

Kirkistown Primary School Newsletter

November 2020



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Grace Johnston (P5) who finished as runner up in a UK-wide creative arts competition during lockdown.

The judges wanted to see something imaginative, interesting, moving or inspiring, and to hear a few words on the story behind each creation and Grace certainly delivered on all these fronts with her wonderful weave.

Grace's work will now be displayed in an exhibition in leading London art gallery, Wilson Stephens and Jones, before Christmas.

On behalf of all our school community, well done to Grace.

<https://www.schoolreaders.org/create-exhibition>



Grace Johnston, aged 8

'I made a weave based on the beach. During lockdown I would walk with my family to the beach beside our house. We had lots of fun going into the water, making sandcastles, playing and looking for pretty coloured stones and driftwood. It helped me relax during lockdown.'

External Decoration Programme

The planned remedial works to the building exterior are at an advanced stage. We have had new guttering fitted, new fencing, a powerwash to the exterior as well as repairs made to plasterwork. The painting is now in the final stages. We have opted to maintain the traditional 'ivory' colour at the front of the building while utilising two different shades of grey to tie the old part of the building in with the new extension. This is also in keeping with the recent repainting of the wall at Cloughey Beach Car Park. We are extremely grateful to the Education Authority Staff who have heard our requests and accepted our proposals.

We are now awaiting works commencing on the resurfacing of the play area at the very back of school. This additional space will make a difference to our children, becoming a multi-use space for classes to make the most of.



New guttering at the front of the building



Two tone exterior wall



The front of school



School Council Elections

Classes have been busy electing their school councillors for the new academic year. Congratulations to the following children who have been democratically elected by the peers to represent them for the coming year.

Year Group	Representatives
Primary 1	Evie David
Primary 2	
Primary 3	
Primary 4	James Kristian
Primary 5	Gregg Willow
Primary 6	Harry Leah
Primary 7	Evan Lucy

The school council have been involved in developing policy; it was a suggestion from the school council that the winning house each half term be awarded a free **non-uniform day** to reward their good learning behaviours, choices and to encourage these to continue. This has proved to be a successful motivator for many of our children and was adopted within our school 'Positive Behaviour Policy.'

Last year the school council were tasked with consulting their peers on how best to spend a sum of money to improve the playground.

As a result of these consultations and discussions, the children opted for the purchase of 10 scooters! The scooters are due to be collected at the start of November and will be accompanied by 10 safety helmets.

Outdoor Learning

We've been very busy again during October and have continued to make the most of our fantastic setting in lots of different ways! Make sure you keep an eye out for us about Cloughey.



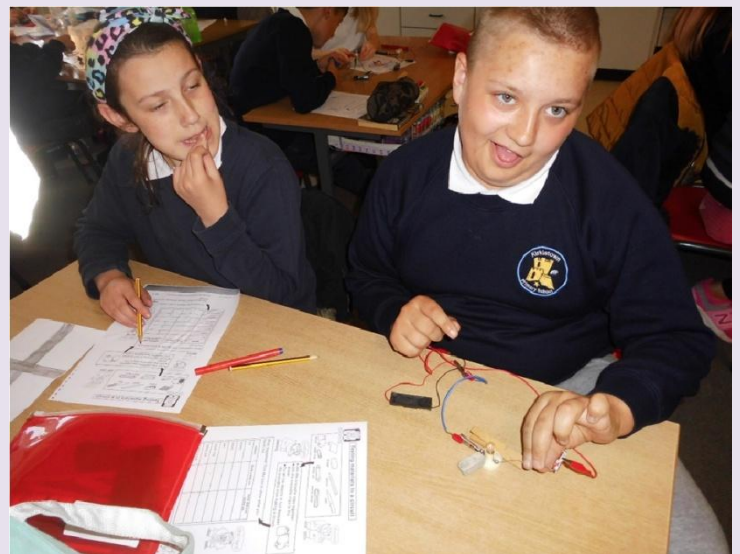
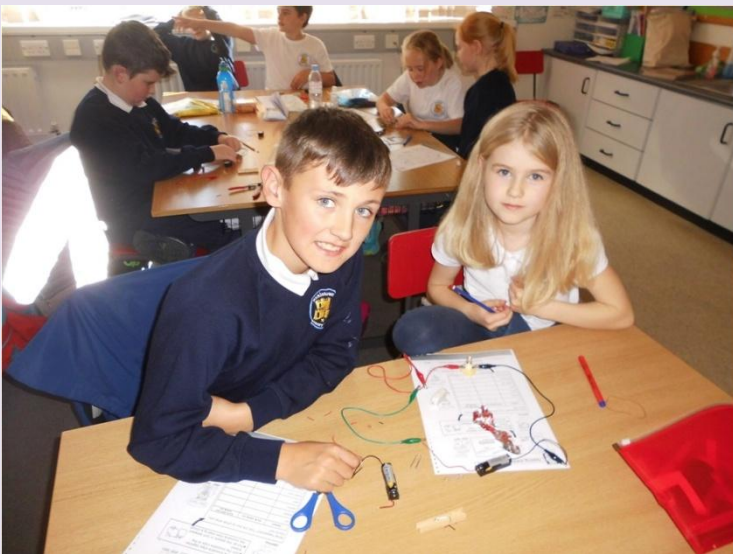
Science Learning

Children in Key Stage 2 have been enjoying practical science sessions linked with their 'World Around Us' topics.

While Primary 4 and 5 have been learning about 'Rainforests and Lifecycles', they have been looking at the inner workings of plants, labelling the male and female parts.

Primary 6 and 7 children have been learning about electricity as part of their 'Victorians' topic.

All classes will shortly take part in a whole school Science Week designed to promote scientific thinking and the recording of results. We can't wait.



Health Education

Find out how we've been helping to look after the self esteem and mental health of our children since returning to school via our website:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/health-education.html>

Non-Uniform Day for Cloughey House

Congratulations to 'Cloughey' House who have won the non-uniform day for our first half term. Children from Cloughey House should come to school in their own clothes on **Friday 06 November 2020**. All other children should wear school uniform as normal. Cloughey House were winners in 3 of the 7 weeks. Well done to everyone who earned the house points for making good choices to seal the victory!

Parent Interviews

We were delighted to honour our arranged 'Parent Interviews' during the week commencing Monday 19 October 2020. Thank you to all our parents who made themselves available to discuss their child's progress by telephone. If you were not able to answer the call from your child's teacher, please get in touch with Mrs O'Lone by telephone (02842771455) to arrange an alternative time to discuss with your child's teacher.

Friendship Week / Anti-Bullying Week

Our annual 'Friendship Week' will take place on the week commencing **Monday 16 November 2020** with a theme of '**United against bullying**'. Children will be invited to take part in '**odd socks**' day on the Monday and will take part in a number of activities across the week to reinforce the important message that we all stand together against bullying; that's okay to be yourself.



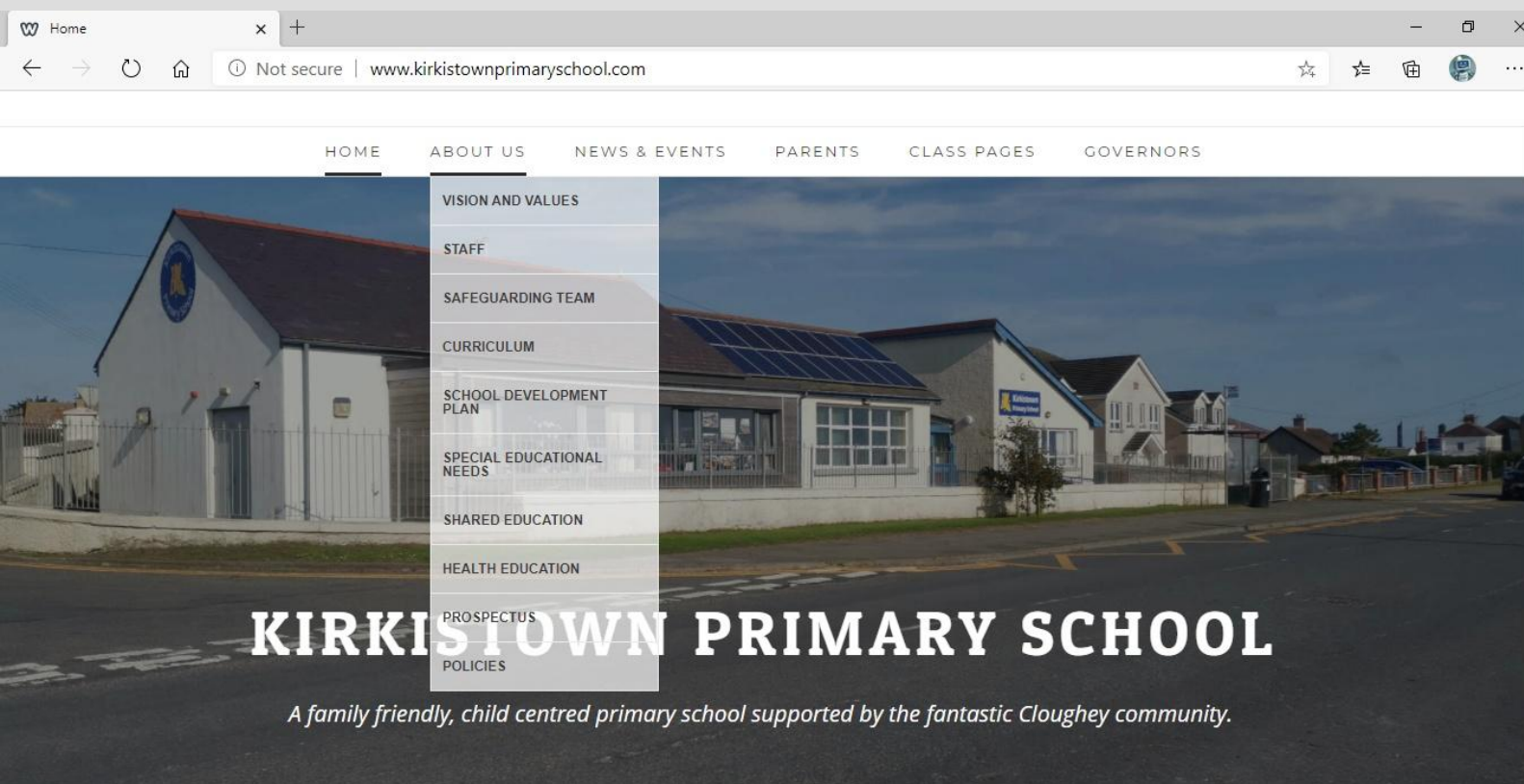
Reading Books

We are hopeful that we will shortly be able to begin sending home physical reading books with our children. We appreciate that while some children really enjoy online reading through Bug Club that many children prefer to physically hold a book in their hands and share it with an adult.

In order for us to facilitate this, it will be necessary for us to put systems in place. This will involve reading books being sent home on **Monday** and being returned on **Thursday**.

School Website

Further pages and updated policies have been added to our school website during October. We hope that our website continues to become a timely and reliable source of information for our community. <http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/>



Class Pages

A reminder that all class pages can be viewed on our website to provide insight into what your children have been up to.

Reception & Primary 1:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/reception-class--primary-1.html>

Primary 2 & Primary 3:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/p2--p3.html>

Primary 4 and Primary 5:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/p4--p5.html>

Primary 6 and Primary 7:

<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/p6--p7.html>

Alongside our use of Seesaw (Foundation Stage and Lower Key Stage 1), Google Classroom (Upper Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) and our Facebook page, we believe we're doing everything we can to keep you well informed.

Looking Further Ahead...

School Nurse Team Visit

We are due to be visited by the School Nurse team on **Tuesday 01 December 2020** to administer the annual flu vaccinations. Ahead of this visit, parental permissions and relevant updated information will be sought. School would greatly appreciate your timely consideration to allowing your child to participate in this very worthwhile programme, particularly at this difficult time worldwide.

Christmas 'Nativity' and Carol Service

It will sadly not be possible to host our traditional carol service and nativity performances in their traditional format this year. School will communicate with parents about our plans in the near future.

Engage Programme

School has been able to access additional funding to help close gaps that have been created as a result of lockdown and the impacts of coronavirus. Staff have already met and agreed the outline of a programme designed to improve confidence, self-esteem and help improve understanding in the key areas of literacy and numeracy for learners from Primary 2 to primary 7. Teaching staff will be making decisions on who will access individual programmes, starting in mid November, looking at their beginning of year assessments and ongoing formative assessments in class.

'Time to Read' Programme

We are delighted to restart our involvement in the 'Time to Read' Programme, commencing **Monday 09 November 2020**. This programme helps provide a weekly 1:1 read for some children with the help of a very special and experienced volunteer. School has risk assessed the session and passed a copy of this to the 'Time to Read' project. Participating children will be asked to wash their hands before and immediately after the session with desks and seats being used being cleaned after each use. As only one of our two volunteers will return initially, children in Key Stage 2 will be prioritised.



Diary dates

Our calendar, denoting any significant weekly events can accessed via our website:
<http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/calendar.html>

Term dates

Term dates for the 2020-2021 academic year can be accessed via a document at the bottom of the following page: <http://www.kirkistownprimaryschool.com/term-dates--holidays.html>

Contact Us



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www.facebook.com/KirkistownPrimarySchool



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk2P4BsM0Ti7umhkr8Cw1pA>



**Learning together,
building for the future**