

MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 23 – 18.01.19

Threats of a return from The Beast From the East have been swirling around this week, but fortunately no sign of extreme weather conditions as yet, although within the space of 18 hours the temperature changed from 11' to -2'. No wonder we've been feeling hot, cold, somewhere in between and perhaps a bit unsettled as a result.

We are delighted to welcome a new learning assistant to the fold and observing from afar as I have done since Wednesday it would be impossible to tell that she has only been with us for 3 days. Talk about a duck to water – welcome Paula, you're very much part of the team already.

Jennifer Jones, SDS Careers Adviser began work with a group of S3-S4s this week in preparation for longer sessions on My World of Work, which the staff will be inducted in on Tuesday. The feedback already is one of high expectation, positivity and determination to achieve successful learner pathways and ultimately a positive destination.

Polly Phillips from Edinburgh College continues to work with Esk class and 'Jollyesque' Productions are on the hunt for yoghurt pots and green gloves or socks! Something to do with goat's eyes, the 'green screen' a pig and a car! I am intrigued as to how this video will look once complete, but I do know that this approach is having a positive impact, again on preparing our young people to consider the world beyond school in 1, 2, 3years time.

We are planning to have our Loose Parts Play shed refurbished soon which will make access to the myriad of resources already provided by Kelly Clark et al so much easier to access and I believe will encourage further opportunities for creative play, as the days continue to get longer, if not warmer.

I attended Attachment Ambassadors training this morning and am excited about the opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the authority to offer a supportive network and further embed nurture approaches for all our young people including the more vulnerable in society.

Over the next two weeks I am attending mental health first aid training which I hope will provide me with the tools to support not only our young people but also members of staff who might be struggling for a wide variety of reasons. East Lothian council are very proactive in this regard with the Employee Assistance Programme, but as with all first aid sometimes it is the immediacy of response.

One of our pupils demonstrated empathy, kindness and respect this week by removing himself from a quiet area which he needs to use regularly to another space when he recognised that the need of another person was greater than his. RF was not asked to move but voluntarily offered this gesture. I was delighted to present him with a praise postcard and proudly shook his hand.

I hope the weather continues to be dry because I intend to be out walking with my dog this weekend and attending the 360 Planets event at Dynamic Earth on Sunday evening.

Have a peaceful weekend.

C. Prime 18.01.19