

Victoria Primary School



Jan 2017

A very warm welcome back to all staff, pupils and parents for our new term.

School Day

Last session some of our children seemed to be coming to school earlier and earlier, this meant they had to stand for a very long time in the cold playground waiting for the bell. Can I ask parents to please send children to school for no earlier than **8.50am** each morning as we have no supervision in the playground at this time. Please remember we have a breakfast club available in VPS should you require it. The breakfast club opens from 8.15 each morning at a cost of £1.45 per day and there is no need to book a place.

Could I also ask parents to remind children that there should be **no football in the playground before 9 am** and that children **should not be bringing their own balls** to school. Our helpers have a number of footballs that they can give out in order to support games in the playground.



Lollipop Man

Our lollipop man, Charlie, retired just before Christmas. Charlie came along to our end of term carol singing and was presented with cards and gifts from the children. The children all had beautiful words to say about their favourite lollipop man and Charlie clearly felt very attached to many of them. It was quite an emotional experience for not only Charlie but everyone present and we wish him every happiness in his retirement.



Congratulations



Huge congratulations to Mrs Mackie and her husband who welcomed a beautiful baby boy just before Christmas. Mrs Mackie will now be on maternity leave, to enjoy being a new mummy, until next session.

Early Learning and child Care; Have Your Say!

Early Learning and Childcare is expanding – please help Falkirk Council to shape the future delivery by completing parent/carer survey - say.falkirk.gov.uk/childrens-services/1140-hours Letters have already been given to all nursery parents.

Lost Property

We have a huge amount of lost property including hats, scarves, gloves and lunch boxes. If your child has lost any items, can you please ask them to look in our lost property area. Lost property is available to be viewed at any time by parents but will be put on display at the disco on the 9th February. Following this date all lost property will be removed. **Can I once again ask all parents to please put their child's name on all belongings** as hopefully then it will be returned to the rightful owner in a timely fashion.



Learning and Teaching

This term we are very lucky to have secured primary specialist staff to develop our children's skills further in **Art, Numeracy and Drama**. This is a very exciting new development which will hopefully bring many opportunities for our children.

In addition to this we already have four of our secondary colleagues from GHS teaching one hour of **PE** for almost all classes each week. This is proving extremely beneficial to both staff and pupils as the skill level of our children continues to progress and be shared. High school staff have commented how amazed they are by some of our children's talents, especially in gymnastics and ball skills, and are already looking forward to them joining groups and teams at GHS.



New School Resources

Thank you to all parents and pupils who attended our Christmas Fayre.

We raised around £1400 from the event and are already putting it to great use for the benefit of all pupils

Games have been purchased to support literacy and numeracy in all classes from nursery to primary

7.



Mud

Due to the nature of our playground we have a large expanse of grass area. Usually in the winter the weather is so cold that this area goes hard underfoot, however with the weather being so wet before Christmas the grass area became very boggy in places and our children choosing to play in these areas were covered in mud. To try and sort this problem, **3 tonnes of bark** were purchased and placed in these areas, however with the large footfall we have, this has not been as successful as we would have hoped. Many parents have stated that as long as their children are having fun outside then they do not mind some mud but I am very aware on certain days it is far more than just a little bit of mud.

Can I ask that if you do not wish your child to play on the grass area, then you let your child know this, and ask them to play on the tarmac area.

Thank you.

Numeracy

Last term in Numeracy pupils were using a variety of different resources to support skills based learning such as Big Maths, Tee-Jay, Heinemann, Education City, Top Marks and many more. These resources gave pupils an opportunity to see mathematical problems in a variety of different ways. The Senior Leadership Team had a wonderful experience during the Numeracy Learning Walk. It was great listening to all the mathematical discussions and witness the variety of peer and team work which supports to imbed new learning.

Class Twitter accounts have highlighted a great deal of successful learners who have improved on their mathematical ability. All classes continue to develop pupil's mathematical flexibility with number. This has allowed pupils to see the variety of different strategies that can be used to solve a mathematical problem. This approach also focusses on the huge power and value of mistakes as opportunities to learn.



Reading



Bug Club- Our pupils are still enjoying the lovely new books and online e-books and activities provided from our Bug Club reading scheme. This term we will be providing lunchtime ICT clubs to allow pupils to access their Bug Club library of books.

We are always up for a **Reading Challenge** and not only are P.4-7 undertaking the First Minister's Reading Challenge but Primary 1-3 competed in their own challenge collecting a leaf for our Reading Tree each time they read a book. The winners of the Reading Challenge for last term was....**Primary 1**, who have decided they would like a book party for all their reading efforts.

Look out for more information coming soon on our next challenge.



Book Week Scotland was a huge success again this year with all classes enjoying books by one of our favourite author's, Roald Dahl. We ended the week with a Roald Dahl themed lunch and a book character costume day with lots of Roald Dahl characters spotted on the day! Thanks to the large amount spent at the Scholastic Book Fair both this year and last, we will be able to purchase £850 of new books.



The winner of our **ERIC (Everyone Reads in Class)** mascot competition was Esha Naeem (P76W), and her ERIC will be displayed in every class in to remind everyone the importance to of reading every day. Throughout Book Week we **Dropped Everything And Read (DEAR)**, even in Mrs Soroka's office.



P2 and 3 parents, we hope you and your child are still enjoying the reading and number activities from your **Read. Write Count** bags.

Use these tips to help **'build'** a better reader in your child.

B- Be positive

U- Unplug technology

I- increase time spent reading **everyday!**

L- learn new ways to help you child read at home.

D- decide to partner with the school

Our School Website

Please visit our school website:

<http://www.airth.falkirk.sch.uk>

We will be working hard to develop this over the next few months.

January



- 5.1.17 School Reopens
- 11.1.17 P1 Enrolment for August 2017
- 13.1.17 NSPCC Assembly for P1-P5
- 19.1.17 Parent Council Meeting 6-8pm (All Welcome)
- 30.1.17 P6W Max In The Middle Week (Parent & Carer performance on the Friday)

February

- 6.2.17 P5 visiting the Zoo Lab
- 9.2.17 February Disco P1-3 & P4-7
- 13.2.17 P6P Max In The Middle Week (Performance for parent & Carers on the Friday)
- 22.2.17 P4 Visit to Callendar House
- 24.2.17 P2 Sharing The Learning Afternoon (Parents & Carers Welcome)

School Life



Staff attending Ipad training



Visit from Police Horses for P1 and our EP children



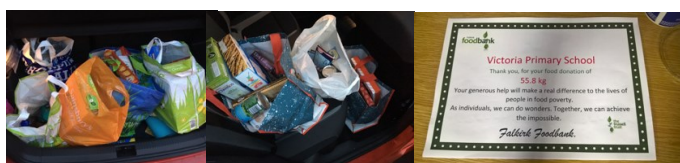
'Festive Jumper' day for Save the Children



End of term Carols



Congratulations to Falkirk FC competition winner



Donations being gathered for falkirk Foodbank