**Hawthornden Primary**

**Newsletter**

**February 2016**

Dear Parent/Carer

As always we have had a very busy month at Hawthornden Primary. Here is a flavour of what has happened and what we have to look forward to this month…

Firstly, a huge ‘Thank You’ to everyone who came along to our PATPAL session on Friday 5th February where the focus was on class topics. We were really delighted by the turnout and appreciate all of your support. It was great to see so many of you learning alongside your child and there certainly was a buzz around our school! This was also the same morning we had a visit from Grace Vickers, our Head of Schools and she was impressed with the parental involvement and all the work we are doing across the school, especially in Visible Learning.

**Sportshall Athletics**

On Monday 25th January, a team of P7 pupils represented Hawthornden at the Midlothian Sportshall Athletics competition. They took part in a variety of track and field events, excelling in many areas. We were first on the day and second overall in Midlothian. As a result of this, we were invited to take part in the East Regional Sportshall Athletics Finals at Meadowbank stadium – a first for Hawthornden! The event was held on Thursday 25th February, where competitors from the winning schools in East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders took part. Our team showed determination, excellent team work skills and perseverance, as well as a desire to do their best. We are very proud of our team, where many of our athletes won individual events or achieved personal bests.

**African Drumming**

This term, P3B, P5A and Primary 6 have been taking part in Drumming for Excellence workshops, developing their skills and confidence playing un-tuned Afro-Peruvian percussion instruments. All classes have been so enthusiastic about the workshops and are enjoying preparing for their up coming performances!

**Valentines Disco**

Many thanks to the Parent Council for organising this and to the parents who came along to help support this on the evening.

The disco was enjoyed by pupils from P1-P7.

**Pupil Assessment**

Over the next few weeks we will be implementing the GL assessments in mathematics and reading across our classes. These assessments are administered to all P4, P7 and S2 pupils across Midlothian. They are used to assess pupil progress in both these curricular areas.

**Tri-Learning Sessions**

Our teaching staff will be participating in Tri-Learning sessions over the next few weeks. These sessions involve our teachers working together in small groups to observe each other’s practice, with a particular focus on ‘The Language of Learning’ and ‘Dialogue v Monologue’. This provides them with the opportunity to share and learn from one another.

**P4 Vogrie**

On Monday 22nd February P4 enjoyed a day out to Vogrie Park where they took part in Bush Craft activities such as hammock and fire building. They even got to toast marshmallows on the fire! They were also lucky enough to work with the Midlothian Rangers, where they developed their senses by taking part in lots of activities in the local environment. The weather was very kind to us on the day. All the pupils demonstrated great team work skills, determination and excellent behaviour. Thank you to the parent helpers who came along on the day.

**Parking**

Please can we remind you that unless you have prior consent from the HT/DHT or the use of a disabled badge, the school Car Park **should not be used** for dropping off or picking up school children – **there is a notice to this effect** displayed in the car park which is for **staff and visitor parking only**. Also, the area must be free for any emergency vehicles to gain access should an incident occur. There was recently an accident in the car park between two cars, but this could just as easily have involved a person being injured. There has also been a number of near misses with staff and pupils, when cars are being manoeuvred in what is a very busy area. We have also had staff cars damaged which is not acceptable. If you do use the car park, you may be approached and asked to move your car – should this happen, I would ask that you please comply.

**March Diary Dates**

Mon 14 March – P5 Boness Railway Trip

Mon 14 March – P2 Edinburgh Castle (letter being issued)

Tue 15 March – P6 Edinburgh Zoo (letter being issued)

Tue 22 March – P6 Bike Checks

Wed 23 March – Easter Church Service

Thu 24 March – Break for Easter

**Yours sincerely**

**Gwen Maitland**

**Head Teacher**