



11 October 2019

Dear Families

It has felt a lot quieter in school this week without our Primary 7 pupils. They went off to Lagganlia on Monday morning and have had a great week. They have taken part in abseiling, biking, canoeing, gorge walking, hill walking, skiing and snowboarding as well as having a go at archery! The children have worked so well in teams helping each other and having lots of fun and adventures. They also had a wonderful workshop with Steve from Drumfun on Wednesday evening. There were smiles all round. The disco on Thursday produced some spectacular dancing. Mr Mitchell's Dad dancing was less spectacular! We are looking forward to seeing the children return this afternoon.

A small group of children did not attend camp and they have had a great week helping out in school, making some tray bake, visiting Doodles and designing their own tiles, visiting Edinburgh Castle and having lunch at Pizza Hut! The manager at Pizza Hut kindly did not charge the children so a huge thank you to him. Thank you to Ms Crawford, Mrs Peace and Mrs Tariq for assisting with the activities.

On Wednesday, I met our preferred candidate for the Business Manager job. His name is Steve Davies (not the snooker player!) and he has extensive experience in business related roles. Steve is due to take up post on 4 November subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks.

Primary 5 welcomed two groups of experts this week: archaeologists and artists! The archaeology students from Edinburgh University gave the children an insight in to the sort of work archaeologists do and then the children had a go at examining artefacts, handling bones and working out the mammal from which they came. They also built Neolithic monuments in teams using dominoes.

The artists from Edinburgh Diwali brought a feast of materials; from off-cuts of laminate sheets from a sign maker to stacks of washed out milk cartons. Everything would have been binned had it not been for the ingenuity of Natalie and David who spent quite some time washing and cutting up the odds and ends they had gathered. The children made some gorgeous, colourful and wild lanterns which will be shown off at the Diwali parade in Edinburgh on Saturday 26 October.

On Thursday some of the classes met with their buddies. Joshua from P6B wrote:

Today we set up an orienteering course for our P3 buddies in the playground. We did this after we did an orienteering course ourselves at an outdoor learning event at Holyrood Park. We had worked since September to plan, create, set-up and test our courses until we were ready to go. We decided to do it because we wanted our buddies to experience the fun of an orienteering course too.

It was great to see the Community Policing Team outside the school again this week. They helped to stop traffic going along Sciennes Road and spoke to some families who drove along the road to drop their children off at school. They also donated a Pop up Bobby and he is attached to one of the restriction signs.

I want to thank all of you for sending in provisions for the Harvest collection. As you know we are donating this to a foodbank. The P3 children and Miss Mitchell have been superstars in coordinating the collection and the Harvest assembly. At the assemblies today, we were joined by Stuart Irvin, minister at St Catherine's Argyle Church and Gary from the Foodbank. Laura, Abby, Ellie, Elliot, Natalie, Carrie and Donald from P3 thanked everyone for their help in making the Harvest Appeal so successful and for contributing to an enjoyable assembly. The children spoke really well at both assemblies.

I would like to remind you of the upcoming Parent/Carer Support Group meeting that is due to take place on Thursday 24 October - the first Thursday after the October holiday. Coffee/Tea will be available from 5.15pm in Room 15. All parents/carers are welcome. Please let Miss Gilhooly know if you would like to come.

I hope you all have a good October break. I am off to my favourite getaway, Peurto Pollensa in Mallorca. I am hoping for some sunshine and expecting lots of seafood!

I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 23 October.

Andrew.

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