

This Week at Claypotts

Another busy week has flown past, and across the school we are continuing to help children in everyday learning, friendships and play. The children are finding ways to notice what is happening, make good choices, steady themselves, accept help, show courage and contribute to the lives of others. We are very proud of all the children.

1. A Break in Learning

This week we have continued our new ten-minute afternoon break in learning. Children have a chance to pause, talk, reset and enjoy a piece of fruit before returning to their learning.

The fruit has been extremely popular!

A huge thank you to Tesco, who are providing the fruit with support from a grant we have managed to secure. This means that every child in school is now offered toast from Greggs every day, as well as fruit at least twice each week.

Sometimes the best way to get steady and get ready to learn again is simply to stop for a few minutes, eat something healthy and reconnect with the people around us.

2. The playground pick up

Can we ask all P2-P7 parents to pick up and drop off from the main school gates. The only parents allowed in the playground are P1. Members of the teaching staff, support staff and leadership team will be on hand to assist children.

3. Early pick ups impact upon learning

We have noticed a number of children being regularly picked up from 2.30 onwards. **Can we ask that only in exceptional circumstances should your child be picked up from school before the end of the day** as this will begin to impact upon their attendance. As these pick ups are recorded on SEEMIS this can then impact upon attendance measures if the pick ups happen over time and are regular. Please only pick up early if there are exceptional circumstances.

4. P7 Leading the Way – Dundee Bairns and School of Rock.

Our P7 children have been very busy with their learning in class, but they have also been showing what it means to Offer and Leave the World Bigger.

Many of our P7 children have been volunteering to play with and support our youngest children in P1 during breaks and lunchtimes. It has been lovely to see older children giving their time, helping others and being positive role models around the school.

There are also some exciting opportunities ahead for P7. Children have been offered the chance to take part in a dance performance supported by Dundee Bairns charity workers.

After the October holidays, Greenfield Academy will also be introducing a School of Rock opportunity involving our P7 children, leading towards a musical performance. There may be a few future rock stars among us - Rock and Roll!

5. Art Event on hold until after the October holidays

Due to how busy the Community Centre has been we are still working on a date when the facilities are available and it looks like it we will have to settle for early November. We have already run a number of art groups during the school day and after school. There are currently six groups running in total each week and thanks to one of our parents Cat Sutherland our children in P1 are being supported with fine motor skills and confidence through daily art activities. Thanks for your work, effort and expertise Cat.

6. Assemblies, Stories and New Foyer Posters

Our assemblies are going really well. The mixture of storytelling, music with Big Noise and smaller, more intimate gatherings is working particularly well for our children.

Sometimes the whole school comes together. At other times, smaller groups give children more space to listen, talk, reflect and take part. Our Walks stories are helping us explore courage, friendship, steadiness, kindness and contribution in ways that children can understand and remember.

As you arrive in the foyer, you will see new posters replacing the sketch notes. These posters represent the stories we tell at assembly and help bring our values and expectations to life around the school. We hope you like them!

7. Big Noise

Big noise have begun all of their impactful work across the school including one to one sessions, assemblies, nursery sessions, small groups, classroom sessions and after school clubs. We are thankful to the huge contribution they make to the school.

8. Tiny Stories – gentle reminders of our values ...

1. Pip and Moss and the Lost Mitten

Pip found a tiny red mitten beside the old oak tree.

“Someone will be looking for this,” he said.

Moss carried it to the woodland gate and hung it carefully on a low branch. Before long, a little rabbit came running over.

“My mitten!”

Pip smiled. “Sometimes noticing something small can make someone very happy.”

2. Pip and Moss and the Wobbly Log

A log had fallen across the path after the rain.

Pip jumped onto it straight away, but Moss stopped.

“I’m not sure I can do it,” he whispered.

Pip held out his paw. “Just one step.”

Moss took one step, then another, and soon he was safely across.

“That was courage,” said Pip.

Moss smiled. “It didn’t feel very big.”

“It doesn’t have to,” said Pip.

3. Pip and Moss and the Quiet Bench

One afternoon, Pip was unusually quiet.

Moss didn’t ask lots of questions. He simply sat beside him on the little wooden bench.

After a while, Pip said, “I think I just needed someone to sit with me.”

Moss nodded.

Sometimes shelter is not a roof or a house.

Sometimes it is just someone who stays.

4. Pip and Moss and the Last Apple

There was one apple left in the basket.

Pip looked at it.

Moss looked at it.

Then they both noticed a hungry little mouse sitting nearby.

Pip cut the apple into three pieces.

“One for you, one for me and one for our new friend.”

The mouse smiled.

The apple suddenly seemed much bigger.

5. Pip and Moss and the Muddy Path

After a night of heavy rain, the woodland path was covered in mud.

“We could just walk around it,” said Pip.

Moss looked at the tiny animals struggling to get through.

So they gathered sticks, stones and leaves and made a little path across the mud.

When they finished, Pip looked back.

“We came this way and left it better.”

Moss smiled.

“That’s a good walk.

And finally...

Thank you, as always, to our families, staff, partners and wider community for walking alongside our children.

Have a lovely weekend!

Nicky Murray

Headteacher