

January/February Newsletter

Children's Woods

We continue to work with our Partners in the Children's Woods to take forward Outdoor Learning. A group of P3s and P4s are currently taking part in Forest Schools on a Wednesday afternoon with Andrea and Nuha from Dunard. We shall soon be offering these sessions to some lucky Primary 1s and 2s.

'A Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning.'

Forest Schools has become widely recognized by educators as a good tool for learning which has an amazingly positive effect on children increasing their self-esteem and confidence.

What is a Forest School? *"an inspirational process that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence through hands-on learning in a woodland environment"*

What will we do?

Some examples of Forest School activities

- Shelter and den building
- Environmental art
- Tool use
- Fire lighting
- Nature based learning and activities

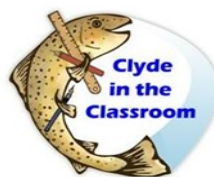
We have been working with Strathclyde University students in the Children's Woods to promote further active Outdoor Learning workshops.

P4/3	Assault course and dens	22 January 2018
P3	Chinese New Year outdoors	29 January 2018
P2a	Hungry Caterpillar Activities	5 February 2018
P2b	Stickman Activities	19 February 2018



Our nursery children shall be going to the Children's Woods on Wednesdays to take part in learning outdoors between 21st February and 21st March. Please speak to Wilma if you are able to come with us as helpers. Children will be outdoors every day. Please ensure that your child dresses suitably for the weather conditions.

Learning for Sustainability



Primary 6 are taking part in the 'Clyde in the Classroom Project'. This project is supported by our Parents/Carers as part of funds raised. Thank you!

The project encourages our children to engage with nature and develop a sense of pride in their local environment. Following a visit to the Science Centre in January 2018, to learn about the fish of the Clyde, they have an opportunity to meet the Scientists. The children learn how to take responsibility for the care of brown trout within their classroom in a Trout hatchery, and work weekly with **Clyde River Foundation Scientists** to ensure the trout thrive. *This is invaluable to our children's learning, growing and maturing as responsible young people. It opens up their minds and gives them an awareness of their community and how they can play their part in ensuring that they live responsibly within their own environment. There is always huge excitement on the day when they visit the River Kelvin and release the Trout into the river.*

John Muir Award

We are delighted to be working with **Lambhill Stables** to promote an environment for learning and growing within Dunard. Our Primary 6s shall undertake part of their John Muir Award with Lambhill Stables, learning through planting, growing, and harvesting vegetables about one of our 'Global Goals' of growing vegetables to cook with, reducing the carbon footprint.

Our P6s shall learn about looking after the environment both on our school grounds and within our local community. A huge welcome to Kelvin and Amelia from Lambhill Stables who are working with us to promote 'green spaces' for learning.

Beekeeper Visit	16 February 2018
Introduction to John Muir	19 February 2018
RSPB Bird Friendly School	28 February 2018
Wild Flowers and Planting	5 March 2018
Flowers and Dissection	12 March 2018
Soil sampling PH and Worms	19 March 2018
Food and Food Chains	26 March 2018
John Muir Day (Whole school workshops)	24 April '18
P6 Parent Assembly John Muir Showcase	30 April '18



January/February Newsletter

Reporting to Parents/Carers

This newsletter is one of a series of newsletters in which we report to our Parents/Carers about some of the exciting learning that is taking place in Dunard in Term 3. We work with a significant number of expert coaches, partners and facilities to ensure excellent real life, rich teaching and learning opportunities for our children. We send individual class newsletters, letters and text alerts to classes directly involved to provide more detailed information. This, alongside our class workshops, assemblies, class visits, our website, our displays and open afternoons showcase our learning.

Raising standards in Literacy

Dunard is an Attainment Challenge school. We have been given money from the Scottish Government to close the attainment gap in literacy. As part of raising standards in literacy, research shows that increasing children's reading engagement can increase and improve literacy success and can increase the vocabulary required in other areas of the curriculum. We are taking forward many research based initiatives to provide excellent learning and teaching in this area.

We have recently purchased a '[Reading Spine](#)' of the highest quality fiction for nursery to P7 to read using our Pupil Equity Funding.

We have organised a visit to the Mitchell library for all classes from P3-P7 to take part in Author Sessions as part of the 'Wee Write' festival in March 2018. Letters will be going out in schoolbags shortly. Parents/carers can find details of the author workshops on 'Wee Write' website. Our Primary 1s and 2s will enjoy storytelling and puppet sessions from the 'Wee Spanish Mobile Library' who shall provide the workshops in Dunard.

We are always delighted to have parent helpers to accompany our children on outings. If you are available please let our office staff know on 0141 946 1417.

[Wee Write Festival at the Mitchell Library 2018](#)

- P6 1st March at 09:30 Metaphrog: The Little Mermaid
- P3 7th March at 13:00 Jennifer Grey: Travels of Ermine
- P4/3 8th March at 12:30 Chae Strathie: Captain Firebird
- P7/6 9th March at 09:30 Jonathan Meres: The world of Norm
- P5/4 9th March at 10:00 Elizabeth Ezra: Ruby McCracken
- P7 9th March at 12:30 Jonathan Meres: The world of Norm
- P4s & 5s 9th March at 13:00 Elizabeth Ezra: Ruby McCracken
- P1a/b 12th March AM The Wee Spanish Library storytelling
- P2a/b 12th March PM The Wee Spanish Library storytelling

I am currently liaising with the literacy organiser of the West End Festival to organise further author/illustrator sessions to bring stories and books to life. Fingers crossed.

Raising standards in Literacy (cont...)

[First Minister's Reading Challenge](#)

In October, we relaunched 'The First Minister's Reading Challenge' to encourage all children from P1- P7 to get involved in reading for enjoyment. All children have received Reading Passports to log their success and those children participating in 'Children's University' gain credits for books they've read. Our next steps: A School Library.

[Scotland Reads](#)

We are very lucky to continue to take part in a paired reading project in Dunard between University students, Support for Learning workers and some of our upper primary pupils. Research shows that paired reading can encourage children to read more independently and become more positive about reading. Their confidence and reading skills are boosted through working on a one to one basis with these positive role models. Our results so far are showing significant gains in reading for children taking part and 100% of parents/carers have given positive feedback also.

[Playalong Storysack Family Learning Workshops](#)

We have been working with our Primary 1a, 1b and 2a Parents/Carers for a series of 6 fun filled Playalong Storysack Workshops. The [Primary 2b Storysack family workshops](#) begin on [21st February at 2.05pm](#) and are great fun for children and parents/carers. Details have gone out in bookbags along with a leaflet explaining Storysack sessions. Come along to as many as you can make. Our Primary 1a, 1b and 2a Parents/Carers/Staff and children were very enthusiastic about the sessions. Photographs and parent and child comments are on our Family Learning Wall just outside of the office and on our website at www.dunard-pri.glasgow.sch.uk. We hope that all P2b parents/carers or a family representative will join us. (Tea/coffee and biscuits provided!)

[Playing With Sounds Family Learning Workshops—Fridays](#)

Some of our Primary 1 parents/carers have attended a series of 6 weekly sessions on a Friday morning between 9 10am - 9 40am for 'Playing with Sounds'. Parents were invited into school to play early literacy games with their child and then take the game home to play. These were great fun to play and help to reinforce phonics, rhyme and phonological awareness.

Easter/Spring Break

**Please note that school will be closed for the
Easter/Spring Break**

School Closes Thursday 29th March 2 30pm

School reopens Monday 16th April at 9am