



Elrick School News

October 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of Term 1, we would like to take the opportunity to share some of the learning and developments that have been going on at Elrick Primary.

Despite the strange circumstances we are all in, we feel privileged to be surrounded by staff and families who continue to work hard to ensure that Elrick Community is a place where everyone can continue to **'Learn, Develop and Grow.'**

We wish all our families a restful and healthy October break and look forward to welcoming you back on the 1st November 2021 for our second term of the school year!

Kind Regards
Elrick School SLT

School Improvements

Building Works

The school roof work is due to be completed prior to return on the 1st November 2021. We are delighted with the standard of the work to date and are very much looking forward to having it completed and getting our school grounds back to normal. I would like to thank all our staff and families who have been incredibly patient and understanding with the disruption caused by this work. It has not been an easy way to start the school year, but the work was definitely long overdue, and I am confident the impact will be positive moving forward.

School Development

Clan Chiefs

We are delighted to have our CLANS established and were very proud of all those P7 pupils who put themselves forward for 'Clan Chief'. The children were asked to prepare a short presentation which they shared with pupils and staff. The children and staff then had to vote for their preferred candidate. The following pupils were appointed:

Bennachie – Jessie Coutts and Christina Charles
Eagle – Shae Davidson and Grace McLeod
Ness – James Snowie, Zoe Milne and Sophia Frain
Thistle – Melissa Hunter and Katie Goldie



Digital Leaders

We now have our 'Digital Leaders' in place and they will be supporting staff and pupils to develop and embed digital technology across the school. More information will follow as the group gets established.

Pupil Council

Adverts for our Pupil Council will be issued to classes this week and we are encouraging pupils who are interested from P4-7 to submit a short Personal statement to include the qualities and characteristics they hold that would make them a suitable candidate for the role. We will then elect 'Office Bearers' in a similar way to the Parent Council.



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Staff Development

Class Teachers have also been very busy this term. Planning and Assessment are always a key focus for Term 1 and staff have been engaging with SLT to quality assure the systems and support we have in place around these. We have also had collegiate sessions on 'Digital Literacy', 'Meeting Support Needs' and 'Making Thinking Visible'.

Staff are excited to start exploring with our new science resources that have arrived in school. Thank you to Mrs Young and Mrs Duncan for their support with this. Thank you also to Fiona Fitzgerald who secured a grant to support us with the funding of these.

Members of our SLT and Support staff have engaged in the CALM Physical Intervention training to support pupils and encourage a safe and healthy learning environment for all. Nursery staff are currently completing the CALM theory training and small holds.

Learning and Engagement – some highlights from this Term.



P1 enjoyed visiting and working in their very own shoe shop.



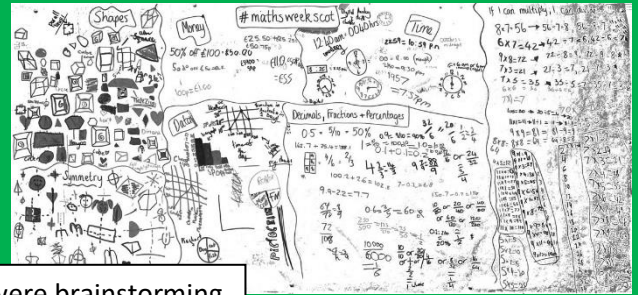
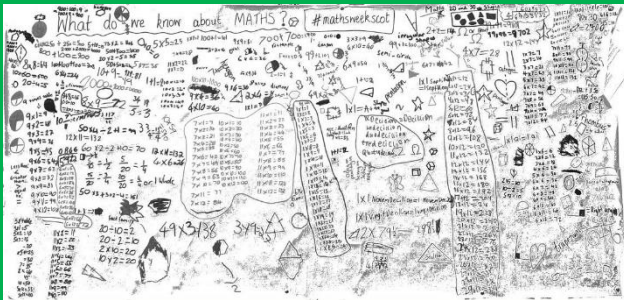
P2AC created a harvest thankful tree, thinking about which crops the farmers were harvesting at this time of year and sharing what we are thankful for.



As part of our outdoor 'Messy Maths', P2AC worked in clans to create symmetrical patterns with natural objects.



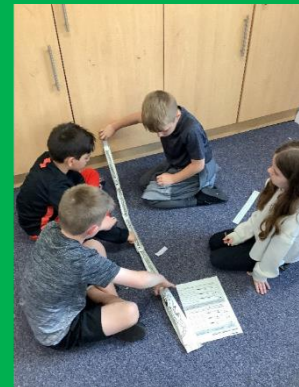
The children in P2AC created something new from recycling materials, working together in their co-operative teams, then sharing with the class what they had made.



P6FA were brainstorming everything they knew about maths to help plan their next steps in learning!



P5M have been exploring energy this term by looking at how energy is stored, converted and created.



P5M also explored measure this term as we estimated and then measured objects in our playground.



P4/5 have been using 'The Learning Pit' to talk about learning and how we challenge ourselves.



P7A created bugs using a key to represent characteristics. They put their bugs on a database and an Excel spreadsheet to help them learn more about data handling.

P3 applied their knowledge of 3D shape, contrasting colours and measure to create animal artworks.



Responsible Citizens

We would like to acknowledge the very kind and thoughtful action taken by last years P7. Unfortunately, the P7 Leavers Prom had to be cancelled and the young people and their families decided to turn a disappointing time into something positive and donated their prom payment, refunded by the hotel, to Abernecessities. This amounted to £1045 (plus another £261.25) in gift aid) in total. I think this action speaks volumes about the kind of people they are, and we are very proud of them all – well done!!

Reporting to Parents

As part of being a parent at Elrick School we try to provide a range of opportunities for you to find out about your child's learning both as an individual and as part of their class. We can't wait until we can invite our parents to join us face to face for these meeting but at the moment the guidance still does not permit this to happen. We will update you as and when this changes but please don't ever think that we are not here to help. If you need to speak to a member of staff, please contact the school office (01224 472910) or email the staff member to organise.

- Thank you to everyone who attended the 'Meet the Teacher' virtual sessions in August/September.
- Parent consultation meetings started last week and are ongoing through Teams – we are exploring the use of a 'Parent booking' system to help streamline the process for booking these appointments in the future.
- We have now re-established Seesaw as a tool for sharing learning between home/school and are delighted with the quick uptake from parents. – thank you!



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School Awards

We are excited to have registered for two school awards to work towards this session – **Leading Parental Partnership Award (LPPA)** and the **Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)**

Work is now underway for both the Wellbeing Award and Leading Parental Partnership Award and stakeholder evaluations have been issued. Thank you to everyone who has completed these.

We have had several parent volunteers but would be delighted to have a few more. Please contact Fiona.J.Thomson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if you are interested.

Parking

We have been advised of several 'near misses' during school drop off and collection times. Please remember to consider your own safety and the safety of others and park sensibly. We would also ask that you drive with caution and be extra vigilant as children may be crossing and at times visibility is poor. Children who are walking to and from school should wear appropriate clothing, with bright colours and reflective detail if possible.

We have logged concerns reported to us with Police Scotland and we do expect there to be an increase in police presence over the autumn/winter months. Staff have also been encouraged to raise awareness in their classes and remind children of 'Road Safety' and ways that they can keep themselves safe.

Parent Council

Thank you very much to everyone who attended the first Parent Council Meeting of this school session. We are delighted to have some new faces join the group. Please remember that everyone is welcome, and we would encourage parents to get involved as much as possible.

The first fundraiser of the school year has been 'Halloween Goodies'. This event has been extremely popular and a huge thank you to the parents who have given up their time this week to make up the sweetie cones and volunteer at the stall.



Parental Feedback

We value our partnership with families and the community and we invite you to use the link below to comment on any aspect of school life at the moment or to share a compliment or complaint.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC3udY4o1yftHqPUdLWSmIVFUQUdMQjFVTUNGR1hNWEpiWTVNVkQ2ME9SNS4u

This is an anonymous survey to gather views and opinions, so if you would like a response to your feedback then please use the school phone number 01224 472910 or email us at

elrick.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk