

## Parent Council Meeting - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Head Teacher's Report

I would like to begin this month's report by celebrating the achievements of two of our pupils in activities they pursue outside of school.

Harris Weir plays football at the Sons of Struth Football Academy which has links with Benfica Football Club in Portugal. A charter flight was arranged which allowed some of the coaches, volunteers and players to travel to Benfica's stadium where they could also visit the club's museum, attend two training sessions and even meet the Eagle that flies into the stadium ahead of the kick-off on match days. Harris appreciates how fortunate he has been to be selected for this amazing experience and his family were naturally delighted and very proud of Harris.

Charlie Junnor is a very keen badminton player and is now competing at national level. At a recent tournament, Charlie played extremely well and is now ranked, for his age group, 5<sup>th</sup> in Scotland for doubles and eighth for singles. Charlie now also practises badminton in school from 8.00am and also at lunchtime. Charlie will be attending the Badminton Scottish Open at the end of November which will be held in the Emirates Arena and Charlie will hopefully be able to participate in a two-hour coaching session before watching some of the professionals in action.

Last week, in school, everyone engaged fully in an amazing week of Maths activities organised by Principal Teacher, Mrs Strang. In a summary report, here is what Mrsang had to say about our involvement in Maths Week Scotland:

This week has been our most successful Maths Week yet! Our young learners have had the opportunity to investigate how we use maths in our every day lives, to apply their maths skills across the curriculum and to develop a positive and fun attitude to maths.

Some of our highlights:

PE Counts – our **mathletes** delivered PE Counts lessons to all classes across the school, combining maths skills with physical activity

Technology – our **infant** classes used Beebots to develop their skills in sequencing, learning direction and problem solving. Our **upper** and **senior** pupils had fun directing our Spheroes around the lunch hall and using them to create abstract works of art

Science – some of our children conducted an experiment about chromatography. They created symmetrical patterns and then dipped their filter paper in water to see how the ink moved and mixed

Developing the young workforce – our children investigated future career pathways and demonstrated the skills they will need for the world of work. On the last day of Maths Week, many of our young learners came to school dressed as they might look in their future job. We had many doctors, vets, lawyers, make-up artists and a few new careers; blogger, coder, you-tuber. What an inspirational, caring and entrepreneurial young workforce we are developing.

Collaboration – our teachers worked collaboratively to create outdoor learning activities led by our senior pupils who provided support and guidance to our infant children

Art – all classes had lessons that linked art to various aspects of maths (symmetry, Numicon robots etc)

Visiting Specialists –the construction department at Clyde College delivered practical workshops to our **senior** pupils on topics such as measuring accurately and converting measurements during joinery and building sessions. Glasgow Credit Union delivered workshops to our senior pupils on financial education and how to manage their money.

Pupils leading learning – this was the most pleasing part of the week for Mrs Strang. 16 of our P6 and P7 children who are Mathletes delivered lessons across the school and across the curriculum. They are fantastic role models and we are all very grateful for the support they gave Mrs Strang this week. Mrs Strang and indeed everyone at Cardonald Primary School are immensely proud of the work they did (and continue to do).

#### The Lost Woods and Green Action Trust Project

Today, 8 of our children went to Cathkin Braes to plant trees as part of the Lost Woods and Green Action Trust project to create a forest in an urban area. Overall, 17,000 trees will be planted to help support the environment.

#### Car Free Zone now known as the 'School Streets' programme

Last week, I took part in an online meeting with Glasgow City Councillors and members of the Road Traffic Department. Cardonald Primary School is currently on the list of schools being considered for inclusion in the 'School Streets' programme. (formerly known as the School Car Free Zone (SCFZ) project).

The following link provides some useful information about the scheme and how it can help promote active sustainable travel and improve road safety within the zone. <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=24203>

I mentioned at the meeting that I wanted to discuss this offer with the Parent Council as a decision is required by the end of this month. The phase is scheduled to be implemented in January 2022. For this reason, I asked for this proposal to be added to the agenda for discussion this evening.

#### Playground and Outdoor Learning Proposals

At last month's meeting, many excellent suggestions were put forward to improve the outdoor learning experience opportunities for our pupils across all age groups. I was grateful for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Kompan representative for meeting with myself and Mrs Waddell to walk round the three outdoor areas as a follow up to the suggestions put forward in September's meeting. This was extremely helpful as some issues not initially obvious became apparent during the on-site visit and I will be happy to discuss further during this tonight's meeting.

From today, fruit for every pupil was delivered and this will happen twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday. This initiative will continue until the end of March.

#### Parent Pay

The school sent out a reminder to parents to activate their Parent Pay account as from the Monday after the October break, all transactions will go through Parent Pay and the school will not accept cash payments. A letter was sent out in June regarding this and only 13% of parents have activated their account so far. Another letter will be sent out to all families this week.

Sadly, September saw us pay tribute as well as say a huge thank you and farewell to Mr Bell who served the school with such dedication, distinction and professionalism. Mr Bell has to be one of, if not the most popular teacher in Cardonald in recent times. We wish him every success in his new venture.

We were very happy to have it confirmed that a replacement for Mrs Clark will start in the school office on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Mrs Seils has had to work on her own since the school returned in August and we thank you all for your support and understanding during this challenging time with regard to administration and clerical duties. Well done Mrs Seils and thank you on behalf of the Cardonald School Community.

Best wishes,

Martin Coogan  
Headteacher  
Cardonald Primary School