



Tinto Times

February 2018

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Head Teacher's Report

February has been a very busy month and the rest of the term appears to be equally busy - lots of packing to be done! Updates and information are detailed below – please contact me should you have any queries or require clarification.

Staffing: Mrs Rodger will begin her Maternity Leave at the end of March. When we return in April the class teacher will be Mrs Bowden (currently in P5/6) Mrs Rodger will have time to handover to Mrs Bowden all the planning and assessment materials needed to ensure a smooth transition. Mrs Andrews will return from her Maternity Leave on the 16th April to take P5/6. Mrs Bowden and Mrs Rodger will have completed their pupil reports by the end of March.

Mr McCaw (student) will finish his placement with P6/7 on March 2nd and return on the 16th April to begin a placement in P2/3.

P5-7 Cross Country Club: This continues to be held during Monday lunchtime from 12.30 and continues into the P.E lesson until 1.30. The coach is part of the Active Breaks team and he not only provides the pupils with a valuable training experience but the teachers also benefit in terms of their professional development. The Clydesdale Cross country event for P6-7 will be held in Lanark on the 9th March.

Internet Safety: Internet Safety Day was on the 6th February. The assembly that week focussed on our digital footprint and how it is almost impossible to delete messages and images once they are posted online. Each class also had a focus on internet safety. The pupils have a good knowledge and understanding of the benefits and dangers of the internet, but are vulnerable to peer pressure especially with images and mobile phones. We will continue to reinforce the messages and work in partnership with parents to support the children.

In-Service: During the In-Service day the primary staff focused on our curriculum rationale, mission statement and values. This document is the centrepiece for all other policies and underpins the school ethos. Once drafted it will be presented to the Parent Council and Pupil Council for consultation, then put on the website. Primary staff also moderated the maths resources, recorded them in an inventory and then packed it all.

Nursery staff completed an evaluation on partnership working and then did the same with maths resources. During the May in service the primary and nursery staff will swap the first tasks and then (hopefully) unpack resources!

New Build: Chad and Virginia have been in the nursery and primary buildings to work with the pupils and staff on the tile exhibit. All staff and pupils have drawn an image in blue that represents a favourite part of the school day. The idea is that the tiles are similar to Delft tiles (the children were shown images of these beforehand). The tiles will be displayed in the open area. The school building is coming along well, the flooring remains to be completed and then internal decorations can begin. The landscaping is almost complete – raised beds are in, the outdoor classroom is almost completed and the grass and trees are planted. The nursery decant building will be removed during the summer holidays and then the Mugga and nursery outdoor areas will be installed.

Tim Chalk (sundial artist) has visited the site and will be working with the children in March on the design. We are hoping that this will be installed in June and we will have an official ceremony then. We are still applying for grants towards the sundial and I am hoping to have responses very soon to our applications.

Windfarm visit: P5/6 pupils had a fantastic educational experience at the windfarm near East Kilbride. The children engaged in interactive activities and were able to see what they had been learning about in the classroom in action. Thanks to Mrs Bowden for organising and to Mrs Kilgallon and Mrs McCammon for accompanying the pupils.

Church visits: P1-P5/6 classes will hopefully visit St Mary's church in Lanark by the end of the term. All classes have been looking at religious buildings with their CCC teachers, Miss Jenkins and Miss Johnstone. P4/5 and P5/6 are visiting during the last week of the term.

Literacy Week: Mrs Kilgallon has once again organised a week of literacy activities throughout the school to link in with World Book day on 1.3.18. The focus this year will be on factual writing and the context is a newspaper. Mrs Kilgallon has organised for journalists to work with the children from The Scotsman and the Lanark Gazette, thereby giving the children the experience of working with a local and national newspaper journalist. The children will produce a school newspaper – to be printed by SLC printroom – and a copy of this will be put in a time capsule under the sundial.

Open Day: This will be held on the 15th March and will have a different format to those previously. Parents are invited to arrive at the school at 12.45 and to look at their child's jotters / class work prior to Parents Evening. There will be cakes and biscuits, made by the pupils, for sale with tea and coffee as part of The Brain Tumour Charity's Bandana Bake sale. There will also be bandanas for sale (if there are any left!) At 2.00 p.m all classes and parents will be invited to the hall to see the representative from The Brain Tumour Charity receive the cheque for £10,000 raised from the Twilight Walk and other donations. This is a fantastic amount and the school community should feel very proud.

We ask that parents leave the school at 2.30 p.m. to allow the buses to arrive and park.

Easter: We will be having our annual Easter Egg & Bonnets competition this year. The theme is nice and simple – "New Starts". This could be represented by Spring flowers/ new born animals/ new school etc. There will be a separate Nursery competition this year in their building and a P1-3/ P4-7 category for primary. Entries to be in by 23.3.18.

Dates:

March 1 st	World Book Day Come in PJ's / Onesie and bring a cuddly toy & book Nursery & Primary
March 2 nd	Nursery "Holi" Fun Friday
March 9 th	Clydesdale Cross Country P6-7
March 12 th	Tim Chalk in school (sundial artist)
March 15 th	Open Day (p.m only) and presentation of cheque to The Brain Tumour Charity Nursery Stay & Play plus Bake Sale
March 21 st	Proposed date for P7's STEM day at Biggar High
March 22 nd	Parents Evening in Nursery decant, Symington
March 23 rd	Proposed date for P6 Enterprise day at Biggar High
March 28 th	P1-P4/5 Farm visit
March 29 th	School closes for Spring Break 2.30 p.m.

Tinto Fundraisers

Race Night - Due to busy diaries and further fundraising within the school in March for the Brain Tumour Charity, Tinto Fundraisers have decided to postpone the annual Race Night until September. A date will be confirmed in next month's newsletter.

Tinto Village Day , Sat 2nd June – I can't believe I am writing about Village Day already, especially as snow is falling outside. However I'm putting out an advance warning that I shall be looking for volunteers to man our hotdog and home baking stall. We would also like to provide tea and coffee in the morning so we will require lots of helping hands. If we get plenty of volunteers then I can make a rota and that way everyone gets time to enjoy the activities on the day.

If you are able to volunteer to help out at any of our events please contact me on the number below.

Thanks for your continued support.

Diane Laing

Tinto Fundraisers coordinator

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