

MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 1 – 17.08.18

We welcomed Meadowpark pupils back this week just as the builders were getting ready to leave. Work has continued throughout the summer to prepare the remaining two classrooms for use. We have engaged with staff and pupils which has allowed us to make minor changes to the layout and furnishings of the new rooms. Both are south facing and so will get a lot of natural light, and the new windows will help with noise reduction and insulation in winter. We have also opted for carpet on the floors in place of linoleum, and the use of the sound proofing system has been so effective in the original classes that this has been installed as a matter of course. Contractors are not quite finished and so the two classes remain out of bounds, but to know that the rear corridor is insulated, warm, and attractive has generated a greater sense of ownership for all.

We welcome our new S1s – Rowan, Lucy and Evan underwent an extensive transition period from February and have arrived brimming with confidence. We also welcome two new faces Matei in S1 and Douglas in S2. Matei has come from Romania and so everything is very new for him, is managing to come into school every day and getting to know his peers. Douglas has come from Hull and has a vast array of skills that he has been sharing with staff and pupils – not least his amazing Diabolo tricks <https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=diabolo+tricks&FORM=HDRSC2>.

Perhaps we are in need of Circus Skills classes as one of our new learning assistants, Jane Irwin, is able to ride a Unicycle. We also welcome Mhairi Gould who has come from Haddington Infants and has a wealth of support experience. Finally we are delighted to welcome Ally Fairbairn who will be working part-time to support staff and pupils over lunchtime.

Last but by no means least we welcome our new head teacher, Sue Cook. I have had the benefit of working closely with Sue when we were both in Leith Academy and I know that she upholds the values of inclusion for all, ambition, respect and community and spoke to all Meadowpark staff and pupils about her rainbow vision to celebrate diversity.

I will do my very best to keep Meadowpark parents informed of events and dates in the Knox Academy calendar, which can be found Knox Academy website: <https://www.ka-net.org.uk/>

I am acutely aware that it can be difficult to travel in the evenings and therefore establishing a Meadowpark Parent Council and PTA has been a struggle, therefore the best course of action is for parents who are able, to attend the Knox Academy Parent Council

<https://www.edubuzz.org/knoxparents/>

or become part of the Knox Academy PTA <https://www.ka-net.org.uk/support-your-learner/parent-teacher-association>.

This will ensure better whole school links and, hopefully, assist with fund-raising for resources that will benefit all pupils across the whole school.

We all hope to see the sun return but in the meantime I hope that the positive start we have had will last throughout this academic session.

C. Prime 17.10.18