

Danderhall News



February 2024

Rights Respecting Schools



We are very pleased to share with you that Danderhall Primary School has now achieved the first stage of the Rights Respecting School Award and are now Bronze:Rights committed. We have begun working towards achieving our Silver award and will be working with our Rights Respecting steering group to create an action plan.



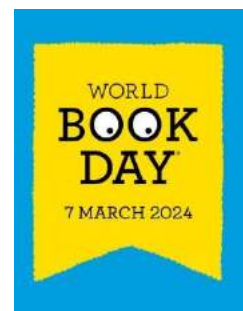
Seesaw



We were delighted to host and share how we are using Seesaw at Danderhall with Seesaw delegates and their CEO from America. The learners from P6B shared their learning and demonstrated their IT Skills. Very positive comments were made about their knowledge and enthusiasm. This hard work was recognised by the local authority Chief Education Officer Michelle Strong and the Digital Learning team.

World Book Day

Book Swap Friday - Pupils are invited to bring into school any **preloved** books that they no longer want. Books can be brought into school from Friday 1st of March until Thursday 7th March. Each class will be allocated a slot during Friday 8th March to peruse and swap books.



Danderhall Clubs



Miss Kersh has organised Lunch and After School Clubs for P1, P3 and P4 this term. Primary 1 pupils are enjoying Puzzles and Games on Friday after school and P3s and P4s are also enjoying Art Club. The clubs run after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and the interest to date has been fantastic. The classes are run by Mrs Diamond, Miss Taylor and Mrs Macfarlane. Further dates will be announced before the Easter break.

A group of P4 children have recently joined a lunch time drama group run by Miss Jess. They have been using voice and movement to develop their understanding of characterisation. Lessons have consisted of a range of games and group tasks to help them develop their skills.



A number of Primary 6 and 7 girls have been attending football on a Tuesday. Their work and commitment has been brilliant. Miss Fairnie has been really pleased with how well they are getting on. They all seem to be enjoying themselves, getting better every week. Keep it up girls!



This term has welcomed the return of other after school sports clubs too. Along with the P6&7 girls football club, we have a P7 boys football club run by Mr Cole and Mr Woods, a P6&7 basketball club run by Mr Halliday and a P6&7 Hockey club run by Miss Leach. The Basketball and Hockey teams will be representing the school at upcoming Midlothian festivals and we wish them all the best of luck. Go Team Danderhall!



Eco School

The Eco group have met a couple of times this session and are very enthusiastic about improving the profile of Danderhall to become an Eco friendly school. To date we have surveyed the classes and are in the process of providing opportunities for all classes and rooms to ensure that paper and card recycling is taking place, with help from our janitor, Kevin. Our long term goal is to achieve Green Flag status.



Pupil Council

Pupil Council recently held a competition for the school as we have all been learning about Scotland and Scots Language. The P1 to P3 classes designed tartans and P4 to P7 classes wrote poems. Winners of the competition will be announced at assembly and each winner will receive 50 house points.



Water and Milk Reminder

Please remember that as per school policy and advice from health professionals, children should only have water or milk for their snack and their water bottles for during the day should only contain water and not juice. Juice as part of a packed lunch should be provided separately. The only exception to this would be a child who has a Health Care Plan in place and this has been agreed, thank you.



Primary 1 news

Primary 1 pupils have been developing their reading skills through using poetry. The Dormouse, Ladybird and Bathtime were used to explore new vocabulary to develop understanding of the text. Pupils visualised the poems and recreated the images using a range of materials.



Primary 2 news

Primary 2 have been enjoying our current IDL topic which has been exploring Scotland's past. They have been working on comparing the past to our present life. Through their learning they have spent some time looking at ancient artefacts and working out what we can learn about from them. The children became very interested in castles and specifically how they are built to protect those inside from invasion. We have also been sharing stories from Scotland's past and have particularly enjoyed the tale of Greyfriars Bobby!



Primary 3 news

Primary 3 have recently enjoyed learning about our local area and have been discussing how Danderhall has changed over time. The children have shown a keen interest in learning about Danderhall as a mining town and enjoyed sharing stories about their families involvement in the mines. We have also been learning about changes to the land use in Danderhall. The children have been comparing maps of the local area and discussing how Danderhall has grown and changed over time. We used the Magnificent Map resources provided by the GeoBus to create maps of the local area.



Primary 4 news



Primary 4 have been continuing to enjoy our swimming lessons on a Friday morning. We have gained so much confidence in the water, and improved our swimming strokes and techniques too.

Both P4 classes also recently held a Family Ceilidh to celebrate and share our learning in Scottish Country Dancing. It was lovely to see so many families coming together and joining in the dances.



Primary 5 news

Primary 5 have been learning about historical events in Edinburgh and their local area during the 16th and 17th century. Pupils have explored events such as The Plague and Witch Trials along with learning about key figures such as Burke and Hare. Both classes have researched and written articles about these events and have also created Plague Doctor masks and exploding buboes. The children demonstrated a keen interest in their history and were able to make connections between The Plague and Covid-19.



Primary 6 news



Our P6 pupils have been learning about The Jacobites and what life was like in Scotland back in the 17th & 18th centuries. Pupils have been learning about the different key figures and events of the rebellions and learning about the gory history of massacres and battles. P6A have extended their understanding of how to interpret maps and use this to find places and features within our country and the rest of the world. P6B have been working together to research interesting information to create their own website. They look forward to sharing this with their parents soon.

Primary 7 news

P7s have begun a new system in P7 called Classroom Economy. This system is to support pupils to achieve the 4 capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence.

Pupils have been allocated jobs and responsibilities in order to achieve positive goals. Please discuss with your child what this involves and what their responsibilities are. For example - Homework is due on Tuesday and that is a responsibility that will allow them to achieve one of their goals.

Lauchlan Trainer has been selected to play for the Scotland under 13s national team for the full season. As part of this, they are travelling to Bratislava in Slovakia to compete in the EMF international tournament against the best club sides from that region. This is from 30th April until 5th May.

They will also be playing an international series match vs England, in Dumfries on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of June.



QI Visit

On Thursday 22nd February, a team of Quality Improvement Managers and Officers came to Danderhall Primary to find out about our Learning, Teaching and Assessment improvement journey. Throughout the day the team observed teachers, spoke to pupils and staff focus groups. The team were very positive about the improvements and were very complimentary about how articulate our pupils were.

The key strengths included

1. Children who were keen, polite and respectful.
2. Nurturing relationships between children and staff
3. Displays of pupils work in corridor areas and developing use of atrium spaces for planned learning
4. Clear sense of collegiality across staff groups
5. Staff who were positive and fully on board with changes and keen to embed these.
6. Staff who valued the permanent changes to SLT and the clear remits of the team and the support given.

What is our capacity for improvement?		
Leadership and management	Learning provision	Successes and achievements
1.1 Vision and mission 1.2 Leadership and management 1.3 Leadership of learning 1.4 Leadership of change 1.5 Leadership and management of staff 1.6 Management of resources for personal success	2.1 Designing and delivering 2.2 Curriculum 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment 2.4 Assessment 2.5 Learning 2.6 Wellbeing	3.1 Quality of learning, teaching and assessment 3.2 Learning outcomes and attainment 3.3 Wellbeing, health and engagement

Staffing Update

We are pleased to announce that Mr D Tanner was the preferred candidate for the Office Support Assistant post advertised.

We were also able to make 3 of our temporary Learning Assistants permanent – Miss S MacFarlane, Mrs L Kerr-Smith and Mrs T Rahman.

Mr A Cunningham is an additional LA (27 hours) who has just been appointed temp until June 24.

Miss McCaldin who currently teaches P3B was successful at the interview stage for the role of acting Principal Teacher for PEF. Mrs Jackson will teach P3B on a Tuesday.

Key dates

8 th March 2024	Dress up/Down for World Book Day
26 th March 2024	Parents Evening 4pm-7pm
27 th March 2024	Parents Evening 4pm-7pm
28 th March 2024	School closes at normal time for Easter
29 th March 2024	School Closed
16 th April 2024	Summer Term Starts (All Resume)



Chris Reid
Head Teacher