

## MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 6 – 21.09.2018

Storm Ali certainly ruffled a few feathers here this week – and I don't just mean our feathered friends who inhabit the surrounding trees. The old adage that high winds affect children and animals is true and especially for young people who are often at the mercy of their sensory perceptions. The wind howled through the trees with such ferocity that it was only correct that we heeded the warnings and kept our young people safe indoors. Fortunately we have a flexible space and so the common room, soft play, gym and food court were all able to be fully utilised.

It hasn't felt like just a four day week – maybe because of the storm – as we have worked hard to catch up on time lost because of the holiday. Not that I am complaining quite the opposite it is indicative of the hard work and dedication that teachers at Meadowpark put into planning to ensure inclusion across the board and setting goals and targets to be achieved.

We are delighted that Max is able to join Ms Cook's Hot Chocolate Friday today. Max was chosen because he has a quiet determination to succeed and expresses himself through creative use of paper making models of animals and humans that reflect how he views life. Kelly and Max from Loose Parts Play rallied the team on Tuesday afternoon and demonstrated just what can be achieved with discarded items. Inner tubes were fastened around the wooden posts that remain from an assault course; cymbals were used as hoops to roll along the ground; a bicycle wheel became a spinning top; cloths were tied to the posts and danced in the wind before being let loose and draped over pupils as cloaks and masks. The squeals of delight, amazement and sense of constructing and de-constructing ensured everyone had the opportunity to be engaged. We will continue to pursue avenues for fund-raising and source appropriate junk and scrap. We would still love to have a garden and develop intergenerational link with the local community, which Tyne class will be investigating as part of their John Muir Award.

Dr Adam Burley who I heard speak last summer about ACE (adverse childhood experiences) and the often devastating resulting homelessness is speaking with Forth class on the subject of being homeless to support the class novel *Blade*, whose central character is homeless.

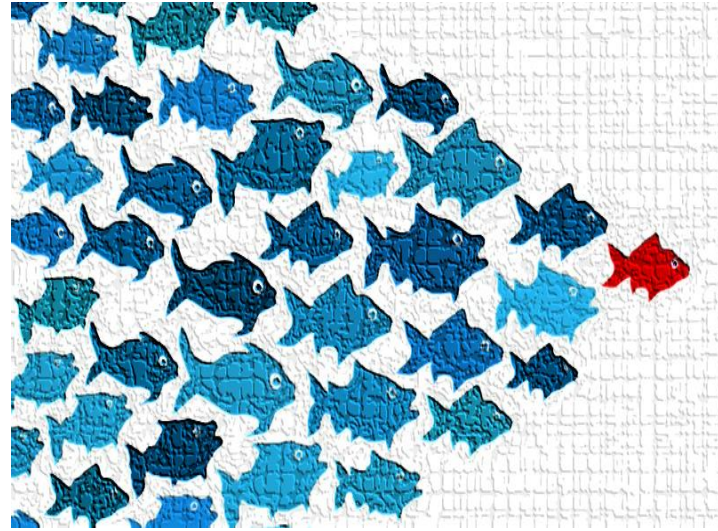
This afternoon I am presenting alongside many of my colleagues from across middle and senior management at the final session of Leadership Matters, an inspirational course that we have all embarked on thanks to a drive from Fiona Robertson to enhance our practice and to engage with HGIOS4 and GTC Professional Standards.

Here is a copy of the poster that I will be presenting – the image bottom left is entitled 'There's always one' because sometimes it's tough being at the helm, when difficult decisions have to be made. I have this frieze in my house and it reminds me that sometimes it's ok to swim against the tide, so long as you can justify your intentions, and I know that sometimes young people with additional support needs often feel as if they are heading in the wrong direction. I hope we can continue to relentlessly pursue a positive destination for all our young people both here and in Knox Academy and I will be working with EL Works, Edinburgh College and associated services, organisations and agencies towards this.

C. Prime 21.09.18

## ***Leadership Matters***

Learn to be **L**ight hearted  
**E**ffective and **E**fficient  
**A**ssertive and **A**nswerable  
**D**etermined not **D**elusional  
**E**mpathetic without being too  
**E**motional  
**R**esilient and **R**esolute



**S**elf - reflect and **S**elf - evaluate  
**H**onest and **H**umane  
**I**nspiring through **I**ntegrity and for **I**nclusion  
**P**erseverance, **P**ersistence **P**assionate and **P**ractical



**M**otivated to **M**anage  
change  
**A**lacrity and  
**A**ssiduousness  
**T**eam work to complete  
**T**ask in hand  
**T**enacity to **T**ry

**E**nthusiasm to ensure **E**quity  
**R**esearch and **R**eading for evidence  
**S**urprises