

# Biggar Primary and Nursery Class



# This is Biggar Primary School!

Believe, Prepare, Succeed!

Respect, Honesty, Fairness,  
Kindness, Ambition, Determination

## April 2017

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>

P7 Bikeability after school

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>

Residential trip meeting in school at 7pm

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>

P5 Bikeability after school

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup>

P5 educational outing to Forth Crossing

### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>

P7 Bikeability after school

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>

P5 Bikeability after school

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup>

Reports distributed  
Parent Council Bake Sale @3pm

## MAY

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup>

HOLIDAY

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Parental consultations, 6.00-8.30

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Parental consultations, 3.30-6.00

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

INSET DAY

### Ultimate Challenge

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Primary 6 children from across our Learning Community met at the Municipal Hall to participate in the Ultimate Challenge, a new interactive activity for primary school pupils designed by development officers at South Lanarkshire Council.

The activity involved pupils working in collaborative groups to complete a number of tasks to crack codes, open locks etc. to solve a mystery which was presented to them at the start of the day. It was a challenging but fun way of developing pupils' literacy and numeracy skills. As a plenary the pupils participated in an activity to identify the skills for life and work that they had developed throughout the day.



### Primary 2 Showcase

Primary 2 delighted their visitors on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March when they held their showcase.

They introduced their session by acting out 'The Gruffalo' in Scots.

They then invited parents and friends back to the classroom to complete some tasks.

Well done to Mrs Ellwood and Primary 2.



## Science Week

Our second science week was launched on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March at a special assembly with guest presenters Mrs Wigram and Mrs Russell, members of our parent forum. The ladies really engaged the children through posing questions and then carrying out experiments to answer the questions. Experiments ranged from making bouncy eggs, oobleck slime making, self-inflating balloon races and even creating elephant's toothpaste!

Following the assembly, pupils in the nursery and school were able to have hands on experience relating to the theme of science week this year, 'Changes.' Examples of experimental work included changing the colours of flowers; changing states in baking; tracking the wind direction and speed for changes in the environment and research into transporting tomatoes as part of a 'Squashed Tomato' challenge. The latter saw P6 and P7 pupils engage in researching how best to design, make and test a system to help farmers in Nepal transport their tomatoes down the mountain to the market without squashing them. These science based lessons were in line with the CREST awards scheme, which is managed by the British Science Association. The focus for pupils in P1-P5 was CREST awards, while P6 and P7 are hoping to achieve a Discovery Award. The funding for the latter awards has been organised by Mrs Greene, member of our parent forum, who has managed to secure sponsorship for these activities from Cloburn Quarry.

## Larkhall Burns Club

Following on from our annual school competition two of our pupils participated in the competition held by Larkhall Burns Club on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Well done to Molly Tolson P6 and Jamie McConkey P7 for taking part in the recitation contest and congratulations to Jamie for coming second and being eligible to proceed to the next level of the contest which was the Lanarkshire finals. It was held at St.Aidan's High School on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and Jamie was placed first. Well Done!

Jamie will now go on to the National Festival which will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May in St Athanasius Primary, Carluke.



## Music Project

I am pleased to report that the Instrumental Music Service will deliver a bespoke Youth Music Project to P4 during our last term. The project known as Project 3 is funded through Creative Scotland and is offered to primary schools across the authority on a rotational basis.

The purpose of the project is to deliver practical music making opportunities that will enable children to explore different cultures and use this knowledge to build an understanding of orchestral instruments and other ensembles.

## Savage Cup

The last cross country race of the session took place on Thursday 30th March in the form of the Savage Cup. This year the cup was won by Fleming. Well done!

## Cross Country

The annual Clydesdale Cross Country Race took place at Lanark Race Course on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March. This proved to be an exciting and successful day for individuals and for the teams. Congratulations are extended to

P6 boys team - silver - Archie Allister, Ander Harrison, Kyle Gibb & Ruari Watson

P7 Boys team - gold - Euan McLeod, Fergus Watson, Tom Child & Connor Monteith

P7 Girls team - gold - Anna Venerus, Iona Simpson, Olivia Godfrey & Abbie Prentice

Individual races - Euan McLeod (P7) - gold, Ander Harrison (P6) - bronze, Olivia Godfrey (P7) - gold & Anna Venerus (P7) - gold

South Lanarkshire Primary Cross Country Finals were held at Chatelherault Country Park on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March and the top ten athletes, from their age group, in the Clydesdale Cross Country race were invited to represent their area. Congratulations are extended to:

Olivia Godfrey who received a silver team medal

Kira Davidson who received a bronze team medal

Ander Harrison who received a bronze team medal



## Parent Council- Stars in your Eyes

Everyone who attended the Stars in Your Eyes event in the school on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March was treated to a wide variety of acts from the talented children who participated. Thanks are extended to Katie Watson, Florence Simpson, Jenny Craig and Abbie Prentice who hosted on the night and Mrs Campbell, staff and Parent Council members for all their help in planning the event and during the evening.

## Parent Council

The Parent Council will be holding a bake sale after school on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Any baking should be sent to school on Friday morning along with a list of ingredients. All donations are very much appreciated and any funds raised will help to enhance teaching and learning for our pupils.

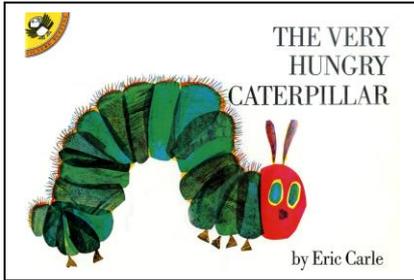


We would like to say a huge thank you to the Parent Council for funding the framed wordles for each class and the individual badges that were presented to the children on the occasion of our official opening.



A very big welcome to the children and their parents/carers who joined us just before the Easter break. We hope that you all feel settled soon and thoroughly enjoy coming to nursery each day. If there is anything about nursery life you are unsure of then please ask a member of staff for information.

## The Very Hungry Caterpillar



The very hungry caterpillar will be our focus for learning in April/May. A parent has very kindly offered to sponsor this focus by providing a caterpillar for each child to nurture and observe as it grows and changes from a caterpillar to a butterfly. We are very grateful to this parent for providing caterpillars and associated materials to enhance the learning in this context.

## Open Day Sessions

Thank you to those of you who were able to come and stay a while during the group open sessions and observe your child at play as well as look at their learning journey so far. We hope you find these sessions useful and informative about your child's progress in nursery.

## Easter

The Easter Bunny will join us on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April and hopefully weave his magic by hiding Easter eggs. The children's challenge will be to find them! We will also talk about the Christian story of Easter and how it is an important part of the Christian religious calendar.

## Science Week

As well as visiting the school Mrs Russell visited the nursery and repeated the exciting experiments. The children really enjoyed the week and learnt so much about how adding and mixing chemicals and substances together can bring about "change"- the theme of this year's British Science Week. We even made our own butter for snack!

## Red Nose Day

Thank you for your donations for Red Nose Day. The children took part in a variety of red nose activities including exploring why we donate this money to help those less fortunate than ourselves. The nursery raised £45.50 and the school raised £216.28.

## Parking Reminder

For drop off and pick up please use the designated car park and not the disabled bays/area directly in front of the nursery entrance. Please also refrain from using Foreknowe, the cul de sac across from the school. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this request.

## Broughton Junior Choir

The Junior Choir, part of Broughton Choral Society, was set up in 2001, but has not been running for a couple of years; historically several children from Biggar Primary and other local South Lanarkshire schools have sung with us. We hope to restart the choir after the Easter holidays for children from P4-P7 on a Weds. or Thurs. after school from 3.30-5pm in the Broughton School gym hall. Children will learn musicianship through Kodály based songs and games and sing together as a choir, joining the adults of Broughton Choral Society for their concerts. If your child/ren are at all interested, please contact Ruth Kirby by Tuesday 28th March on: Tel. No. 01721 760248 Mobile 07732125687 or [ruthj.kirby@virgin.net](mailto:ruthj.kirby@virgin.net).

This will ensure you are informed of all developments, but does not represent any obligation for your child/ren to take part!

I am Kodaly trained with NYCoS (National Youth Choir of Scotland) and teach musicianship through the medium of songs and games. Children are first introduced to musical concepts through experiences such as listening, singing, or movement and only after they are familiar with a concept do they learn how to notate it. We start with beat and pitch and I move on to rhythm, note values, and a lot more pitch work including the stave in various ways. This forms the basis of what is necessary for learning any musical instrument and teaches in a way that usually produces great musicality (this is definitely my experience!) I also work as a piano and singing teacher, and consider the voice as a fantastic instrument as it costs nothing and the children all have one! We use lots of equipment for songs and games and will be using percussion instruments eg claves and pitched boomwhackers (look them up!) which should be great fun.