

## MEADOWPARK MATTERS NEWSLETTER 14.08.2020

Congratulations to staff, parents and particularly pupils for making the first few days back to school motivating and fun while accepting all the necessary changes to keep us as safe as we can be under the circumstances. The one way system has been successful, the use of hand sanitisers and hand washing are being encouraged and the wearing of face coverings is promoted by staff. Windows are open for ventilation and we are making good use of the life skills flat as a second staffroom. We continue to adhere to all local and national guidelines and will revisit these frequently as advice and evidence dictates. Already there seems to be suggestions that teenagers might catch or transmit Co-Vid 19 so we might on occasion encourage them to wear face coverings, although this is not yet mandatory.

I am delighted to welcome Mr Redpath, Mrs Chalmers, Ms Doig and Mrs O'Connor to the pupil support team – and in all honesty they couldn't be separated from those who have been with us for a few years such as their professionalism, calmness and focus on the needs of our young people. Our fifth class teacher Mrs Smith joins us on 31<sup>st</sup> August but in the meantime it has been reassuring to have Mrs McClure and Mr Wilson in Leven class.

I had a lovely conversation with one of our former Art therapists, Mrs Shardlaw who unbeknownst to me had applied to 12 Guitars <http://12guitars.org/> on our behalf, so I have just sent an email to the organisers and will update once I get a response. Hopefully we will be in receipt of 1 or 2 guitars and tuition at some point.

Our garden is progressing well and I would ask that if anyone has any plants then we would really appreciate having some to bed in and get the area looking really good. Some of our parents are already working hard to improve the soil and create a rockery when staff and pupils are off site. We will be encouraging all staff and pupils to muck in as much as possible and incorporate these activities into our recovery curriculum. I would also like to thank the Haddington Peer Project for filling the planters at our new temporary Reception area: what a lovely surprise for staff and pupils returning this week.

I met with Elaine Gale from Our Community Kitchen in the holidays to discuss an opportunity to collaborate and develop our fruit and vegetable garden outside the food court which will serve OCK clients as well as Meadowpark pupils. I have seen too many school gardens turn to dust during the long summer holidays and by engaging with OCK the hope is that we will have a sustainable enterprise which will promote positive mental health and intergenerational community collaboration.

Improvement works to Reception have to off to a great start and the contractors have been courteous and considerate, very much keeping to themselves such that I'm not sure any pupils will even have seen them. Once completed I am confident that Meadowpark reception will offer the same welcoming appearance and high level of security and confidentiality as other ELC schools and provisions.

We congratulate Lesley Brown on her recent appointment to Head of Education and look forward to continued positive relationships.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to ELC ASN Team: L Binnie, C McGarr and Y Binks for their tireless work through lockdown and over the holidays ensuring that ASN guidelines are in place to protect and support our most vulnerable young people.

Finally I would like to publicly thank all Meadowpark teachers and support staff for their engaging, motivating and inspiring Google Classrooms before the summer holidays which I know actively encouraged pupils and parents to enjoy a sense of belonging and has certainly helped with the smooth transition we have seen this week.

Have a safe and peaceful weekend.

Ms C Prime 14.08.2020