

22nd February 2016

### Curriculum News

During our in-service day teaching staff were involved in developing a Religious and Moral Education progression framework based on the significant aspects of learning of Curriculum for Excellence. Teaching staff have used RME as an overarching subject area for their interdisciplinary planning this term as RME is on this year's development plan. We hope you found the curriculum newsletter issued by each class informative.

Teachers in our Primary 1 and 2 classes attended '1+2 Language Training' at Millburn Academy. The purpose of the training is to ensure that staff are equipped to fulfil the Scottish Government's requirement of teaching children in the early stages an additional language, other than English. In Holm School this language is French.

### Feis Rois

The pupils in Mrs Gibb's class have been working with tutors from Feis Rois this term. They have been learning a number of traditional songs in both Gaelic and Scots and the tutors have also explained the social context of these songs to the children. Participation in these sessions has allowed the children to explore a number of the experiences and outcomes of several curriculum areas of Curriculum for Excellence. Here are some of their thoughts on the subject:

"Some of us who guitars at home had not played them properly until Feis Rois taught us. I think that made it fun." Isla

"I liked learning the new songs because the tutors made it really interesting for us. They explained how the workers used the beat of the song to keep in time with the work they were doing. An example of this was rowing." Zoe

### Anti- Bullying Workshop- 24<sup>th</sup> February

The pupils in Mrs Chalmers' class will participate in an anti-bullying workshop with representatives from the Corbett Centre. The theme will focus on respecting difference and those who live with disabilities.



### The Story of the Little Gentleman

After last year's successful play Lifeboat, Catherine Wheels Theatre Company returns to Holm with their new production-The Little Gentleman. Based on the book by Barbro Lindgren 'The Little Gentleman' is a beautiful, funny and moving story about the power of friendship. Pupils in primary 1-3 will have the opportunity to see the performance on Monday 29th February. The cost will be met by school fund.

### Caring in the Community

The Reverend Fiona Smith will be in school this week to speak to the pupils in P3/P3/4 and P4/5 about her role in the community.

### The Eco Crew

Mrs Gibb and members of the Eco Crew have visited nursery to explain about the work they do to improve the school environment. Morning nursery explored the school grounds with Mrs Gibb and looked at habitats of small creatures who share our space. Katy the Ranger will visit P5/6 this Friday to explore further eco matters.

### World Book Day-Thursday March 3rd

The Travelling Book Company will be in school from Wednesday 2nd to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Children will be timetabled in their classes to view and buy books during the school day. In addition there will be an opportunity for parents to view and purchase books from 2.15pm until the end of the school day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

**Children will be issued with WBD tokens which they may use against any books purchased in school.**

### Parents' Evenings

Parents' meetings will be held in school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Parental appointment letters have been issued with this newsletter. **Please note this is a meeting for parents only.** Children should not be present during the dialogue between parent and teacher as this may inhibit the opportunity for a full and frank discussion. If parents are not able to put care arrangements in place for their children then children must remain in the seating area during the meeting.

## Holm Primary School

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### Citizenship Groups

While we have retained the Pupil Council and the Eco Crew we have been unable to operate citizenship groups in the format used last session due to very large class sizes. The purpose of the original citizenship groups was to encourage all children to have an opportunity to develop their leadership skills. For this to happen in a meaningful way the groups had to be smaller than class sizes to give all children a chance to participate. We understand that children enjoy the opportunity to work with others in multi stage groups, however, there must be an educational rationale behind this way of working. To that end each block is working collaboratively to deliver a series of cross curricular lessons based on a shared context for learning. As this is The Year of the Story the contexts centre around thought provoking stories and fables.

### Messaging Line

We understand how frustrating it can be for parents if they telephone the school to report their child absent and the phone is engaged. Unfortunately there is only one line and if Mrs Thomson get tied up with a call parents will be unable to get through to the school. However, parents may leave a message by accessing the school's non urgent messaging service on **0800 564 2272 PIN 042230 and choose option 2** Mrs Thomson will be alerted by email that a message has been received.

### Mrs Nicholson's P5 Class

P5 have been taking part in drama sessions with Katie Louise Pritchett from Eden Court Outreach Team. During the last four weeks we have been learning new skills which will help us and give us the confidence to perform in front of others. The sessions have been based on the books by Roald Dahl, here are a few of the activities we have been doing:

- Acting out poems that Roald Dahl wrote.
- Warm up games such as Simpson tig, splat, rubber chicken, snakes,

jelly beans, starboard & port on the theme of Roald Dahl.

- Die story die, using our imagination to create oral stories.
- Using our hands and feet to make movements to show it's not just facial expressions that are important.
- Practicing for our performance
- In group creating frozen pictures of a scene from a Roald Dahl book.
- Practising reading play scripts from Roald Dahls books.
- Combining movements and sounds in the Charlie & Chocolate Factory mix up machine.

### Pupil Voice

- You get to learn new skills and rules for acting for example not turning your back to the audience. - Shannon
- We get to use our creativity and drama skills to do a performance to the school. - James
- We get to work as a team and make our own performances. - Ashleigh
- I like hearing other people's voices and how they act in the performances. - Alasdair
- I like the games we play; they help us and make our acting better, games that include moving round and freeing people by doing an action. - Kenneth
- Katie Louise helps us to get better at drama and acting, she gives us tips and feedback. - Zoe