

G oals R esilience O utstanding W onder T eamwork H onesty

January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our January newsletter. I hope you and your families are well, and that you have managed to enjoy some family-time over the festive break. We are already well into a busy third term at Fox Covert Primary School with all pupils settled back into school routines after the holidays.

You should have recently received your child's class newsletter detailing information specific to learning and routines in each class. There are lots of interesting and active learning experiences taking place this term and we are delighted to advise that we are in a position to be able to share our learning with you in the coming weeks (please see the end of the newsletter for details). We are also very pleased (and relieved!) to have our dining room back in operation serving hot meals. The gym hall is currently being worked on, but we hope to have an update very soon on progress to share with you.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us at school with any queries about the content of the newsletter, or indeed any other matter.

Yours faithfully,



Douglas Bruce
Head Teacher

Learning Together!

We very much value working in partnership with you as parents and carers, in order to obtain the best outcomes for all children. Over recent months, a group of our teachers have been busy working on ways to increase partnership working with you by creating opportunities for learning to be shared. Several events are planned for the coming months, such as sessions to share children's learning, and class presentation assemblies to showcase work undertaken in classes, so please do keep an eye on the school newsletters and the school website for dates and times.

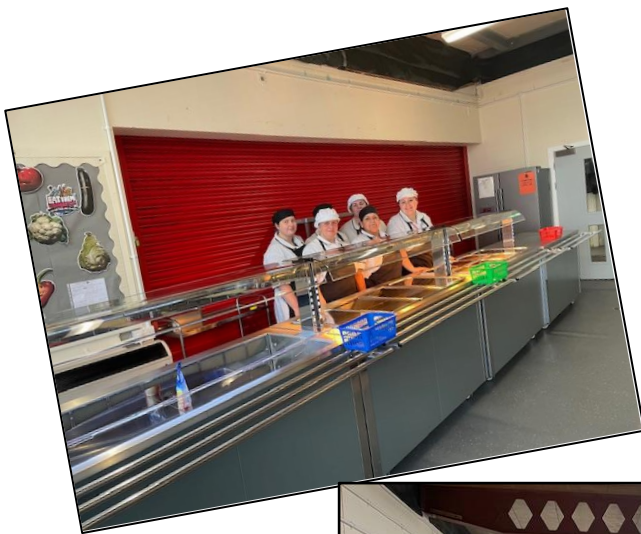


Class presentations will reflect learning that is taking place within each class and will be shared as part of the weekly school assembly, where parents and carers of the classes are invited to attend. Our Learning Together events will be held termly and will allow parents and carers to come into school to visit their child(ren)'s class(es) where children will lead the events. Our focus for this session is on our *Writing* work.

Details are outlined at the end of this newsletter about when your child(ren)'s class(es) will be sharing their learning through class assemblies and when the Learning Together events will be held for Term 3 and Term 4.

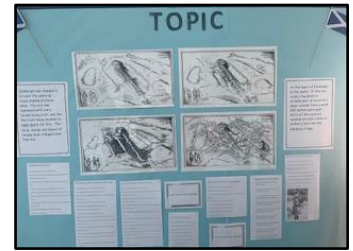
Dining Hall

We are delighted to have our dining hall facilities back up and running now. Our children are thrilled to be eating a variety of hot food and are once again showing amazing resilience when adapting to their new lunchtime environment. I would like to extend my thanks to all parents and carers for your patience whilst the building work has been going on, and for adapting to the changes of lunch ordering that we have gone through. I would also like to thank the catering team for accommodating us so well throughout this period, but mostly I would like to thank the children who have embodied our school values of resilience and teamwork beautifully, over the past few months. Our gym hall is in the final stages of work being undertaken and an update will be given shortly on when we can once again use this space.



Classroom News from our P1, P3 & P6A classes:

'This term P6A have been learning about Scotland as part of a wider school topic. They found out that Edinburgh is built on the site of a super volcano that was active over 400 million years ago! P6A pupils researched how Earth is made up and how volcanic eruptions occur. They then looked at how Edinburgh Cas-tle is built on part of the remaining crater edge and how both it, and our city, has evolved over time.'



*P6A have also enjoyed exploring Scottish words to write poems in dialect about **Their Scotland**, and have also recreated the work of famous Scots artist, Steven Brown, using pastels to draw highland coos and stags!' Mrs Thomson*

'In Primary 6A we have been learning how we can use the Micro:bit to count. We have been looking at what a variable is and how it is used. We- created code which counted a number of inputs. Using this knowledge, we decided we could programme the Micro:bit to act as a step counter. We then counted the number of steps we could do in ten minutes and the highest number we reached was 361 steps!' Mrs Brown.





'Primary one have been learning all about materials this term. We identified different materials around us and learned about their properties. After reading some traditional tales, we tried and tested materials to build a new house for the three little pigs, and a bed for Goldilocks. This developed our problem solving as we drew our ideas, then reflected and changed them as needed. We had lots of fun working with others to achieve our goal!' Miss Clarke.



'P3 have enjoyed learning about the Romans throughout the beginning of term 3. We began by investigating Roman artefacts and creating timelines of important events which happened during the invasion of Britain. As well as this, we have had the opportunity to calculate the perimeter and area of different Roman buildings and even construct our own Roman forts using Kapla. More recently, we had a visit from an Archaeologist where we learned more about the materials and foods which were used by Romans living in Scotland.' Mr Davidson



School Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Please note that the school car park is designated for **staff parking only**. Unfortunately, the school campus does not have a large enough car park to accommodate parking for parents/carers.

The car park **cannot** be used for dropping pupils off or picking pupils up from Out of School Clubs either.

We have had several staff cars damaged recently and also have had cars driving in-to the car park at excessive speeds.



Please park out with the school gates to avoid any congestion. This will ensure that everybody can access the school grounds safely.

Bikeability

We urgently require volunteers to support our Bikeability programme at Fox Covert Primary School. Please consider supporting us to deliver this training. Please see below some information on how beneficial the programme is for all children and please also take time to visit the Bikeability website:

<https://www.bikeability.org.uk/>

Why Bikeability?

'Bikeability cycle training equips children with vital life skills. Pupils not only learn to cycle, they gain independence, social skills and a sense of wellbeing.

After Bikeability, children are better at responding to risk and report increased confidence. As a result, more children cycle to school which in turn improves mental health and wellbeing. This allows children to get more out of the classroom, improving their attention span and engagement. Healthier habits lead to increased attendance and improved academic results. Bikeability goes beyond a training course; it impacts children's lives.'



Training Dates:

BSI Bikeability Training courses are coming up. These are held at Bangholm centre on the following dates:

Course 4 – Friday 2 nd and 9 th February

<https://www.cyclinghub.scot/view-teaching/7861>

Password Course4

Course 5 – Friday 23rd February and 1 st March

<https://www.cyclinghub.scot/view-teaching/7862>

Password Course5

Course 6 – Friday 15th and 22nd March

<https://www.cyclinghub.scot/view-teaching/7863>

Password Course6

Course 7 - Friday 19th and 26th April

<https://www.cyclinghub.scot/view-teaching/7864>

Password Course7

A message from Fox Covert Primary School Parent Council:

Fox Covert PS Parent Council have some events planned for Term 3, with a pre-loved uniform stall planned for **Friday February 9th** at 12pm in the main playground, to promote recycling and re-using of uniforms. We also have a bake sale planned on **Friday 22nd March**, at 12pm in the main playground to raise funds for the school. Please see the end of the newsletter for details.

Please see below for a quick guide to the members of Fox Covert Parent Council.



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|------------|----------------|
| Chair: | Ali Connolly |
| Co-Chair: | Joanne Farrell |
| Secretary: | Alison Warnock |
| Treasurer: | Graham Patrick |

The best way to keep in touch and find out what's going on is to register to use:

- **Classlist** (for all official Parent Council comms):
- <https://classlist.page.link/k4kQYnjznFpRWH9p8>
- and/or:
- follow the PC Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/foxcovertprimaryparentcouncil/>

You can also speak to your class rep (please see below for a list of class reps for 2023/24) about anything to do with the Parent Council (**please see below for a list of class reps for 2023/24**), come along to our Parent Council meetings, or contact us via our Facebook page or **our new email address**: foxcovertchair23@gmail.com

More Information about our Parent Council, including the presentation from our AGM can be found on our school website at:

<https://foxcovertprimary.com/parents/parent-council-2/>

Parent Class Reps:

| | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| P1 | Daisy Johnstone |
| P2 | Kirsty Cassidy |
| P2/3 | Megan McKenzie |
| P3 | Lisa Simpson |
| P4 | Mhairi Kelly |
| P4/5 | Jade Gillies/Michelle Hofmeyr |
| P5 | Louise Duncan |
| P6A | Joanne Farrell |
| P6B | Heather MacDonald |
| P7A | Nicola Williamson |
| P7B | Mikila Bruce |

Important Reminders

****Please ensure that pets are not brought to the school playground or at any drop-off/pick-up locations around the school.****

Children's safety is our top priority, and pets can be unpredictable around children.

All parents/carers please ensure that your child(ren) **do not bring** any of the following food items to school as they can present serious hazards to themselves and/or others:

Lollipops with stick attached

Nuts of any kind (we have a growing number of children with nut allergies and any contact can have extremely serious consequences)

Any form of Nutella products (as they contain nuts)

Please be mindful of the following if these are brought to school:

Cereal bars (as they can contain nuts – please check the nutrition information)

Small tomatoes & grapes – Recent guidance from our Early Years team has advised that small tomatoes and grapes should be cut in quarters rather than halves, as when halved they can still pose a risk. Please ensure these are cut into small pieces, as these can be serious choking hazards for children if not cut.

Please ensure that **no fizzy juice** is given for packed lunch and please have **water only in class water bottles**.

Getting in touch with us:

General Parent/Carer Enquiries: please email admin@foxcovert.edin.sch.uk or call **0131 339 3749**.

To Report Children's Absence: please email admin@foxcovert.edin.sch.uk or call **0131 339 3749**. If nobody is available to take your call, please leave a message on the school answering machine.



Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries at all.

School holiday dates:

| School closes | School re-opens |
|--|---|
| Friday 9 th February 2024 at 12pm/12.05pm | Monday 19 th February 2024 at 8.50am |
| Thursday 28 th March 2024 at 12pm/12.05pm | Tuesday 16 th April 2024 at 8.50am |
| Friday 3 rd May 2024 at 12pm/12.05pm | Wednesday 8 th May 2024 at 8.50am |
| Friday 17 th May 2024 at 12pm/12.05pm | Tuesday 21 st May 2024 at 8.50am |

In-Service and Mid-Term dates:

| Bank Holidays (children off school) | In-Service Days (children off school) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Monday 6 th May 2024 | Tuesday 7 th May 2024 |
| Monday 20 th May 2024 | |

Dates for your diary:

Change or new information
Parent Helpers Required

| Date | Time | Event/Item |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Thursday 1 st February | All day | P7A visit to Craigmount High School (parent helpers required for walk to and from Craigmount High School only) |
| Wednesday 7 th February | 6.30pm-8pm | Parent Council Meeting |
| Thursday 8 th February | All day | P7B visit to Craigmount High School (parent helpers required for walk to and from Craigmount High School only) |
| Friday 9 th February | 12pm | Parent Council Uniform Stall (main playground) |
| Thursday 29 th February | 2.30pm-3.10pm | Whole school <i>Learning Together</i> event with parents and carers |
| Friday 1 st March | 9am-9.40am | Whole school <i>Learning Together</i> event with parents and carers |
| Thursday 7 th March | 1.15pm-2pm | P7A Class Assembly |
| Thursday 14 th March | 1.15pm-2pm | P5 Class Assembly |
| Wednesday 20 th March | 4pm-7pm | Parents/Carers Meetings |
| Thursday 21 st March | 1.15pm-2pm | P6A Class Assembly |
| Friday 22 nd March | 1pm-4pm | Parents/Carers Meetings |
| Friday 22 nd March | 12pm | Easter Bake Sale Fundraiser |
| Thursday 28 th March | 1.15pm-2pm | P7B Class Assembly |
| Thursday 18 th April | 1.15pm-2pm | P4 Class Assembly |
| Tuesday 23 rd April | 6.30pm-8pm | Parent Council Meeting (online) |
| Tuesday 23 rd April | | Termly class newsletters out to parents/carers |



Fox Covert PS Newsletter – January 2021



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| Thursday 9 th May | 1.15pm-2pm | P2 Class Assembly |
| Thursday 16 th May | 1.15pm-2pm | P3 Class Assembly |
| Thursday 23 rd May | 1.15pm-2pm | P4/5 Class Assembly |
| Thursday 30 th May | 1.30pm-2.15pm | P6B Class Assembly |
| Thursday 30 th May | 2.30pm-3.10pm | Whole school <i>Learning Together</i> event with parents and carers |
| Friday 31 st May | 9am-9.40am | Whole school <i>Learning Together</i> event with parents and carers |
| Thursday 6 th June | 1.15pm-2pm | P2/3 Class Assembly |
| Wednesday 12 th June 2024 | 6.30pm-8pm | Parent Council Meeting |
| Tuesday 18 th -Thursday 20 th June | | P7 Transition Days to Craigmount High School |
| Thursday 20 th June | 1.15pm-2pm | P1 Class Assembly |
| Thursday 20 th June | 6pm-7.30pm | P7 Parent/Carer Evening Craigmount High School |