



Tinto Times

February 2017

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Head Teacher's Report

I hope all our families had a lovely half term. We are now into the final five weeks of the Spring term and, as usual, lots has been happening this month and we have events planned for March.

New build: Work has now begun in earnest on our new building. Trenches have been dug, fences put up and large piles of earth have arrived! There are vehicles in and out of the site on a daily basis. I will be meeting with the build team at the beginning of March and will update parents regarding progress in the next newsletter. The original date of December 2017 for building to be completed remains the same. We do not have a definite date for moving into the new building as yet.

In-service: Nursery, support and primary staff participated in a training session on attachment and autism. This was led by our Educational Psychologist, Kirsten Allen, and was a very informative session. Nursery staff also completed some self evaluation work whilst primary staff discussed the Working Time Agreement and looked at the new way reading books are now organised (known as book banding) led by Mrs Kilgallon.

Staff development: Tinto teachers have also been working with the teachers at Biggar Primary School over four evening sessions. The teachers have been working in groups and discussing the standardised maths scores for each stage. This has allowed the teachers to have a professional dialogue around teaching strategies, assessments and resources. Staff have also updated the maths programme as a result and are hoping to have observation visits in our respective schools.

Students: Mrs Mairi Maxfield has been teaching in P6/7 since the end of January and will complete her placement on the 3rd of March. Mrs Maxfield will return to teach in P2/3 from the 17.4.17-19.5.17. We also welcomed Andrew Shanks to the nursery class this week. Mr Shanks has four day visits to the nursery over the next three weeks and then returns in May for a three week placement. We do benefit from teaching students as they bring in new ideas regarding resources and teaching approaches. Hopefully they too benefit from working with our experienced teachers.

Assemblies: Rev Shand has been in school to take assemblies this month. His P4-7 assembly about Jewish festivals supported by photos of his time living in Jerusalem was very interesting.

The Pupil Committees and JRSO's have also presented powerpoints at the assemblies this month. The children excel at this and are always highly organised and proficient. Well done to everyone involved.

Lunch time clubs: We have been very fortunate this month as we have had two lunch time clubs organised by Active Breaks and paid for by the After School Club. The children have had the opportunity to participate in tennis and fitness sessions.

We also have pupil led clubs at the moment – currently these include dodgeball and dancing. The children organise and lead these activities and do so very well indeed.

Nursery: The nursery class has had a series of open mornings this week and staff and parents were able to discuss how the children experience the Curriculum for Excellence in a nursery setting. Parents also had the opportunity to look around the nursery displays.

School openings: Two of the Biggar Learning Community schools have their official opening next week. Carnwath P.S on the 27th February and Biggar Primary on the 1st March. Pupils are involved in these events and celebrate their school with songs and drama. Hopefully it won't be long until we are planning ours!

March events:

Literacy week – an email has been sent to all families detailing the events that will be taking place. Thanks to Mrs Kilgallon for co-ordinating the activities. I am sure the children will enjoy the week

Developing the Young Workforce: This is a Learning Community event for all P6 pupils. It takes place on the 3.3.17 in Biggar Municipal Hall. The pupils will be working in teams to develop skills needed in the workplace – such as communication, time management, group work etc. It will be great fun and an opportunity to meet pupils from the other primaries that may be in their classes at Biggar High

Bookbug: nursery event on 7.3.17

Parent Council: Meeting on **14.3.17** in the nursery decant

Book Fair: Arrives on the 15.3.17 and will be here for the week

Open Day: 16.3.17. Timetabled as before with P1-3 9.30-10.30/ P4-5 11.00-12.00/ P6-7 1.30-2.30. Of course if you have pupils across the stages either come to all (as some families do!) or select one time slot to see all your children

Cross country: P5-7 pupils across Clydesdale. This event takes place on 17.3.17. All children must bring the appropriate clothing

Parents Evening: This takes place on 22.3.17 in the nursery decant, Symington. All appointments have been issued

Race night: 24.3.17 - a fun filled evening for all the family and a brilliant fund raiser for the school. Please do come along to the football club in Symington. Further details issued shortly

Term ends: 31.3.17

As usual, should you have any queries concerning the above, please contact me.

Parent Council News

The Google calendar on the website is regularly updated and is a useful tool for parents to check what's happening in school.

Previous minutes are available to view on the school website.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions that you wish to raise, please contact tintoparents@gmail.com.

The next meeting of the parent council is Tuesday 14th March at 7pm in the Decant building. Meetings are open to all parents so, feel free to come along.

Kind regards,

Parent Council

TINTO FUNDRAISERS

Date for your diary

Friday 24th March, Symington football club, 6.30pm until 9ish.

Tinto Race Night! This is a fun family night out. The children participate and wind in their horses. Races from Nursery to P7. Don't forget there's a parent's race too, so start practising with your rolling pins! There will be a sweetie slide at 20p a go and a bottle slide for the adults at £1 a go. Prizes to be won and the bar will be open so come along for some fun!

£5 per family entry fee. No tickets are required but it would be helpful if you could **text Diane Laing on 07814378394** if you are coming so we can get an idea of numbers.

Thanks for your continued support.

Diane Laing
Tinto Fundraisers coordinator
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