

HT Report for Parent Council meeting on 4th February 2020

We are delighted to welcome Mr Dhillon to Cardonald Primary School as the Primary 4 class teacher. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mr Dhillon and all the Primary 4 pupils a pleasant and successful term 3 and 4.

The school received many visitors as well as awards during January. The team from PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) were in classes during the first week of term and the feedback and reports continue to be upbeat and extremely positive. This is such an important programme towards supporting children in how they cope and deal with challenging situations and I am grateful for the work of Mrs Russell from PATHS and Mr Bell who is one of our in-school coordinators along with Mrs Rodriguez on behalf of the Senior Management Team.

Throughout January and for the next few weeks, we have been fortunate to receive visits every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from Mr Wilkinson who is an EAL (English as an Additional Language) specialist. There were limited spaces available for receiving input and support from the EAL team and we were therefore delighted to be one of the schools who were successful in applying for this support. The more able all of our pupils are in accessing the curriculum independently, the more everyone in each class will benefit. There will also be training offered to the teaching and support staff during the Inset day this Friday. Every EAL pupil has now been assessed by Mr Wilkinson and strategies to use in class have been demonstrated and introduced to staff during team teaching sessions.

Specialist French lessons started in January with visits from Mrs Norton now taking place for Primary 5, 6 and 7 which is a very exciting development. The plan is for this to expand throughout the school and training will be offered to teachers in order for them to be able to deliver the French programme across the whole school.

Cardonald Maths Week will involve workshops, visiting maths specialists and younger children working with older children on maths activities. This will be on the week beginning the 24th February. Our very own Mathletes will be leading a variety of maths activities for everyone to participate in.

The following week we will be celebrating World Book Day. Children will be dressing up as their favourite book character and Dan Serridge will visit to lead story telling sessions with each class. Older pupils will be reading with younger children and Literacy Leaders will be planning other activities. We have now started weekly paired reading sessions with our Rosshall students. The children involved in these sessions are excited to be taking part and research shows that participation in the scheme helps to increase reading confidence.

Cardonald Primary School received the Cycle Friendly School Award along with only 5 other schools across Glasgow. This was as a result of the Bike Shelter being installed, the Bikeability sessions and the work of our JRSO team. Well done to everyone involved and thank you to Mrs King for her leadership role throughout these projects. We are proud to announce that we now have a Primary 1 teacher who is trained in Balanceability. Hopefully, we will be able to purchase Balance Bikes to develop early cycling skills with our young children.

Owen from Zoolab came to the school on Tuesday and Friday of last week which allowed every class to visit him in the upper playroom for a 45 minutes session with a variety of exotic animals. Due to the recent natural disasters endured in Australia which affected so much wildlife, Owen prompted discussions with each class about how the animals could have been affected and how they may be able to be helped to recover. Owen was also very impressed with the knowledge of so many of our pupils and they were more than happy to share this with their class during the sessions. We look forward to working with Zoolab again in the future.

We have been working hard at improving and upgrading the school's website which was launched last Friday and we hope you enjoy the new layout, information and additional links for information.