

NEWSLETTER – MEADOWPARK – WEEK 23 – 19.12.18

There was an element of disappointment on Tuesday and Wednesday that Haddington wasn't the 'beneficiary' of a heavy snow fall. I had visions of our pupils making snow men, discussing the myriad snowflake patterns, recognising that no two snowflakes are the same, and exploring the impact of snow and ice on the environment. However, when I see how some parts of the country have been affected perhaps it is better that we had a small flurry enough to make a snowball or two but not enough to cause grief.

Kelly Clark from Loose Parts Play came to our whole staff meeting on Wednesday and within minutes had managed to turn the tired frowns of staff upside down by having us all playing a game of catch while surreptitiously introducing objects for throwing and catching: bean bags, a slimy toy, and then mugs. Kelly was challenging our perception of play and risk taking and it was obvious to see how quickly we all responded to each other's laughter.

Kelly regularly leaves interesting items in our playground and we will be setting a date soon for whole staff training so that we all have the confidence to encourage pupils to use these resources in creative and stimulating ways.

Today we launched our intention to become more familiar with the Convention for the Rights of The Child. I held an assembly and displayed a power point outlining some of the main areas for concern for pupils: Cared For, Protected, Participating, Freedom of Expression, Education and Play, Survival and Development, Rehabilitation and Care

I had contacted the CYPCS (Children and Young Person's Commissioner for Scotland) prior to Christmas asking for booklets and posters to be sent out and these have been given to pupils.

Perhaps parents and carers can reinforce this at home by using this link to the UNICEF website where you can see a number of resources: https://www.unicef.org/rightsite/484_540.htm

There are also a number of videos to watch on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml2dYmNCJVQ>

We will continue to revisit the Rights of the Child to generate awareness and understanding and which is a requirement for pupils under the new Children Act:

<https://www.cypcs.org.uk/policy/children-young-people-scotland-act> and as advocated by the CYPCS (Children and Young Person's Commissioner Scotland): <https://www.cypcs.org.uk/> and <https://www.cypcs.org.uk/about/plan>.

Charli Prime 19.01.18