



CORNBANK PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER



#RISE

Respect

Inclusion

Safe

Excellence

7th April 2022

It has been a very busy term, with many successes - Scots Week, digital device deployment, Fairtrade Fortnight, Eco Green Flag and lunchtime sports clubs to name just a few. There was a lovely atmosphere across the school for our picnic to celebrate our 8th Eco Green Flag and the work covered on Learning for Sustainability. This week, children are sharing their views about their learning and our school as part of our virtual Pupil Conference, which will help us make plans for next session.

Thank you to everyone who supported P6 and P7's Grow £5 last Friday. The children made a total of £1550 to go towards school camp. It was great to be able to welcome families back to a school event in the playground.

Looking ahead, our Parent Partnership is planning their first barbecue in three years for the evening of Friday 17th June. Please put the date in your diaries. More information will follow closer to the time. Thanks also to the Partnership for supporting the recent Easter egg competition.

Our Pupil Voice groups continue to meet in classes across the year and they have prepared an update on their work this session, which is below.

Thank you for your support over the past term and best wishes for the Easter holidays.

Kind regards,
Andrew Drysdale
Acting Head Teacher

STAFFING UPDATE

Earlier on this term, we welcomed Mrs Anne Grant, Mr Maxwell Drummond, Mrs Christine Martin, Mrs Laura Robertson and Ms Aneta Sczesniak to our Learning Assistant team. They have quickly settled in to the school.

We are looking forward to welcoming back Mrs Abby Chatham on 27th April. Mrs Chatham will be working with classes across the school for the next term, providing teachers' non class contact time.

Miss Hopkirk will begin her maternity leave at the beginning of May and we wish her all the very best. For the first two weeks of term, she will be working with classes across the school, while Mrs Deas and Mrs Murphy work in our Enhanced P1 class. We look forward to welcoming Miss Alison Taylor, who will be joining the team during May, and will work initially with Miss Hopkirk's class.

Mrs Stevenson, our new Head Teacher, will be writing to you later this week and we look forward to her starting back with us over the course of next term.

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Knights for Rights

This year in Knights for Rights we have taken a whole school approach to developing class charters, recognising what rights we have and being able to respect the rights of others. We have also looked at our ABCDE of rights, learning to sign-along to these as a means of ensuring everyone has access to learning about their rights.

Primary 5 have taken on the Knights for Rights class responsibility. We have looked at how access to rights differs for children across the world, and barriers to their rights being respected. We have also continued to learn more sign-along and some BSL in acknowledgement that everyone deserves access to education and information. Finally, and most significantly, this year we were very proud to receive our Silver RRSA Award. Our pupils, staff and families proudly shared how the UNCRC is a part of our school culture and we received fantastic feedback about the way rights impact on the ethos of our school - an achievement we are all hugely proud of!

Digital

The Digital Technologies Pupil Voice Group were very pleased and excited to be the first primary school in Midlothian to receive their devices for all. Since receiving their devices, they have been working on becoming more familiar with the features of Google Workspace and have recently been part of our upper school trial of taking devices home to assist with learning. An important part of their work has been to discuss, design and agree to a Pupil Acceptable Use Policy; giving guidance on how devices should be looked after, treated and used. A huge focus of this is our online behaviour; our cyber resilience, online safety and using school devices appropriately and safely. We've recently been creating posters reminding

Eco

Eco group have been busy finding out about a number of Eco topics including biodiversity, waste minimisation, litter and pollution. The children have been enjoying working co-operatively across the classes to learn about these issues, to get actively involved in Eco projects and to raise awareness throughout the school.

An important focus for our group this year has been waste minimisation. We have been learning how many materials can be recycled and what we can do to help. We have carried out a survey of our existing recycling activities and have started a new initiative to collect used pens and ink cartridges to be recycled.

Eco group is also keen to develop the biodiversity within the different habitats we have in our school grounds. We have been learning about the variety of wildlife in our area and made bird cake to help feed our wild birds in Winter. We are planning to plant flowers and grasses in our meadow area to encourage a greater variety of birds and insects.



JRSOs

Cornbank JRSOs have been working hard to keep everyone happy and safe in and around school. We have worked with Gillian Bathgate, our School's Travel Coordinator, to highlight events such as Walk to School Week.

Our big focus has been looking at parking around the school and how we can keep all children safe. We ran a school competition to design a banner for our school to promote safe parking. Ideas were taken from the 3 winning designs across the school and combined to make the final product. We also conducted a Park Smart Campaign where

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people of the Acceptable Use Policy for pupils and look forward to displaying these around the school.



JRSOs were involved in monitoring parking areas around school drop off time to see where improvements could be made. There was lots of safe and considerate parking and some areas which could be improved on. Thank you for your support in keeping us safe when travelling to and from school!



Health and Sports

The Sports group are very excited to have been able to introduce lunchtime sports clubs once again. We have asked classes which sports club would be their favourites and, so far, we have run basketball and parkour clubs for the whole school. We would like to say a big thank you to our P7 children for helping to run these lunchtime clubs. Our P5 children are also attending The Ryder Cup Club Golf Active Schools Festival. We also have exciting plans for more lunchtime clubs and health fortnight in term 4.



Fairtrade

The Fairtrade Pupil Voice group has been busy this session so far. We discussed how products are made and how the supply chain works. We understood that farmers need to have a fair wage and we linked this to our rights. Everyone has a right to health care, clean water and education.

P4/5 and P6 planned and organised Fairtrade Week for the school. We had quizzes, a scavenger hunt and a design competition. We hope we can continue to raise awareness about the importance of Fairtrade.

