

Primary 6 & 7

Term 2 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.

Thematic work:

Medieval Scotland

Following on from our study of Castles last term, P 6/7 have been investigating the Scottish Wars of Independence. Our main focus has been on two key figures: William Wallace and Robert the Bruce.

Activities have included:

- WANTED posters describing the outlaw William Wallace
- Newspaper reports on the Battle of Stirling Bridge
- Fact-files on Robert the Bruce
- Paired and individual research, using the Internet to find out information
- Watching relevant clips/programmes, note-taking and discussion



- 'Battle Scar' – This exciting presentation told how the battle of Bannockburn unfolded, showing a full range of weapons and giving the children the





opportunity to experience the weight of the mighty chainmail, along with many other artefacts.

Science:

This term the pupils have been learning about 'Animals'. This unit of work was led by our Final Year Student Teacher, Miss Kirk. She covered a variety of topics, including classification and food chains. The pupils also enjoyed doing some group research on 'ZOOS' and presenting their ideas and findings during a lively debate.

Literacy:

After reading the novel 'The Iron Man', pupils were set the task of planning for and writing their own sci-fi story. Through various activities children demonstrated skills they had learned, for example, creating suspense, using sci-fi terminology and descriptive language. The Pupils used these skills to create stories which were engaging and exciting to read.



Furthermore the children have been continuing to work on their 'tools for writing' and their grammar and punctuation. The children have been considering the features of stories for younger children. In groups, they have had the opportunity to set their success criteria and they are currently writing their own appealing Christmas stories. Once finished, they will read them out to the Primary 1/2 pupils, thus allowing them to practice the valuable skill of reading aloud with expression.

Numeracy:

Our main focus this term has been Multiplication and Division. According to their ability, we have been practising a variety of written calculations, problem solving and multiplying decimals by 10, 100 and 1000. Those pupils working

at the end of Second Level are by now expected to have a sound knowledge of their times tables, but most still need to increase their speed of recall. The pupils who are working at the beginning or middle of Second Level, still need to firm up their knowledge of their 6, 7, 8 and 9 times tables, so please give plenty of opportunity to practise these at home.

Maths:

All groups have been investigating 2D and 3D Shapes, learning their names and identifying properties. Pupils have enjoyed doing a variety of practical tasks, honing their measuring skills and use of rulers and compasses. P6/7 have spent the term looking at co-ordinates. All pupils had previous knowledge on this topic and were able to grasp new concepts to co-ordinates quickly. All groups were learning about co-ordinates in all 4 quadrants, with one



group extending their knowledge by flipping and reflecting shapes over either the 'x' or 'y' axis.



Personal and Social Development:

This term we have been tackling some sensitive issues such as racism, stereotyping and discrimination. We have been using a set of programmes as a starting point for discussion; these 'scenarios' have helped the children to put themselves into different situations and consider how they would deal with them in real life.

Our Local Area

The pupils have been working co-operatively to produce a leaflet on their designated town. Their leaflet had to contain specific information about the town and be aimed at families who might wish to visit there. The leaflets were produced on the software publisher, with the children making a note of their learning in their Digital Literacy Passport. All groups worked well together, carrying out their roles and helping one another stay on task. These leaflets will eventually be put together to create a guidebook for our local area.

KNEX Enterprise Challenge:

This excellent workshop lasted for a whole morning and gave the pupils the chance to work in groups, developing their skills in working together cooperatively to a specific time-scale. They were given the challenge of designing and building a product using K-nex, costing it, setting a suitable price and advertising it in a one minute 'pitch'. The children came up with some excellent ideas, making a variety of original products such as mobile phone holders and pencil-case 'skateboards'.

SUT (Society for Underwater Technology) Lectures:

The pupils visited the AECC for three interesting presentations on:

The Macduff Marine Aquarium

Subsea Diving Equipment

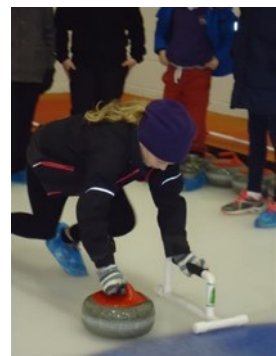
Tidal Energy

These lectures were aimed at motivating and encouraging children in the world of underwater science and technology.

The pupils were also given the opportunity to design an 'underwater' themed Christmas card inspired by what they had learnt. The exciting news is that one of our pupils won! Well done to Mairi Wilson, whose excellent design impressed the judges. Mairi wins a £40 voucher to spend in Waterstones.

Rugby

For the past four Tuesdays, P6/7 have been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to receive 'taster' sessions which a local rugby coach. The children really enjoyed these sessions, especially the getting muddy part, with a few expressing their interest at going along for training with the club.



Curling Event

The P6 pupils were lucky to get the opportunity to take part in an afternoon of Curling. The boys and girls were initially given tuition and practice in a large hall, before taking to the ice. All of them participated with enthusiasm and really seemed to enjoy the chance of learning this unusual sport.



SSPCA Visit

This term the children were lucky to receive a visit from an SSPCA officer. The pupils learned all about what the SSPCA do and how they help animals. Throughout the talk, the pupils were extremely engaged and thoroughly enjoyed learning about this topic. They especially liked when they were able to ask all their many questions at the end!

Ways to Support Your Child at Home

Support your child as they prepare for the Scots Poetry Competition. Please continue to encourage the learning of times tables facts at home. Help them to practise delivering their prepared talk (later in Term 3)

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!