



# King's Park Primary News

## Merry Christmas from all at King's Park!

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at King's Park Primary School and Nursery.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to returning in January and building on the fantastic learning opportunities provided for our learners.

## School Extension

We are very excited about the news of our school extension. Mrs Renton has had several meetings with the council to discuss the needs of the school and how this can be achieved. We welcome the growth of our school building and the additional space this will provide. Not only to accommodate children and staff but to enable us to have communal gatherings and to involve parents more in the life of the school. We look forward to sharing more news with you as plans progress.

## Staffing

Congratulations to Miss Mackay and Mrs Thomson on their appointments of Acting Principal Teacher posts here in King's Park. Mrs Thomson will take up this post in the second term between January and Easter, and Miss Mackay in the third term from Easter until the summer. Both teachers bring a wealth of qualities and skills to the post and I am sure you will join in congratulating them both with us. We will send out a full staffing update in the New Year.

## Lights, Camel, Action!

Our Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils put on two outstanding performances of their Nativity, Lights, Camel, Action! at St. John's and King's Park Church on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The children had worked extremely hard to learn their words, songs and actions. The staff in these classes put a tremendous amount of work into the production and it was lovely to see the children shine on stage.

Thank you to all the parents, carers, grannies, granddads, aunties and uncles who came along to support them!

## P3 and P4 Singalong

Our P3 and P4 children were really impressive on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December when they performed to around 150 parents in our school gym hall.

They had practiced six songs, which they performed as a choir. They had also included some instruments as well as learning British Sign Language to use alongside one of their Christmas songs. It was lovely to see so many adults joining in on the day!

## Primary 5 Archview Visit

The Primary 5's brought some Christmas spirit to the people of Archview Lodge Care Home. The children entertained the residents with some fabulous Christmas carols that they had been practicing and gifted some beautiful Christmas cards that they had made. There was also an opportunity for the children to spend some time chatting with their adoring crowd and to wish them all a Merry Christmas!

### Sports at King's Park

Sport has continued in a busy way at school this term. In action at Dalkeith Campus were two mixed Primary 6 and 7 Hockey teams. Both teams played against several other Primary Schools from across Midlothian.

Our newly elected Sports Development Group has led two Sports assemblies. As part of these the group celebrated the individual and team successes that we have had at King's Park. They also carried out a sports survey which will hopefully lead to an increased number of groups being delivered at School.

Next term Primary 2 and 3 will be taking part in a curricular Athletics programme. This will take place on a Monday for all pupils at this stage.

Primary 5 will also enjoy a block of curricular Rugby sessions delivered by the SRU development team.

Our Active School programme for next term will be published very soon. Look out for this and get your children involved!

### Park Gate - Update

I am sure that you will agree that the safety of our pupils is paramount. In order to improve playground security, we trialed locking the park gates in order to prevent access through the school during the school day. However, this proved to cause difficulties for our nursery parents and carers. In light of this, we have decided that it is in the best interest of the school community to re-open the park gates. We will explore the possibility of signage on the gates to advise that the school is not a through fare for the general public. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views with us.

### P5 - 7 Choir

The P5-7 choir has received lots of compliments for their superb Christmas performances. Members of staff enjoyed taking time to relax and listen after school, and the entrance hall was packed with eager listeners at the Christmas Fair. It was lovely to see everyone looking so smart in their shirts and ties - we really 'felt like a proper choir'!

### P7 Art Competition

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 16 of our Primary 7 pupils took the short journey to Dalkeith Library to take part in the opening ceremony of the 'Vote 100' exhibition. The exhibition was organised by local councillor, Margot Russell in order to celebrate the Suffragettes movement in Dalkeith.

Pupils were challenged to create some artwork around this topic. Pupils and the general public were delighted with the work exhibited. If you get the chance the exhibition will run through to Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> January.

### Primary 4 Swimming

Our Primary 4 classes have recently completed a 13 week swimming block at Lasswade High School. They enjoyed learning new skills, developing their confidence in water and playing team water games.

Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to assist with these weekly sessions; your support is always appreciated.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

*"Children need the freedom and time to play. Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity."*

**-Kay Redfield Jamison**

