

Head Teacher's Report



We have now had half a term in the Ridgepark decant and can say with certainty that everyone has settled into the new surroundings. We all felt that we were coming back to familiar territory after the half term break.

Those of you who have been in or around Symington will have seen that the old building is now being demolished. It is a bit sad to see it go as we have lovely memories of former pupils, staff and events but also exciting as it means the new school will soon start to go up in its place.



New build: I met with the School Modernisation Team just before the October break and an updated plan of the building was discussed. This will be on display during the Open Day on 8.11.16. It was suggested that we may like to name the five classrooms and I discussed this with the children at assembly this week. In the new year (Term 3) we will have a competition to decide the names so get your thinking caps on! Suggestions have been Scottish mountains / cities/ famous people. I'm sure Tinto families will come up with lots more.

The Landscape Architect is coming into school this week to discuss the playground and surrounding area. I will be asking him to come back to speak to the pupils later on this term. The Pupil Council and Mrs McKillop are visiting Lanark and Crawforddyke Primaries next week to look at their playgrounds and meet with their Pupil Councils to find out what worked well in their new play areas.

Classroom visits: During the last week of term I spent time in each classroom, observing the teaching and learning that was taking place and classroom management. It was lovely to see the children so engaged in their learning and enjoying the activities that had been planned. Classroom management in the small classrooms is a challenge but the pupils and teachers made it all look very easy. Well done to everyone.

Staffing: We still have a vacancy in P4/5 and there are interviews taking place shortly to try and fill the various teaching posts across South Lanarkshire. Mrs Hardisty will be leaving us as she has been offered a permanent post at Braidwood P.S. At the time of writing I do not have a replacement for Mrs Hardisty. However Mrs Kilgallon and Mrs Hardisty have worked together this week to ensure that the curriculum plans for this term are complete and ready to use. We will do our best to minimise disruption to the class.

Wellies / outdoor shoes: As you will know we are lucky enough to have large areas of grass here at Ridgepark. It is now becoming muddy so we have asked children to bring either wellies or outdoor shoes to school if they want to play on the grass. We would like all pupils to have an outdoor set as we wish to continue with the daily mile and we will be learning outdoors too. All shoes/wellies must be named please.

Halloween disco: This took place on Thursday 27th October at the Symington football club. Thanks to Gus McKay for letting us use the hall; to all the parent helpers and to Diane Laing for organising the event. As usual the children had a fantastic time.

Upcoming events:

8.11.16	<u>Open Day</u> 9.30-10.30 P1-3/ 11.00-12.00 P4-P5/ 1.30-2.30 P6-P7. Families are welcome to visit siblings from other time slots if this is more convenient. ie if younger child in P1 and older child in P5 then you have a choice of either of the two time slots to visit both children
10.11.16	Flu vaccination
11.11.16	School photos (am nursery/ pm primary)
15.11.16	Parent workshop "Better Movers and Thinkers" Biggar Primary
21.11.16	In-service. "Kids Club" available in Symington Church Hall. Leaflets have been issued per family
22.11.16	P7 Rotary Quiz
1.12.16	P1-3 Nativity. 7.00 p.m. Symington Hall (if available. TBC)
7.12.16	P6 participate in "Bubblegum and Fluff" workshop (in school)
12.12.16	Hopscotch panto in school
w/b 19.12.16	Christmas parties (actual days to be confirmed)

Tinto Fundraisers

The Halloween party and disco on Thursday 27th were a great success. There were some fantastic costumes and the children enjoyed the games and dancing. Thanks to all the parents and staff who helped on the night, to Chris Cruise once again for being a great DJ and to Gus for the use of the football club. We have raised £114.12.

If any new parents would like to become involved with Tinto Fundraisers and would like to be included in group emails please contact me on 07814378394 or diane-laing74@gmail.com.

Diane Laing
Tinto Fundraisers coordinator