

DUNANNIE THURSDAY LETTER Issue 16

3rd February 2011

Dear Parents

I am thrilled to say that looking out of my window the climbing frames and fort look as if they are nearly fit for purpose and the children will be able to return to their imaginary adventures. I have just ordered some flags which will be hoisted when the frames are too dangerous to use and hopefully they will be in use in the not too distant future.

During the last week we have had the pleasure of showing Avril Hardie and Michelle Johnson, two members of our Governing body, around Dunannie. They were most impressed with everything they saw which fills me with great pride!

Spring Concerts will be held at the end of term and so you may like to note the following date and times: Reception and Year 1 parents are invited on Tuesday 22nd March and Year 2 and Year 3 on Thursday 24th March. Both concerts will begin at 9.00 am with refreshments being served beforehand.

Parent Evenings will be taking place the week after half term and an appointment list will be available for signing tomorrow (4th February). If you do have trouble getting to school to sign up please give Marian a call and she will sign up for you. What service! I am very much looking forward to the Quiz night next Friday 11th February and hope that as many of you as possible are able to come. Dunannie staff will be well represented and I am sure you would like to come and pit your wits against this formidable team!!

With best wishes

Jo



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REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

- 🎒 Year 3: All children in Year 3 will need a mouth guard for games lessons after half term
- 🎒 Meet the Music Staff: there is an opportunity to meet many of the Visiting Music Staff on Tuesday 15th Feb (4 – 7pm). Sheets for signing up for appointments will be on the left hand side of the Music Dept as you enter from Monday and will remain there until Saturday 12th February. Venues for the meetings will be clearly displayed on the 15th February but parents should head for the music department in the first instance. Some staff are unable to be present and this will be indicated on the sign-up sheets; please add your name to their list and they will be able to contact you with a progress report.
- 🎒 Toys in School: no toys to be brought into school unless specific to the project. Year 1 has a 'feelings' box for their class if required.
- 🎒 Please help with project items: Bridget needs 2 x metal sieves for cooking pop-corn. Year 1 need shoe boxes for their project.
- 🎒 Bedales Arts Programme: The Eduardo Paolozzi Hayward Touring Exhibition from South Bank Centre London closes on Saturday 5th February.



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Congratulations to the following children for all their hard work in Mathletics:

Theo (1 Bronze)
Tiger (1 Bronze)
James (1 Silver)
Adam (1 Bronze)
Rachel (2 Bronze)
Jonty (1 Bronze)
Elliot (1 Bronze)
Rowena (1 Bronze)
Isabelle (1 Bronze)

Well done.

David

SCIENCE CHALLENGE

The dolphin, a mammal, laid eggs. Dolphins do not lay eggs. Like almost all mammals, dolphins give birth to live young.

Several children made this observation. Well done to Hamish, Tiger, Ernie, Nicholas, Molly, Lorenzo, Nela, Leela, Giselle and Daisy. Dominic and Daisy noted that Dolphins are mammals and Nela wrote that they do not have nests. Hamish and Nicholas thought that the rocks were floating.

Well done everyone!

David

Year 1

Dear Parents,

It is lovely to welcome Will Murdoch back. It feels as though he has never been away. He is getting to know new friends and his old ones are thrilled to be with him again.

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful books and artefacts from home that the children are sharing about Light and Dark. We are learning about the sun, earth and moon. Using a remotely controlled illuminating moon in our dark den has been very exciting. Everyone has also taken



turns to demonstrate how the moon orbits the earth whilst the earth orbits the sun. We have talked about clockwise and anti-clockwise directions, remembering that the earth spins anti-clockwise whilst it orbits the sun anti-clockwise. This links to our maths work on time, days, months and seasons. Our science work has also included investigating which

objects are light sources. Fantastic discussion emerged as the children considered whether a shiny CD or mirror would give light in the dark den. It was eventually agreed that they are not light sources but Jemima found that if she shone a torch onto them, light was reflected. We carefully lit a candle and tested all sorts of things.

Michael Truss, who many of you know as Daddy of Theo in Year 2 has very kindly agreed to do a presentation on space for us next Thursday afternoon. He is a maths teacher at Bedales, an Astro-Physicist and an expert on the Solar System. If we are lucky Michael may be assisted by his fellow expert, Theo, who is also brilliant at explaining about space. Many of you have been helping your children find constellations and

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planets in the night sky. Michael and Theo will be able to answer some of the tricky questions that have arisen!

We have been investigating directions and how to program a Beebot so it will avoid an obstacle. Great fun was had by your children working in small groups programming the Beebot. An understanding of left and right is vital so we have been exploring this in different ways.



Your children are being encouraged to apply their spellings in their writing. I am delighted with the joined up handwriting that is developing very well. The Teodorescu booklets will consolidate handwriting skills further. It is important to ensure that the pencil/felt pen is held correctly. Do please ask if you would like your child to use a pencil grip at home. Our daily practice of the phonemes is helping your child's blending of sounds when reading and segmenting words when spelling. The irregular words need to be learned too and any support you can give at home will pay dividends.

With best wishes
Amanda, Dorota and Kessie



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Year 3

Some of you might know of the RSPB's Garden Birdwatch. On Monday Year 3 set off early across the fields to woodland locations near the Sand Quarry and set up for our own Bird Watch! We were taking part in the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch, and will send in our results in to add to a nationwide survey of birds around school grounds. We watched for half an hour in three different places, armed with binoculars, recording sheets and identification charts. In all we saw 45 birds, and more than eight different species! Everyone had a certificate and their own chart to fill in for birdwatching at home. As we were having a Birdy Day, Bridget worked with small groups at a time and made willow bird feeders for the children to take home and hang up in their own gardens. Ros helped make bird food - a very gourmet mix of lard, bacon bits, cake, bread and sultanas with extra tasty dried mealworms added for that certain something! A new feeding station outside our classroom has been set up and yesterday we had our first customers – a sparrow and a blue tit.



Year 3 Twitchers out in the woods!

More news this week ...

Our photography group has been learning how to use the class cameras. In addition to using the different functions, they have been practising zooming in, setting up shots and learning how to create different effects with perspective. Next time we will explore the macro and super-macro functions and work in extreme close-up!

Two photographs from the corridor of the same subject working with the zoom

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Photographer: Maddy Brissenden

Congratulations to..... **Archie Newman!** He was the winner of our Extreme Reading Photograph Competition. Archie brought in a fabulous photo of himself reading in a boat, floating down a stream. A very relaxing location! Of course, all our entrants took lots of care and had adult supervision. We had photographs of reading in the air, in a tree, in a tangle, in Jo's office and even in a laundry basket.... All the photos will be displayed in the corridor outside Year 3 next week for you all to see. Archie's prize was a new Michael Morpurgo book, "Toro Toro", which he loved and read in a weekend!

On Monday we welcomed back Talia to our class. It is lovely to have her with us again and hearing about her latest school experiences!

Happy New Year - it's the Year of the Rabbit! Look out for more of our Chinese New Year workshop photographs in the corridor.



With best wishes from Catherine and Ros and all of Year 3!