



Honesty

Respect

Happiness

Achievement

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope you all had a lovely Spring break. It has been lovely hearing about some of the adventures our pupils have been on. We were delighted to come back after the holidays to see that the work in the garden had started and is looking lovely. We cant wait for flowers to be planted to add some colour to the space.

KSPC

Following our Parent Council Meeting earlier this term, we thought it would be a good idea to have a refresh of resources that we are using school and resources available to you at home.

Decider Skills

In 2021 we introduced the resource The Decider Life Skills. We focused on each skill during Assemblies as a way of teaching the whole school how these skills can be used to help us deal with situations where we might feel overwhelmed or angry. The Decider resource calls this the fizz. Some of the strategies we have introduced are:

STOPP

IT WILL PASS

RIGHT NOW

NAME THE EMOTION

OPPOSITE ACTION

FACT OR OPINION

LISTEN

Ask your child about these, we are sure they will be able to tell you about these and how they can help them calm down in moments where they might feel the fizz.

As an SMT we refer to these when helping children resolve conflict or when we are restoring relationships after a situation has occurred. Over this last session we are also hearing PSAs and teachers using these skills

more and more thus really making these skills part of our ethos and learning culture within the school. Most children are able to choose one that they feel works for them and they too are able to explain how and when they have used the skill to help turn a situation around.

Numeracy Support Booklet

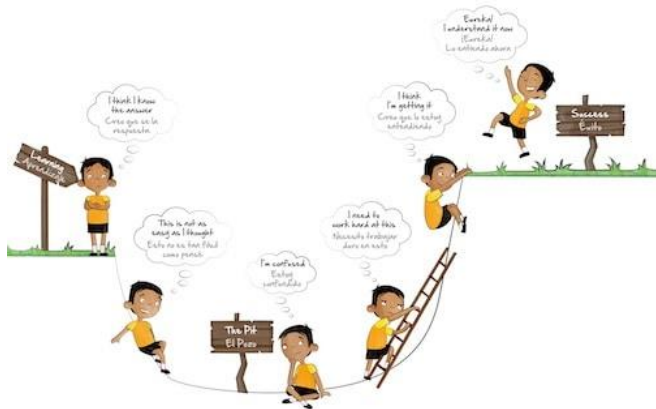
Over the recent years we have worked hard to develop the teaching and learning of Numeracy across Kinellar School. The Parent Council funded Numeracy boxes. Boxes that are filled with a whole array of resources that can be used to support all areas of the numeracy and mathematical curriculum. These boxes were well received by teachers and their learners and are used effectively across the school.

As well as this we created a booklet to support parents at home when supporting their child with Numeracy homework. Often strategies used to teach concepts change over the years and parents often find that their method is different from the way a pupil is taught in class nowadays. This does not mean there is a right or wrong method however consistency when teaching a new concept does help our learners and it avoids confusion. However, once a method is learned and the child is comfortable it can be good for their mathematical development to learn new strategies and this in when other methods can be shown. To support parents the Numeracy Support Booklet can be found on the Kinellar School Website [here](#).

Learning Pit

The Learning Pit was developed by James Nottingham based on the fundamental theories about how children learn. Making learning easy for children doesn't allow for learners to remember new concept or skills,

However, making learning challenging (putting them in the pit) and working with them by teaching them the skills to get out of the pit allows learning to become embedded and helps pupils to make connections between concepts but also life events/skills and learning. To learn more about the Learning Pit, understand how it is used and how it benefits learners watch this [short video](#) .



Most of our teachers attended a training session delivered by James Nottingham and we now use the theory in our everyday teaching and learning. We encourage our learners to think, explain and share their learning. We encourage problem solving and working with each other to help develop skills.

MTV

One of our areas of School Improvement focuses on 'Making Thinking Visible' (MTV). The theory behind this resource is creating a culture where our learners can develop as individuals who can think, plan, create, question and engage independently as learners. As a school we have been working hard to establish a culture where thinking routines are used consistently and regularly to develop essential skills for lifelong learning. We use thinking routines such as see-think-wonder, zoom in, compass points, chalk talk etc.. to engage learners when introducing topics, collecting opinions/thoughts as well as assessing learning and identifying next steps.

Your child will have used thinking routines in their class – ask them about them.

Pupils Profiles and Parental Comments

Our Snapshot Jotters and Pupil Learning Profiles are a great way to engage in your child's learning. It allows you to discuss their learning at home and find out about what they

have achieved and their next steps. Most classes have a class profile too which can generally be accessed on their classes Microsoft Team. This is often where photos and videos are posted so that you can see what has been happening during the day, week, and term. It would be nice to see more parents and pupils commenting on the posts even just a like would be good so we know it is being accessed.

With regards to the Profiles, the Parent Council raised that at times parents struggle to know what to write in a comment or how to write a comment. As the P4-P7 record their learning using PowerPoint Presentations. We suggest that when these are sent home to review them with your child, you add a slide with your comment. Parents are invited to write directly into a Snapshot jotter. Comments can be in the form of 2 stars and a wish.

For example



I really like that you have challenged yourself and started to use descriptive language in your writing.



I really enjoyed seeing your imaginative play with the kapla and makedo.



It would be nice to see your thinking more about challenging yourself with hard termly targets.

Or you could just write a comment like:

"I have really enjoyed hearing you talk through your slides/jotter sharing what you have been learning and how you have achieved success. I will look forward to seeing how you continue to develop these skills at home"

It would be great if you could write your name and date at the bottom of the slide/jotter.

Reviewed by Mum 28.4.23

Book Swap

We would like to thank our Rights Respecting and Equalities group for organising and running an extremely successful book swap. We had heaps of donations and all our children from nursery right to P7 were able to choose a new book to take home. It was lovely to see the children all engaged deciding which book to choose and sharing their decision-making process with staff and peers.

We hope that you enjoyed reading the new book with your child.

All the extra books will be given to Clan in Memory of Miss Singer.

Coronation Celebrations at Kinellar

On Friday 5th May we had a brilliant afternoon celebrating the King Coronation. Every class has spent the last two weeks learning and practising strip the willow.

At 2pm on Friday 5th May, if you were near the school you would have heard us playing Scottish music over the tannoy to the whole school to perform a strip the willow down each side of the playground.



It was brilliant fun despite the rain. They then went inside to ice a shortbread made by the school kitchen in the shape of a crown. They all decorated these with icing and

coronation coloured sprinkles before eating them in class. We hope you all enjoyed your long weekend and any of your own Coronation celebrations.



School disco

The Parent Council are organising a summer disco for **Friday 30th June**. Please correct these in your diaries as we know some of the class newsletters said 31st June.

Hop Trail

Mrs Gibb and Mrs Allan's class have been sponsored to paint a giant Hare for the Hop trail. Visit the website to find out more [here](#).



The Pupils are currently drawing pictures which will be transferred onto our hare that we have named Singer to the Star. The big Hop trail is being run by cancer research so we thought we would name ours in the memory of Miss Singer.

The hares come to us like these below and we paint them. We cannot wait to show you ours.



Community Information



Kinellar Community Hall presents:

Kinellar Gala 17th June



11am-4pm - Blackburn Playing Fields

• Inflatables - Games - Stalls - Beer Tent
★ Music - Dog Show - Face Painting

and so much more



MAKE YOUR MOVE

Junior's!

Fun holiday dance camps

Now open to book:

Mon 31st July - Weds 2nd Aug

P1 - P3

10am - 2pm each day
Kinellar Hall, Blackburn

£60 per child

Limited spaces - book now

Call: Lizzy 07718882382

Email: makeyourmove85@gmail.com

Tempest Photograph

We will be having Tempest Photography in school on Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th May to take individual and family photos. We have decided that every child will get a family photo with nursery/school siblings and an individual photo. It will be up to families to decide which (if any) they buy.

Please ensure your child comes to school on Monday and Tuesday in their school uniform even if it is a PE day.

Staffing

We said Goodbye to Miss Davidson who took up a permanent post in Aberdeen City. We wish her all the best of luck in her next chapter.

Mrs Driver who has been with us since last session and who has been teaching P2 has taken over P4S. She was very excited about this as she had some of the pupils last year in P3.

Miss Hay returned this week from Maternity Leave. She will be teaching P2S alongside Mrs Martin.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Martin is pregnant with her first child. She will be starting her maternity leave early next session.

Congratulations to Mrs Cruickshank who had a baby girl, Connie, last week. Congratulations also to Miss Milligan who had a baby boy, Travis, at the weekend. All are doing well.

Dates for your diary

15th&16th May – Tempest photographs
(individual and families)

17th May – P2 Assembly

From 24th May – Reports Issued

25th May – Lend a Hand Evening 6pm-8pm

2nd June – Report feedback due

5th June – Occasional Holiday

31st May – Sports Day (afternoon 1.30pm - 3.15pm)

7th June – Alternative Sports Day (afternoon 1.30pm -3.15pm)

8th June – Parents Evening 4pm -6.30pm

13th June – Parents Evening 4pm-6.30pm

22nd June - Snapshot/Profiles home

30th June – KSPC Disco

7th July – Last day of term