

April 2020



King's Park Primary News

Head Teacher's Welcome

It feels strange writing a newsletter when we are not in school, however, I felt that this would be another good way to keep in touch with our King's Park families in addition to the other forms of communication that are currently in place. Firstly, let me start by saying a huge thank you to our staff, our pupils and our families. I am overwhelmed at just how much everyone is pulling together and remaining positive in such a tricky time. There is such a strong sense of community shining through and this is something that we should all take pride in. Our staff are doing an amazing job at planning learning opportunities for all of our children and we hope that you are finding these manageable and a welcome addition to enabling your child's learning journey to continue. Our children have been amazing in their ability to adapt to distance learning and it is great to see the creative ways in which they are sharing their learning on Seesaw and to also see family and pets joining in the fun too! Parents and Carers, you are supporting the children in so many ways and I do not underestimate just how difficult this time will be for you all. Please remember that we do not expect you to be teachers nor do we expect you to replicate at home the kinds of learning experiences and opportunities usually provided in school. The health and wellbeing of each of our families is of the up-most importance at this time and anything that you can do to support the continuation of your child's learning is greatly appreciated. We will continue to provide you with advice and guidance on distance learning.

Many of our staff are also working in the Woodburn Hub to provide support for the children of key workers along with Mrs Orr and myself and staff from our associated schools group. We hope that the Hub can provide some support for those families most in need and we are thankful to all of our staff who have volunteered and who are able to provide this support. Finally, please remember that if you are finding things tricky, are in need of support or would like some advice, we are here to listen and to help. We remain your first point of contact. You can contact us in the usual way through our school email (Kingspark.PS@midlothian.gov.uk) which is manned daily and we will endeavour to get in touch with you as soon as we can.



I am sure that you will all join me in wishing all of our King's Park family a safe and healthy final term as we navigate our way through this together. Please stay in touch and keep sharing your learning on Seesaw and also on Twitter using #KPCares which illustrates our school vision: Creativity, Aspiration, Resilience, Empathy and Success. It really is helping us to keep smiling and feel connected!

Distance Learning at King's Park

We are now in the third week of Distance Learning at King's Park and we understand that many of you will be working from home or anxious about how to support your child's learning. There is no expectation that children will work their 'normal' school day, but we do hope you will encourage and support them to engage in these activities throughout the week.

Each child in the school and Nursery has been set up with a Home Learning Seesaw account. Class teachers will send activities to children through Seesaw. These activities are very similar to those they already use in school and are designed to practise and support skills already taught. These will not be 'live' sessions but staff will be available to support learners when required.

If you have difficulty accessing your Seesaw account please email the school office and we can organise for this information to be resent to you.



Inspirational Quote

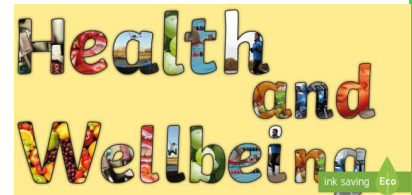
Our House Captains had been busy re-designing an area of our school in the Senior building to make it a safe space for our learners to use in order to support learning and promote wellbeing. One of their ideas was to have an inspirational 'Quote of the Week'. I'm sure that they will not mind me borrowing their idea for our newsletter!

Health and Wellbeing

Exercise for all of the family is an important aspect of ensuring that we have a healthy body and healthy mind. Many of you are already taking advantage of what is available in the local community and what is relevant and suits the interests and needs of your family. Family walks, rainbow hunts, obstacle courses, bike rides and fancy dress fitness with Joe Wickes are just a few of the things that you have been sharing with us. Well done everyone! Let's hope that the sunshine also continues so that we can get our daily intake of Vitamin D!

Doing things we enjoy, finding time to relax and enjoying nature are all ways that we can look after our mind and body.

Practising mindfulness, mindful colouring, baking, a family cinema night as



well as arts and crafts are also some of the ways in which we can help ourselves to feel good and to relax. Make sure that you engage in activities that help you to feel calm, relaxed and positive at least once a day and more often if you can!

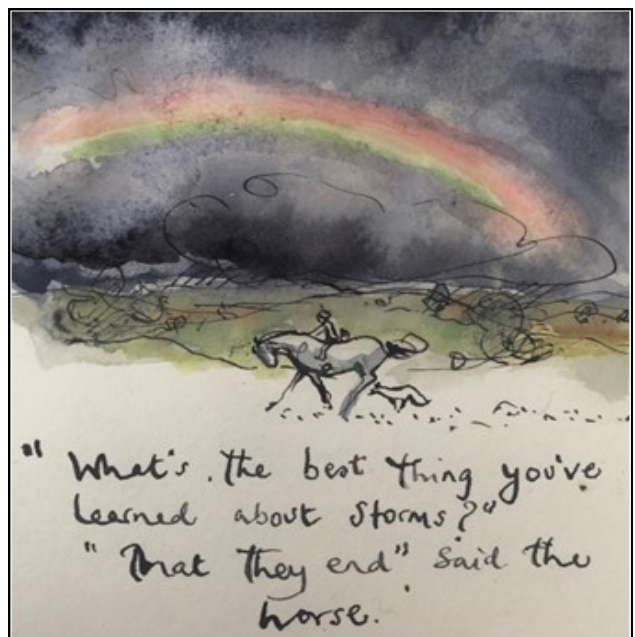
Some websites that may help you:

<https://www.parentclub.scot/>

<https://www.parentzone.me/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk> (BBC Bitesize)

<https://www.healthforkids.co.uk>
<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk>



"What's the best thing you've learned about storms?"
"That they end," said the horse.

New School App

We are very excited to launch our new School App this term. We have brought the launch of this new App forward to help to improve communications during our school closure period.

The new App will incorporate information about events, term dates, school news and alerts in one place. We can now link PDFs directly to message alerts which is a much simpler way for you to access documents quickly. You can also choose which classes you receive notifications about, which will mean the information and messages you receive are more relevant.

We will add information to the app regularly and are keen to find out your thoughts on it. The survey feature will allow us to do this quickly; we will send out a survey seeking feedback at the end of term.

To get the App, you need to download "Scot Ed" from your Apple or Android app store, then select King's Park Primary when it loads.



School Contact details

During the school closure period, Mrs Renton and Mrs Orr will be based in the Woodburn Hub on some days during the week.

For general enquiries please email us at:

KingsPark.PS@midlothian.gov.uk

and we will reply to you as soon as possible.

Transitions

We know that lots of you will already be thinking about our next school year, particular if you have a child starting Nursery, P1 or S1. Please be re-assured that we are already thinking about creative ways in which we can support a positive and successful transition for all of our learners regardless of whether we have returned to school before the end of term or not. More information will follow which will be in-line with national and local advice from Midlothian Council. Please be patient and do not worry.

Grocery Donations

A huge thank you to all of our families who donated vital groceries just before our school closed and to those who volunteered their time by coming into school to make up bags of groceries for us to deliver. We were able to give a number of our families bags of shopping due to your kindness and we donated the rest to Storehouse to distribute to local families within our school community.



in a
WORLD
where you can
be anything
BE KIND

