

HT REPORT: Tuesday 7th November 2023

Highlights From Last Term

- P5-P7 Hillwalking Club - 16/19 children signed up for the club and conquered Maryculter Woods and Millstone Hill...fun was had by all (especially the teachers)!
- Fabulous Fairtrade Feasts - Two groups from the P5-P7 class have shopped, baked and sold snacks and fine pieces at the Fairtrade Tuckshop. More groups will have the opportunity this term. As we start looking more at Children's Rights through our Africa project, we are hoping to run a related mini enterprise. More information will follow when the children have decided what this will be.
- Sound Wellness - The staff and children have enjoyed participating in a series of workshops and the instructor has been full of praise for how 'wonderful and engaged' the children at BD are.



- School Cultures Week - This was a huge success and the children enjoyed hearing parents coming in and reading stories from cultures that they have an affiliation with. Even better, they enjoyed tasting food from all those cultures...the spread was incredible. Thanks to everyone who contributed.
- World Smile/Hello Yellow Day/Family Forest Schools - This is always a popular day with the children, and it was made extra special this year by inviting parents/grandparents in to share a Forest Schools session with us. The feedback was extremely positive, and we hope you enjoyed it...the Director of Education certainly seemed to. He tweeted the following message, *'I have spent the most amazing morning outdoors with the wonderful pupils, parents and staff @BanDevPS doing Forest School activities. The best of mornings and my bucket is full. Thanks for the invite, love it. You certainly are shaping minds and touching hearts.'* A special shout out though has to go to Darrell who spent the morning dressed as a giant banana...that's commitment!
- Black History Month - This year, each class focussed on one inspirational figure and learned about their work and the impact on society. P1-P4 learned about Katherine Johnson and P5-P7 learned about Nelson Mandela.





- Reading Schools - There has been lots going on this term and hopefully we have made a good start on our journey towards Gold level accreditation: reading with our teddies in our pyjamas for World Teddy Bear/National Read a Book Day, a Teams meeting with authoress Hannah Gold, the launch of our Bedtime Stories with BD and Young at Heart Reading projects, our weekly book recommendation Tweets, and our parent Superheroes and community readers.

- P1-P4 Superhero Talks - The children really enjoyed hearing about your jobs (even if it was difficult to beat the guy who turned up in his ambulance)!! Thanks to all the parents who gave up their time to come in and share information about their work.



- African Experience Day - This was an informative day and the children in P5-P7 learned a lot more about African culture and what it's like growing up in a small African community. All children across the school loved the interactive nature of the African drumming, dancing and storytelling workshops.

- P1-P4 enjoyed their visit to the fire station and learned more about the role of the emergency services on their morning out.



- Autumn Fair - What a great afternoon and atmosphere there was in the school hall even if it was tipping down with rain outside. Thanks to everyone who came along to support us and to the Parent Council for organising.

Out of School Achievements

- BD Ski Race Team - Connor, Cameron, Jasper and Alianna are now a ski race team and, not only did they ski together for the first time at the weekend, but they came first out of ten schools. What an achievement. They are now through to the SSSA finals in Edinburgh.
- Portlethen Community Larder - Instead of getting presents at his birthday party, Harris asked his guests to bring a donation for the local foodbank. What a kind and caring gesture for such a young boy.
- Callie - Set out to raise £200 for MND by walking 75 miles. She aced it and raised double! Well done, Callie.



School Improvement Plan

Last term's work focussed on:

- Big Writing
- A review of our curriculum and planning

- A review of our approaches to assessment
- Developing Outdoor Learning (Loose Parts and Forest Schools)
 - Policy writing (Attendance, Absence, Lates)

This term's work will focus on:

- Review of Risk Assessments (Outdoor Learning/Forest Schools)
- Policy writing (Loose Parts, Forest Schools/Outdoor Learning)
 - Developing the School Website
 - Reading moderation
 - Calm Training or First Aid Training
- Curriculum Rationale and Design (this will be further developed after Christmas)
- Introduction to the Circle Resource (this will be further developed after Christmas)

What's Coming Up Between Now and Christmas

- 3rd November - Halloween Disco (6-8pm)
- 7th November - Rights Respecting School Gold Accreditation Visit
- 7th November - Parent Council Meeting (6.30pm)
- 15th November - P1-P4 trip to the Police Station
- 16th/17th November - INSET
- 24th November - P5-7 African Tales storytelling workshop
- 12th December - Parental Engagement - Reading around the Christmas Tree (3.30-4.15pm)



We will confirm other Christmas dates a bit nearer the time once we have had chance to discuss as a staff!

Clubs

The Rights Respecting Schools Group will be asking the children what clubs they would like to have during the Winter months...I hope to have more information by the meeting. Would there be any volunteers willing to come and help supervise?

Volunteers

Many thanks to all of the parents who came into school and volunteered last term:

- The parents who came and told the P1-P4 class about their jobs and read them stories
 - The parents who read stories as part of World Cultures week and sent in contributions for our food tasting
 - The Parent Council for all their work in supporting the school and for organising the Autumn Fair



- Jennifer Reece for running our school library
- Sarah Cacela for helping out in classes

If there are any parents who would like to volunteer in school, please let us know...we would love to have you!

Funding Requests

- Virtual Pantomime - does anyone know of any?
- Class Amazon vouchers
- School Nativity Play

