

Primary 6 & 7

Term 3 2015/16

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The purpose of this overview is to give parents and carers an indication ('Snapshots') of some of the activities pupils have participated in to develop a knowledge and understanding of the world around them and to develop necessary skills and qualities.

You will appreciate that pupils participate in many more activities than those listed, for example, very few, if any, of the literacy and numeracy activities undertaken are mentioned.

However, development of literacy and numeracy skills remain at the heart of our school curriculum.

Science:

At the beginning of term pupils continued their work on 'Animals' with Miss Kirk, our final year student. Learning intentions included finding out more about classification and food chains. The children went on to carry out some group research on animal experimentation; they prepared speeches on the subject and had a lively debate discussing the points for and against this contentious issue.

Discussion Texts:

Pupils have been finding out how to write a balanced argument on a variety of subjects, which included a text on whether or not children should have to wear school uniform. This allowed the opportunity to practise writing in paragraphs as well as encouraging the pupils to use interesting 'connectives' to give their writing more continuity and flow.

Scots Poetry Competition (25th January)

As usual the pupils worked hard on memorising their poems for the class competition. This was followed up with an excellent Burns Assembly, during which children performed songs and dances.



Spring Show (24th February)

This enjoyable day out gave pupils the opportunity to experience farming at first hand; activities included a talk about sheep's wool followed by finger knitting, a cooking demonstration of Scottish beef and a viewing of the bulls in the show ring.



Fairtrade Fortnight (29th Feb-13th March)

Following on from an interesting assembly about *Fairtrade* led by the Rights Respecting Group, each class went on to learn more about this subject. The P6/7s started off their lesson with a nice cup of tea, and then went on to discover more about tea farmers in Kenya and how *Fairtrade* helps to ensure that they get paid well and have a more secure future for their families.



World Book Day (3rd March)

The whole school enjoyed a day of fun book-related activities, with many of the children and staff dressed up as book characters. Pupils moved around classes in their House groups; activities included listening to a wide variety of stories, writing poems, creating Harry Potter spells, painting dragons, doing puzzles and word-searches.



Science & Engineering Week (14th-18th March)

This was a very busy week, with a variety of excellent talks, workshops and demonstrations organised. One of the highlights for the P6/7s was the Lego Challenge which gave the opportunity for children to programme a robot to carry out a set of commands. The pupils were very engaged in the activity and demonstrated confident computer skills. The week beginning the 14th March, saw the start of science and engineering week. There were lots of things happening throughout the school and P6/7 were fortunate enough to be able to take part in many of the activities. One of the first activities was a visit from geologist Steve Wright. This visit fitted in nicely with our topic and we were very lucky to have such an experienced geologist share with us

his knowledge, stories of where he had been, his rock selection and have him answer the many questions that the class had.

Another visit was that from the company Animate. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about and interacting with the animals. The visit also included a talk on the illegal buying and selling of animal goods. The class were intrigued by the items that had come from Customs, which had been seized at airports throughout the country. Items included, ivory from elephants, a tortoise shell used as an instrument, leopard skin and a tiger purse. Pupils were horrified that people would actually buy these and many had said they had seen similar products when on holiday .



Rocks and Minerals

Rocks and Minerals were the learning context for this term. Through investigations, experiments and research pupils learned a number of key facts and were able to produce informative posters and complete tasks that were presented to them. Pupils were able to show what they had learned when they took part in a rocks and minerals treasure hunt, answering different questions on the topic

Maths:

Maths this term has focused on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. The Circles and Square groups have been learning how to find an equivalent fraction, how to simplify fractions and the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages (i.e. $1/10 = 0.1 = 10\%$). The Triangle group have been learning more about improper fractions and mixed numbers, as well as how to find the percentage of a number. Both groups have been using their times tables to find the fraction of a number (e.g. $1/5$ of 25).

P6/7 have spent the term looking at the concept of algebra. Through various different activities, they have explored solving equations with 1 or more missing values. The class found this topic challenging however as they became more confident, they were able to solve equations easily and use letters to represent missing numbers when creating their own equations from word problems.

Maths Challenge (17th March)

Three P7 pupils (Mairi, Edward and Faith) were given the chance to attend this challenging day of Maths at Elphinstone Hall. Around thirty other primary schools attended

and the pupils were set various challenges, such as maths quizzes and tests. Although pretty tough, the pupils worked well as a group and were a credit to the school.

Sports Relief Mile (18th March)

Pupils enjoyed taking part in this walk around Mid-Kinmonth/ East Kinmonth Farms, which was actually more than a mile! Many thanks to Mrs Baddeley who kindly set out drinks and biscuits for the children as a welcome half-way treat.

P6/7 Show (24th March)

This term the pupils experienced the energy and excitement of performing the play of 'Macbeth' in front of an audience. The performance gave pupils the opportunity to adapt and sustain different roles, experimenting with movement, expression and voice. It also gave them the chance to study a play script in depth, taking into account stage directions as well as enhancing their understanding of atmosphere and audience awareness. As you know, the play took many weeks of planning and rehearsals and I am sure you will agree that the pupils did really well, learning their lines thoroughly and putting on a great performance.



The choice of 'Macbeth' was particularly appropriate this year, as it is the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death. To extend their knowledge of this famous playwright, the pupils carried out paired research to create a fact file on him; they also watched an animated version of 'Romeo and Juliet' as well as reading several other classical Shakespeare stories during our reading time.

Literacy

The focus this term in literacy was to create our own newspaper article. Before we could do this we had to learn about the different features of a newspaper article. To begin with we focused on headlines and the different techniques that can be used to create effect. The pupils enjoyed using alliteration, word play, rhyme and puns to create their own headlines for stories. They then went on to look at the main body including, the strap, lead sentence, quotations and how articles are written using facts not

opinions. During Science and Engineering week, the pupils took notes on each of our visitors. using the 5 W's. At the end of the week, each pupil had to choose one of the visitors and create an article on their visit to the school. The children enjoyed using what they had learned and being able to write about something which they had an interest in..

Talk on Alcohol and Emergency Calls (30th March)

PC Russell Crawford visited the P6/7 class and gave a very interesting talk/ workshop on alcohol issues. This involved highlighting the dangers of drinking too much and the threat of peer pressure. He went on to tell the pupils more about 999 calls and discussed the problem of how to decide what is and what is not an 'emergency' situation.

Sponsored Walk (1st April)

Unfortunately the weather was not kind to us this year, so our planned trip to Dunnottar Castle and Skatie Shore had to be cancelled because of high winds and safety issues. Nevertheless, the pupils still had a long walk along the coastal path at Stonehaven, followed by a delicious ice cream from Auntie Betty's. The pupils also had a very informative talk from Mr Purvis; he told them all about the Highland Boundary Fault line and showed them pictures and maps to help illustrate this.

Rotary Quiz

4 pupils from P7 represented Glenbervie School at this year's rotary quiz. The children were dedicated and gave up many of their lunchtimes to practice and research on each of the topics of the rounds.



Hockey

This term the class were very lucky to be given the opportunity to take part in hockey taster sessions. Over a 4 week period, the pupils enjoyed getting outside and learning new skills and techniques in the sport. Many showed an interest and were keen to find out more about how they could take it up.