

MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 46 – 22.06.18

Thank you to families, colleagues and agencies who supported our Open Day on Monday 18th June. Tyne class produced some delicious chocolate cupcakes which were much appreciated and the school felt somehow different with all the doors open and a gentle murmur of chat with the ebb and flow of visitors.

We had further visits in the week from prospective parents keen to get a sense of the ethos, teaching and learning and approaches to support available to young people. It is often during these visits that I take time to reflect on just how far we have come since August 2015 because as I re-tell our story I am able to pick out the good bits, make reference to positive feedback from external agencies and celebrate the achievement of individuals.

That is not to say I shirk away from the challenges we have faced at various points over the years – leaking roofs, lack of playground resources, malfunctioning equipment and rescuing toy cars from the bubble tube in sensory room, but we all work together to be able to quickly move on from these situations because at the heart of what we do is supporting our young people towards adulthood.

This week all pupils and staff participated in an orienteering activity on Wednesday afternoon at Neilson Park with Hanne Robertson, PE Specialist which was fully inclusive, challenging and great fun. We are hopeful that we can build this into our curriculum.

Wednesday also provided Meadowpark pupils with an opportunity to use the bouncy castle/disco that had been booked by Lothian Autistic Society who hold their Basecamp sessions in Meadowpark. I peeked in over lunchtime to see 7 faces peering out from the dark cavernous space, enjoying the sensation of the movement of others, the sound of the air filling the structure and the darkness – we couldn't find the switch for the disco lights!

On Thursday our intrepid explorers participated in beach walk and picnic at Tynningham, supported by Outdoor Education, Keith Christie. The ever resourceful Lorna had packed 3 kites into her bag and this proved to be hugely popular with one young person who can now add this to the calming strategies on his positive support plan.

The forecast for next week is good so we are planning our curriculum around outdoor learning to which all our young people respond favourably.

C.Prime 22.06.18