

Literacy

Our new class novel is 'Divided City,' by Glaswegian Theresa Breslin. This popular book explores religious tension in Scotland through a gripping tale about the friendship between two Glaswegian boys, one Celtic fan, one Rangers fan, who must find their own answers in a divided world. We will be looking at the problems of sectarianism in Glasgow and racism against asylum seekers and finding out if the boys, Graham and Joe, can survive as friends and continue their common love of football. As part of our spelling programme, using the North Lanarkshire Programme, we have begun to focus on the use of Prefixes and Suffixes. The children are adding to a list of already created examples, finding their meaning and applying them in the context of a sentence. They will work on up levelling their sentences using VCOP. We will also investigate the use of homophones and confusions, before learning to spell subject-specific words. This will assist with some words which will be encountered in UGS.

To support the transition to Uddingston Grammar, the children have been writing their Personal Profiles. They are recording their own understanding on how they learn in different subject areas, what they enjoyed in their learning and areas they may require to work a little harder in. The children also log their personal achievements both in and out of school. They will type these and edit their work before they are sent to Uddingston Grammar.

Numeracy

The children are now set in their maths classes for the remainder of Primary 7. Each class will cover the same maths concepts, although, this may be in a different order. The children have been working hard in Algebra to solve some tricky equations and using symbols and inequalities. The focus in maths has been to improve mental recall and mental agility along with the ability to solve number problems. The children worked on tricky time problems which made them really think about their number knowledge and how best to use this to help solve the problems. Uddingston Grammar Maths department are assisting with problem-solving ideas and activities to really challenge the children and we will be using Heinemann active maths activities and games to ensure variety along with the other maths supportive materials.

Health and Wellbeing

The focus in Physical Education this term has been Scottish Country Dancing (Ceilidh dancing) in which the children worked with both Mrs Gray and Miss Sullivan to learn paired and group dances, such as, The Dashing White Sergeant, Strip the Willow and The Canadian Barn Dance. At the end of the session, the children created their own dance using the skills and Ceilidh dance moves they had learned. This was a great way of keeping fit and everyone thoroughly enjoyed taking part.

John Platt, from Uddingston Hockey Club, has been working with the children to improve their hockey skills. On the lead up to Christmas, the children were taught hockey skills, progressing to games and competitive activities, which they all really enjoyed. John is on the lookout for talented hockey players to compete in the hockey festival which is coming soon to the Uddingston.

The conversations have turned to the excitement and, in some cases, the worry of moving from primary school to secondary school. Having visited Uddingston Grammar School in January for Superhero day in the Science Department, the children have been given an insight into their new learning environment from August. The staff have been very supportive and have visited the children at Muiredge. The Science, Maths and Social Studies department have been to talk to the children, provide some mini lessons and set some maths and science challenges for them. As a class, we are working through any worries or fears the children may have and are working with the staff at the Grammar to ensure a smooth transition is experienced by all.

Interdisciplinary Learning

The children completed their topic on World War 2 with an amazing showcase assembly. They worked really hard to put together an insight into life on the home front through dance, music, drama and facts. Thank you to everyone who came along to support them. I am sure you will agree they were fantastic and made their teacher very proud J

A group of Civil Engineers, led by Alison Ward, visited Primary 7 to help us understand more about engineers and their work. They set the children a challenge, which encouraged the children to work co-operatively as part of a team. The challenge was to build a giant Tetrahedron.

This was a fun activity which uses aspects of maths, science and teamwork skills to build a structure 4m high! Starting with just wooden dowels, the children learned to work together to produce a geometric shape measuring 4m by 4m by 4m - far bigger than any one of them could manage by themselves. Aspects of maths, science and design were introduced and revisited, together with lateral and creative thinking.

This activity allows pupils an opportunity to develop each of the four capacities of the curriculum for excellence and has been designed to allow learners to:

Construct substantial and inspiring structures in a short time from simple materials

Complement, enhance and apply understanding in subjects such as maths, sciences, technologies, expressive arts and language.

Develop team building and collaborative working skills

Realise individual learning within the context of the group

Apply creative and lateral thinking

Grow in confidence and self-esteem through taking part in something which is non-threatening and carried out by a group in 'public'

Thank you to Alison and her team for a brilliant learning experience!