

Head Teacher's Report

This term is almost at the end, we have sixteen school days left at the time of writing this newsletter. As usual, there have been many events taking place. Some sad and others celebratory. Mrs Struthers: We held two assemblies for Mrs Struthers. The first was the morning after the children had been told the news. This was a quiet reflective assembly where we expressed our sadness and thought about how we had benefitted from and enjoyed our learning experiences with Mrs Struthers. The second assembly took place the following week and the focus was on coping with loss and how to commemorate the legacy left behind. The children were very respectful and thoughtful during both assemblies. They supported each other and showed great strength of character. Mrs Struthers would have been very proud of them. Thank you for your support over the past months. The sympathy messages and cards have been very much appreciated by the staff.



As for the fund raising for The Brain Tumour Charity - what an absolutely fantastic amount! The total raised at the time of writing is a whopping £9,436.00! Well done everyone, what a brilliant way of demonstrating our appreciation of Mrs Struthers.

I am currently in the process of commissioning the sundial and will update parent and pupils once this is complete. The pupils will be involved in the design of the sundial.

Swimming: The P5 swimming block has now finished. All of the pupils have made progress and it was a delight to watch as their skills and confidence grew. Each week the swimming tutors complimented the children on their behaviour. Well done P5!

Staffing: We welcomed two new members of staff to Tinto this month. Mrs Johnstone and Ms Jenkins are teaching in the nursery in the mornings and are taking P4/5 & P5/6 and P1/2 & P2/3 CCC respectively.

Parent Council: The Parent Council met this month and discussed the new build, fund raising and what to spend the funds on and received an update on the School Improvement Plan. We will respond to a Government consultation document regarding the future of education in Scotland at the next meeting.

Rotary Quiz: The P7 team of Franklyn Cowan, Emily Duncan, Neil Cooper and Benjamin Cook represented Tinto at the Learning Community Rotary Quiz. The team had worked very hard preparing for the quiz and came a very commendable third. Well done.

Dance show: The Clydesdale Dance Show took place in the Memorial Hall, Lanark, this month. Tinto was very well represented by Franklyn Cowan, Finn McCail, Daniel Ronaldson, Scarlett Cowan, Jasmine Glasgow, Kirsten Laing, Fiona Laing, Eva Sneddon, Ava White and Ava Tweedie. The group choreographed their own routine, gave up breaks and lunchtimes to rehearse and performed brilliantly on the night. Well done everyone! Thanks to Mrs McConnell and Mrs Bowden for their support.



New build: All furniture has now been selected for the classrooms and offices. The Pupil Council have met with the interior designer and selected graphics for the walls and hall. Staff had a walk round the grounds and in the building. It is now possible to enter the classrooms, nurseries and offices. We also went into the hall and kitchen. The middle photo shows the large open area in the centre of the school. This is where the art installation that the children are making with Chad McCail will be. Each child will be painting a tile depicting part of the school day. These will then form a timeline. The funding has been applied for by the Parent Council from the wind farm. The outside area has been landscaped and will have an outdoor classroom, raised beds, a pond, wild flower area, access gate to the stream and a fire pit. The left hand photo shows the five classrooms and their access to the playground. It's all looking very good!

Open Day: There was a great turnout once again for the Term 2 open day. It was lovely to see so many extended families attending. Thank you.

In service: The support staff attended first aid training; nursery staff used the "How Good is Our Early Learning Centre" to evaluate the service and attended an afternoon information session for all Clydesdale nurseries on extended nursery hours by 2020; teaching staff used "How Good Is Our School" to evaluate teaching and learning and revised our curriculum rationale.

Teacher Peer Visits: Each of the primary teachers spent time in a colleague's classroom this month, observing the teaching and learning activities that took place. Each teacher went to visit a class working at a different Curriculum for Excellence level from their own. The teachers then engaged in a moderation discussion about their observations with a focus on target setting, continuity and progression. Visits in Term 3 will focus on the teaching of time and also the teaching of writing.

Nativity: The P1-3 Nativity takes place on Thursday afternoon 7th December and the morning of Friday 8th December. Tickets have been issued. Can I remind parents with babies and toddlers to sit at the end of a row so that you can exit quietly if your child cannot settle. Also, if you take photos or film the show these cannot be shared on social media.

The P7 pupils have organised a Christmas raffle for the event. All money will go towards their P7 Leavers night out.

Pantomime: Once again we have booked the Hopscotch theatre company to come to school for a panto. This is a much cheaper option than hiring buses to go out to a theatre. The children thoroughly enjoyed this last year, hopefully they will this year too! Nursery are also having a theatre group visiting the children with a Christmas show.

Bubblegum and Fluff: This is a workshop organised by Rev Shand and members of the youth group. The children participate in a variety of Christmas craft activities; learn some songs and engage in some interactive drama. Whilst doing all these activities they explore the real meaning of Christmas.

P1 enrolment: The enrolment week is January 15-19 2018. Letters with full details and appointment times will be issued by the end of term. Please remember that a full birth certificate and two proofs of residency such as a utility bill, bank statement are required.

Events in December

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| Nativity | P1-3 | 7th & 8th December |
| Bubblegum and Fluff | P6 | 12th December |
| Nursery show | | 13th December |
| Christmas lunch | P1-7 | 13th December |
| Nursery Nativity | | 15th December |
| Parties | | w/b 18th December |
| Hopscotch | P1-7 | 21st December |

Term ends 2.30 p.m. 22nd December.

Yours sincerely
Ms Stark