



MUIREDGE MARCH NEWSLETTER

2023

Spring has almost Sprung . .

It seems that we have almost left those dark winter days behind, and can feel a hint of new life the air. Pupils and staff have a spring in their steps and as ever Muiredge is busy with new and interesting learning opportunities. We are also enjoying seeing lots of family learning taking place. Our term 3 newsletter showcases just some of this buzz!

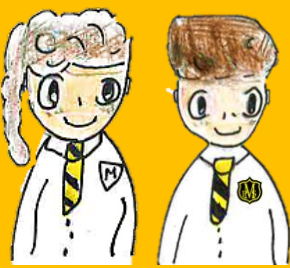


Pupil Power

Our journey to encouraging Pupil and Staff Leadership continues with great gusto. Our Friday Club is now on to block 2 and our P6 and P7 pupils are hosting a wide range of clubs for everyone to attend. We also have now well established pupil leadership groups, leading the way with initiatives and improvement. Every child across the school is involved in a leadership group and is taking forward important school and community work. Just over the last few weeks we have had a very informative assembly hosted by the Internet Safety group, who had lots of top tips about staying safe online. Our community art champions have launched an art competition and our enterprise group are raising money for school funds with their guess the name of the teddy. The French leadership group have also been buddying up with younger pupils to teach them colors in French. This week sees the Leader Readers take charge, they have planned some super activities linked to World Book Day. What talented pupils or should I say leaders we have, the future is looking bright with such creative and entrepreneurial youngsters who are developing skills for life, learning and work!



Be The Best You Can Bee



School Improvement



Read, Read, Read!

As you know we are always looking to improve at Muiredge and this year we have a big focus on reading. Staff have been part of improvement group work and have been focusing on family learning in reading and creating a new and exciting library space.

Some classes as part of a pilot have been hosting Book and a Biscuit sessions. This was as a result of feedback from our parent survey which highlighted that parents were keen to attend school and read with their child in class. These events have been extremely well supported and the children have been delighted to hear stories from parents and carers. Thank you as always for your support and sparing the time to come along. We will be collecting information on the impact of this initiative soon. Sharing reading recommendations from the children and building our profile on twitter by using the #muiredgefamilyreads is ongoing please have a look on twitter to keep up with our reading journey.

Data gathered from our children highlighted that many children don't have the opportunity to visit the local library, so we are developing our school library space. We are building on from the work of our Parent Council and have decided to use the recently renovated Cosy Clubhouse as the new location of the library. It will be a peaceful reading sanctuary, and pupils and staff have been busy AR coding texts so that children can complete online reading quizzes and try to join our class reading leaderboard! Once ready a special launch is planned and classes will have a timetabled slot to attend.

Step back in time:

We have been exploring our approach to interdisciplinary learning and pupils across the school have been in the Muiredge time machine and exploring different time periods as part of a blast from the past expedition. From the more traditional topics of Victorians, World War 2 to the more recent 60s and who knew that the 80s and 90s have also become history topics! The children are extremely engaged as are the staff some of whom are enjoying reminiscing with some 80s hits. Our P7 children have been taking part in 80s rotational workshops and want to say a special thanks to parents who have attended to support this.

Using Digital Technology:

We are celebrating the success of Mrs Gray who has been highlighted for her excellent digital learning skills and her work developing Thinglink as an education tool. So much so that Mrs Gray was asked to host training for colleagues across South Lanarkshire. Her work in creating online virtual classrooms is sector leading, Muiredge is lucky to have such talented staff.

Below is our new section of our newsletter which offers advice on how you can support your child at home. Our third guide this session about online safety and shares useful information from the NSPCC.



Learning In Focus

Supporting Your Child At Home: **ONLINE SAFETY**

The Need for Online Safety:

Technology has revolutionized the world we live in and as a school we use it more and more to enhance our learning provision and engage children. There is no doubt that the positives outweigh the negatives.

However as parents we must navigate the choppy waters of the internet, which is evolving at a rate of knots. From the latest social media apps and platforms, to gaming with friends across the world. All of a sudden your child can be vulnerable from the safety of your very own home.

Even very young children are hooked by tech, my own child spends more time than I would like to admit watching 'episodes' his name for a very popular video sharing platform. Thank goodness he has branded it 'episodes', it means my parenting is being questioned less when he refers to it at his nursery! And I am not sure how it happened, but Alexa is very much part of our family, and she like others in the Miller household doesn't always listen!

Jokes aside, and being realistic, technology is changing the way we live as a society. No longer do we need to wait patiently, when we have access to the world on our phone. Look around the next time you are on a train there is less smiles and shared glances, just generations of people gazing at phones. I used to frown at children out for lunch with parents and sitting gripping a tablet in a highchair, now I am that parent searching for the WIFI. Maybe there isn't anything wrong with this, but we have to consider skills that we are losing as a result of technology and teach these to the next generation. We also have to take seriously the risks that technology brings and teach online safety the same way we were taught stranger danger as children.

The tips below are taken from www.nspcc.org.uk, which has lots of good advice and support. They have a wide range of resources and links which we would encourage parents to have a look at.



Online safety: top tips

Going online is a huge part of most young people's lives so it's important to talk to them about online safety. Here's our tips to get you started.



Chat to them about what they like to do online

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to talk to them and have regular conversations so that online safety is part of everyday discussion. Ask them open-ended questions like 'What's your favourite game or app to play on?'.

- Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.
- They will probably be able to teach you things you don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.
- Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

Talk about who they are in contact with online

There are lots of different ways that children can talk to people online – messaging apps, on social media, and less obvious ways such as chat on online games. Talk to your child about who they are talking to and what they are sharing with them.

- Use settings to help limit who can contact your child.
- Remind your child that they shouldn't share personal information with people they don't know online.
- Let your child know they can come to you or another trusted adult if any conversation makes them feel uncomfortable.

Help manage what they see and do online

Parental controls and privacy settings can help you manage how your child spends time online and help to keep them safe.

- Device settings – manage things like location sharing, screen time and in-app purchases. Most tech and gaming companies have dedicated pages to support with setting these up.
- App or game settings – in-app tools that can help to keep your child's account private and manage who they're talking to. You can normally find information on these in account settings or directly on the platforms website.
- Mobile or network provider settings – help to manage browsing access and stop your child from visiting inappropriate sites or downloading apps that aren't suitable. Contact your mobile or broadband provider for more information about setting this up.

Make sure to talk to your child first before implementing any new settings and explain to them how they help to keep them safe.

Remember it's ok to ask for help!

Remember you don't have to be an online safety expert – that's our job! We're here to help, with resources and advice to help support you and your child.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

- Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety
- Call the NSPCC helpline **0808 800 5000** to speak to an advisor
- Ask another parent
- Speak to your child's teacher
- If your child needs more support, they can contact Childline: childline.org.uk



NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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Sporting Success

Our school Athletics team have been flying the flag for Muiredge and with their coach in tow Mrs Lee, they managed to win the Hamilton Athletics final!! Bringing home the trophy which has been held by another school for many years! The children also had the opportunity to attend and compete at local authority level and although weren't crowned champions that day, they were all winners for taking part and giving it their all.

We also continue to work with Uddingston Hockey Club who coach our children and run an afterschool club. Cricket taster sessions have also been held recently, as well as rugby this session. We also have re-established super links with UGS and through SLC active schools who have been supporting girls football, and running a dance group. Our netball team have also been in action attending tournaments. We are very lucky to have so many sporting opportunities that benefit our pupils.

Musical Marvels

Muiredge wouldn't be the same without music and you only have to walk into our beautiful school building to see and hear our talented young musicians. Some of our musicians got the opportunity to attend a concert at the Motherwell Civic Center to see a fantastic performance from The Royal Scottish National Orchestra. The children were special guests and a big thanks to the SLC instrumental service who helped organise this and attended with the children. We have such a fruitful partnership with the Instrumental Music Service and we want to say a special thanks for being part of our wider school team.

P7 Residential

The count down is on to the P7 residential. We had a very informative information night led by Miss Ashwood and our hoodies have more or less been ordered. All that's left to do is start packing and get excited as before we know it our Primary 7 children will be abseiling, mountain biking and canoeing in Dalguise. Look out after the Spring break for the action shots on twitter.



● P1 New Intake

Our P1 enrolment has begun and we have had lots of children enrolled for next sessions. Our office staff have been in touch with all our newly enrolled families and we will be shortly setting dates for our induction meeting and pupil play and stay workshops as we get to know new families and pupils who will be joining us in August.

Parents as Partners . . .



Our Parent Council and wider parent groups continue to support our school. We are delighted to see the planned return of the joint Summer Fete which we run with St John the Baptist Primary. This brilliant community event usually takes place at Uddingston Grammar and the planned date for your diaries is the 10th June. The fete usually hosts a range of events and stalls and is a great community event which also raises money for school funds. Of course none of this is possible without the support of an army of parent helpers, so if you can spare an hour to help out it will be greatly appreciated.

We also have a number of P7 parents who are supporting fund raising to give P7 a memorable send off event. Last year we had a summer festival for the children, which was very much enjoyed by all. I am sure this year's event will be every bit as successful.

As the weather improves the Parent Council will be returning to our school garden and working with the wider community and the children to continue to build on the success of last year. With spring in the air we hope to be sowing seeds soon and have some beautiful blooms on show to attract those all important bees!

A final Thought . . . the learning Buzz!



I don't think many things can beat the feeling of learning something new, or mastering something you have worked hard on. The buzz, the realization on a pupils face when they get 'it' is something quiet special. I am lucky to be in a building where this happens day in, day out. Of late more and more pupils have been arriving at my door to share achievements and learning and it truly fills me with joy. In a sea of e-mails, paperwork and the busy day to day of being a Head Teacher, that chap at the door, smiling face and glint of success in the eyes is something I am never too busy to celebrate. It's the Muiredge Buzz, and what our school is all about.

Kindest Regards

Leigh Miller