

## MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 19 – 22.12.17

Well we have finally made it to the end of term and I know that it has been a bit of a struggle at times but by all pulling together as a team – staff and pupils - we have celebrated the good times and supported each other through the challenges.

Christmas boxes were judged on Monday and all three Meadowpark boxes received a Highly Commended award, before being taken off the Haddington Day Care Centre.

Pupils attended the Knox Academy Christmas Concert on Tuesday afternoon, although the pipe band and brass instruments were a little overwhelming for a couple of our pupils the report was that a great time was had by all and that the standard of playing was exceptional. Perhaps with a bit of hard work and dedicated practice pupils at Meadowpark will aspire to be in one of the bands or choir next year.

On Wednesday afternoon we had our Meadowpark Christmas party and invited some friends from Knox Academy to join us. Meadowpark may have been set up with a state of the art acoustics system but could any of us connect our smart phones to the system? Nope! Fortunately we had a Coomber in order to play an 'old fashioned' CD.

Our pupils are exhausted - there is a buzz in the air, expectations and tensions to contend with and we know that for our pupils this often manifests as sensory overload. Add to that staff absence due to some nasty bugs and it is down to the excellent relationships between staff and pupils which has allowed us to keep going up to the last day.

We have a busy term coming up and Michelle will continue to keep parents and carers apprised of key dates in the calendar. By and large we follow the Knox Academy calendar of self – evaluation and parent evenings and I hope that in the spring term we will be able to encourage parents to collaborate together and focus on much needed fund raising.

Wednesday morning while covering Class 3, and joining forces with Class 2 several of us went for a walk in the community. I am delighted to have had the opportunity to participate and see the world through the eyes of Meadowpark pupils: their universal love of Nature calms and soothes all our young people and we spotted scampering squirrels in the bare trees as we headed towards the Tyne. I was led by one of our senior pupils who knows the walks around Haddington so much better than I. We identified mallard ducks and noted the handsome plumage of the males while the females wear a subdued shade of brown. Top spot however went to the majestic heron – obviously very well fed from fish in the Tyne. His noble stillness and keen eye resonated with me for a moment as I took a private moment to acknowledge how privileged I am to be leading a diverse, dynamic, unpredictable, challenging but hugely rewarding team of pupils and staff at Meadowpark.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Exceptional start to 2018.

C. Prime 22.12.17