

We have had a very exciting week this week giving and receiving.

Our very own Santa, Mark Coull from Strive/Men in Sheds and the effervescent Kelly Clarke from Loose Parts Play visited us on Wednesday with a giant tumbling tower set, outdoor dominoes, a storage box and a table and benches set! We have been gradually building up our supply of items and equipment and these new additions have stimulated play, cooperation and discussion.

Meadowpark pupils were tasked with designing David Wilson Homes' official Christmas card, which will be sent to the housebuilder's customers and partners. Max Smith from Class 1 designed the winning picture of a jolly Santa Claus and he received vouchers for his efforts. Two brand new bikes were also presented by DWH sales advisor, Lynsey Karwowski to the school to thank all pupils for their participation. Anne Ross, sales director for Barratt Homes East Scotland, said: "The standard of entries for our Christmas card competition was really high and we want to thank all the pupils who entered - we hope they enjoy using their new bikes. Max's design was the cream of the crop, and we hope he gets something special with his voucher."

As we are receiving so we are giving: today we have raised £33 for Save the Children and several weeks ago we raised £10 for Children in Need. They might be small amounts, which is reflective of the size of our school, but the desire to be part of national fund-raising events, which promote a sense of belonging and integration is evident in pupil's participation.

On Monday I received an email from Susan from the Haddington Peer group or Soup Group as they are affectionately known with this lovely message:

"The group cannot thank you and your team enough for all the support you have given us this year. Without it, it is doubtful that the group would have managed to keep going. As it is we have grown so much that we've had to add a table and some more chairs. The group has become a very important part of the members' lives, and we have heard that we are one of the only peer led groups in the country to be supported in the way you are supporting us. Once again, thank you".

I find it incredibly heart-warming knowing that a small gesture such as offering the Life Skills Flat once a week has had such a massive impact on the group. When I came into post and saw Meadowpark school and grounds, I realised immediately that there could be opportunities in offering our facilities to the local community, and indeed we have: LAS Basecamp use the school on Wednesdays, Social Work have two contact sessions for families and a pupil from the primary and pupils from Knox Academy access the Sensory and Soft Play Rooms.

With 5 school days ahead of us, we are aiming to maintain a certain level of normality and structure by following our curriculum and timetable as best as possible but with a few additional treats such as delivering our gorgeous Christmas boxes on Monday 18th to Knox Academy, attending Christmas lunch and Concert on Tuesday 19th; dancing and playing games at Meadowpark Christmas party on 20th; joining the S5s in Social Dancing on Thursday before collapsing in a heap on Friday!

Charli Prime DHT

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