

Head Teacher's Report

This is the first newsletter of the summer term and although this is the shortest term it is also the busiest of the school year. I have summarised events that took place during the first six weeks of the term and noted upcoming events for June.

New build: As many of you will have seen on the FB page, the skeleton of the new school has now appeared and it is possible to see the size and shape of the building. The brick work and roof will be completed during the next phase. Due to issues with the water table the build has a delay and the proposed date for moving back is now April 2018. Staff, pupils and the Parent Council have selected flooring and bathroom colour schemes. Carpets will be a heathery purple and the practical areas a silvery grey. The pupil toilets are shades of purple (girls) and blues (boys).



We now need to select names for the classrooms. Some suggestions have been local hills (to link with the school name); lochs; famous Scots. **Can you please have a discussion with your children and send in suggestions to the office email by June 9th.** We can then put the most popular suggestions to pupil and family vote. **We are also looking for suggestions for quotes to go on the dining room/hall walls; cloakroom areas/ entrances for the nursery and primary. Can these also be sent in by June 9th.**

Nursery inspection: As I was about to board the bus to Liverpool with the P7 pupils – the Inspector from the Care Inspectorate arrived for an unannounced inspection! However as it was the nursery environment and procedures for the care and well being of the pupils that were being inspected, my presence was not required (although text messages between myself and Mrs Miller went on all day!) The Inspector has written a glowing report on the nursery and awarded 5 for Care and Well Being (the highest score) and 4 for environment. The environment aspect could not be given a 5 as the decant facility does not allow free access to the outdoors and is not a purpose built space. It is very pleasing to have external validation for the quality of service experienced by the nursery children and parents. Congratulations to all the staff for their hard work. The report is available on the Care Inspectorate website. www.careinspectorate.com under *Inspection Reports*.

Students: The nursery class and P2/3 were fortunate in having student teachers of a very high calibre this term. Mr Shanks worked alongside the nursery team to provide interesting learning experiences for the children and the children enjoyed having a male role model in the nursery. Mrs Maxwell also planned exciting learning experiences for the P2/3 class and worked in partnership with Miss Forrest to ensure continuity and progression across the curriculum. Both students passed their teaching experiences with flying colours. We wish them both the very best in their teaching careers.

P7 Liverpool residential: Mrs Struthers and myself accompanied the P7 pupils to Liverpool for four days. The pupils visited The Museum of Liverpool; The Tate (where Tracy Emin's bed caused much discussion!); The Beate's Experience; Chester Zoo and finished the week with a ski-ing lesson and fun on the slopes. We also went bowling one evening and met up with Mrs Joy which was lovely. Everywhere we went the children received compliments about their manners and behaviour. The staff at the youth hostel said they looked forward to Tinto children staying as they were so polite. It was a pleasure to accompany the children on their final residential with us.

NSPCC internet safety: The children participated in a workshop with a speaker from the NSPCC which focussed on internet safety. This is a huge area of concern for parents and teachers and it is vital that we work together to ensure the children are safe when on websites/ x-box/Snapchat etc. There are legal requirements in regard to the age that children have access to YouTube, Facebook etc and we are aware that many of Tinto pupils have access to these sites. The age of 14 has been selected for the very good reason that young people of this age are more aware of the dangers and are able to make informed decisions as to how they use these sites. Primary school children are easily caught up in the excitement of communicating with each other and making new contacts which may prove to be unsafe.

As H.T I have spent more time this session than ever before dealing with upset pupils who have had unkind comments written about them on these sites, including swearing and sexually explicit vocabulary. These incidents take place outwith school but have a severe impact on relationships and learning in school. I cannot ignore upset pupils and have found that once I am aware of why there is upset I am then obliged to inform parents. As you can imagine, this is very time consuming and upsetting for all concerned. All parents believed that they were aware of how their child used their mobiles/ computers but still these incidents took place. The children are very good at using ICT and, in some cases, can be more skilled than their parents and teachers. As adults we need to be increasingly vigilant to ensure their safety online.

Pupils have also been receiving horrific chain texts / emails that they are encouraged to pass onto 10 friends. We have spoken to the P6/7 pupils about these texts and explained that they should be deleted. If the children could also receive this advice from parents, that would be very helpful. Tinto staff and parents have a very good record of working together to support the children in both their learning and their health and wellbeing. Sadly this now includes inappropriate use of technology. Therefore I am asking that parents and carers are increasingly vigilant when their child is using a device. We will continue to teach about online safety as part of our curriculum. Together we can do our best to support the children to use technology in a responsible manner.

In service: During the in-service day staff worked together to evaluate the 2016-17 Improvement Plan and then used the How Good Is Our School / Early Learning Centre to evaluate the five key indicators used by HMLe. The evaluation and new I.P will be on the website next session.

N-P1 transition events: There have been a number of events taking place this term to ensure a happy transition from nursery into P1. All the nursery children have been paired up with two buddies from P6. The P6 pupils sent a letter and a leaflet about themselves to their buddy and then visited the nursery earlier this month. The nursery pupils and their parents spent a morning at Ridgepark w/b 15th May and will travel to Ridgepark on a bus in June. The children will also attend the Step Up Day in June and stay for a school lunch. It has been a challenge to organise transition events when we are 11 miles apart but Mrs Kilgallon, Mrs Miller and Mrs Gilbert have done a sterling job.

Eco committee: The Eco Committee have applied for their Green flag and have provided the following update. There are 22 children on the committee and they are working in three groups

Litter: we have made posters to encourage everyone to be responsible for their own litter. Some children were using too many paper towels in the toilets and we designed posters to remind them not to do this and we shared it in assembly.

Waste minimisation: we have done lots with waste minimisation this year. Ink cartridges are collected all year round in school and from home. Our pen bin is nearly full. The rag bag collections were always good but our teachers are trying to locate a new one. All classes use the recycling bags for paper and our janitor puts it in the right bin outside

Biodiversity: P1/2 and P2/3 have been learning about mini beasts this term. They have made a bug hotel at the back of the school to encourage the bugs to live there. Three of our classes have been watching caterpillars grow and they are currently at the chrysalis stage**. We are looking forward to releasing them into the wild when they turn into butterflies. ** this has since taken place!

We also noticed birds had built their nests in the bushes. We decided to make a Powerpoint presentation to share with the rest of the school at assembly to advise the boys and girls what they should do near the nests at playtime and lunchtime.

Written by Rocio Ritchie, Melissa Brown and Madeline Forgie

Athletics: P6 & P7 pupils took part in the Clydesdale Athletics this month and everyone enjoyed the event. There were some winning teams who will go forward to the SLC finals. Congratulations to the P6 boys relay team for winning a bronze medal (Neil Cooper, Franklyn Cowan; Ace Pijper & Ryan Baxter) and to the P7 girls team for their Bronze medal in the relay (Abbie Carrick; Hannah Thorburn; Morven Dougall & Toni Westmoreland)

Validated School Evaluation: The Support Services team spent a morning with the Support Assistants (Mrs Baillie, Mrs Gilbert and Mrs McCammon) to assess how effectively we utilised their support to pupils. The team met with teaching staff, parents and pupils to discuss support and relationships. Verbal feedback at the end of the process was very positive and staff were praised for their strong working relationships and their support to pupils.

Congratulations: Well done to Grace Johnstone for winning the Junior Category of the Rotary Club Photography Competition. Grace was awarded a certificate and £10.00.

Triathlon: P5-7 pupils took part in the Clydesdale triathlon at Carlisle Sports Centre. This involves swimming, cycling and running. The pupils had a great time at the event.

Dress Down: The Dress Down day this month was to raise funds for the ASC – which will be back in action next Session when we return to Symington. The funds have been used this term to pay for lunch time coaches to run athletics, rugby and tennis clubs for the pupils. The tombola event is an easy and fun way to top up the funds. Thank you for your continued support.

Village Day Programme: The pupils at Tinto and Libberton P.S were invited to take part in designing the front and back covers of the Tinto Village Day programme. The standard was very high and the judges had a difficult task. Congratulations to Emily Duncan for winning the front cover design and to Lauren Johnstone for winning the back cover design. Runners up were:

Front cover: P1-3 – joint 3rd Freya Brown P4-7: 1st – Emily Duncan (overall winner)
2nd – Adele Roberts

Back cover: P1-3 – 1st Grace Johnstone 2nd – Eoghan Reid 3rd – Kayla Morris
P4-7 – 1st Lauren Johnston (overall winner) 2nd – Toni Westmoreland
3rd – Nico Foster & Abbie McKay

Well done to all the pupils. The art work will be on display in the football club hall on Village Day.

Sunny Days: As we appear to be experiencing a number of these events (!) can I ask that the children bring a sun hat to school and wear sun cream. The once a day cream would be best rather than bringing bottles into school if possible. Thank you

Future events: No homework in June!

1st June Broomlee Info Evening 6.30 p.m Decant Symington

3rd June Village Day.

If you can provide home baking or help on the stall please contact Diane Laing via the FB page

6th June Book L aunch A local author, the press, pupils and musicians will
all be part of the launch of “It Wasn’ae Me” book written by
N-P7 pupils.

7th June Nursery trip Biggar Puppet Theatre

7-9th June P4-5 Residential Broomlee. Pick up at the Football Club, Symington.

9th June P1-7 Trip To avoid driving to Lanark during Lanimer Day, the buses will
collect the pupils as usual and bring them to Biggar Primary
School for registration. The children will then attend a show
at the Biggar Puppet Theatre in the morning and have their
packed lunch; then spend the afternoon taking part in a work-
the museum and in the library. Buses will collect the pupils at
and transport them home as usual.

shop at
3.00

14th June Step Up Day

15th June Sports Day

P1-3 11.00-12.00/ P4-7 1.30-2.30. Parents are welcome to
attend but **cannot**, on this occasion, **bring their cars into
the school grounds.**

21st June Nursery Leavers

22nd June Shorts & Shades

Disco for N-P3 4.30-6.00 & P4-7 7-9.00 p.m at the Symington
Football Club. Parent helpers needed please!

23rd June P7 Leavers

26th June P7 Night Out

27th June Term Ends

1.00 p.m. close

Please do contact Ms Stark if you have any queries regarding the items above.

Regards

Ms Stark

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 Wednesday 14th June at 7pm in the Decant building. Meetings are open to all parents so, feel free to come along.

Kind regards,

Parent Council

TINTO FUNDRAISERS

Events:

Tinto Village Day, Saturday 3rd June. Tinto Fundraisers are having a hotdog and home baking stall. Thanks to those that have already volunteered to help at the stall. Donations of home baking will be greatly received. These can be handed into the School or Nursery on Friday or to the stall on Saturday morning.

Shorts and Shades party and Disco. These will be held on **Thursday 22nd June.** **Please note that they will be held again at the football club.** Parents will be supervising the entrance and toilets. The Nursery-P3 party is from 4.30 to 6pm and the P4-P7 disco 7 to 9pm. Cost will be £2.50 per child. Payment for a maximum of 2 children per family, 3rd plus get in free. This includes a drink and crisps for each child. There is also a small tuck shop at the P4-P7 disco. Please contact me if you are able to help at either party.

Group emails:

I have a list of parent contacts who I email when organising events. If you would like to be included in these group emails please contact me on the address or phone numbers below.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Diane Laing

Tinto Fundraisers coordinator

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