

MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 25 – 02.01.18

There only seemed to be one thing on everyone's mind this week and that was the emergence of the Super Blue Blood Moon. As Classes 1 and 2 have chosen Space and Planets for IDL theme this was an exciting opportunity to further explore the connections between the sun, earth and moon (CfE SCN 0-06a –SCN 2-06a) and the link between daily, monthly and annual patterns of life.

Home learning for Class 1 is to look out of the window at bed time and notice how bright the moon is and how it will now start to wane. I have always believed that the weather affects mood and behaviour and this is ever more so with young peoples who have highly developed sensory needs. A strong wind and a full moon can impact in positive and negative ways, and recognising this helps us to build secure and trusting foundations which will impact on daily lives as Meadowpark pupils grow and develop independence.

Meadowpark pupils are keen to achieve RRS (Rights Respecting Schools) Level 1 by the change of timetable in June. To do this we are creating class charters based on the UNCRC and I have contacted UNICEF to ask for guidance and support to achieve this goal. It is essential that pupil's voices are heard and while that might create a physical challenge for some Meadowpark pupils I am confident that with appropriate planning, support and necessary resources all pupil voices will be heard Article 12: "You have the right to speak up and have your opinions listened to and taken seriously by adults on things that affect you".

Class 2 presented an excellent assembly today which highlighted the need to have a unilateral approach to rights and responsibilities and in particular identified the need to share opinions and experiences.

Some Meadowpark pupils have been developing their cycle awareness skills on Friday mornings and will be given a certificate upon completion of this course. It is an excellent opportunity to access Knox Academy resources and further embeds our ethos that collaboration between the two sites is essential for the health, well-being social and academic progress of all our pupils.

We are hurtling towards the February half term and as I reflect on this last term it is with a sense of satisfaction that we have made good progress in terms of developing a worthwhile learning experience for pupils, and we are reaping the benefits of listening to our pupils and their families to ensure that the pace and challenge we set is appropriate and meaningful.

To conclude this week teachers and some support staff have participated in Restorative Practice training which I know will have a positive impact on our young people and further underpin the use of Emotion Works and positive behaviour approaches. Meadowpark pupils are encouraged to reflect on moments of crisis and frustration and I am confident that teachers can adopt RP approaches to allow for thinking time, self- regulation, a satisfactory conclusion and continue to provide opportunities for develop resilience and positive mental well-being.

Charli Prime DHT 02.02.18