday 12 February	Mid Term Holiday	
Tuesday 13 February	In-Service Day – Staff only	
Wednesday 14 February	In-Service Day- Staff only	
Friday 30 March	Easter Holidays- School Closed	
Monday 16 April	School reopens	9.00am
Monday 7 May	May Day- School Closed	
Monday 9 July	Summer holidays- School Closed	

Further dates will appear throughout the year.

Please also see your child's class newsletter for dates pertinent to their class.