



Primary Newsletter: Autumn 2 - 15.12.2023

A message from Mr Tharme:

Dear parents, carers and the wonderful children of Livingstone Academy,

I can't believe we have reached the end of another term and we are now on the final countdown to Christmas: so much has been learned and achieved in another busy term!

The festive period is not only a time for relaxation and celebration, but also a chance to reflect on the accomplishments and growth we have witnessed in our pupils over the past term. Each child has shown determination and perseverance, making strides in their academic journey and contributing wholeheartedly to the vibrant school community we cherish. I am so proud of each and every child and it brings me such joy to see them happy and thriving everyday.

I want to say a huge thank you to our incredible staff team, whose commitment and passion have fostered a nurturing environment that enables every child to thrive everyday. Their tireless efforts undoubtedly make such a positive difference and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

I was so pleased to receive such positive feedback from you all at the end of your parent consultations and thank you to those parents who attended the parent forum to offer feedback and suggestions moving forward.

As we approach a very expensive and pressurised time of the year, I want to remind you, as parents and carers, to take this time to relax, recharge, and enjoy precious moments with your children and family. We can often put pressure on ourselves to keep up with the latest trends and provide the latest gadgets and toys, forgetting the most important things that our children crave: time, love and care.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and warmest wishes for a truly Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for a successful start to the next term on Wednesday 3rd January 2024!

Warm regards,

Mr Tharme



A message from Mrs Taylor:

As our final week of the term draws to an end, our children have experienced so many exciting opportunities to reflect on learning and be proud of their achievements. The children have impressed us with their resilience and confidence throughout this term and it has been a pleasure to see such confident and happy children enter through our gates each morning. The children have worked alongside each other to really think about what has made them proud and the next steps they want to achieve.

Behaviour Gems:

This term, we have been working really hard to establish our Livingstone routines and positive behaviours in school and linking these to our three guiding principles: **Self-Worth, Engagement and Purpose**. There are **three** main Aspiration 'Gems,' to be collect through collaborative achievements as a whole class, once all the gems have been achieved by a class then the whole class receives a reward:

The Blue Gem - **Self-Worth**:  The Red Gem - **Purpose** :  The Green Gem - **Engagement**: 

What are houses & house points?

House points form our whole school reward system here at Livingstone Academy. They encourage a team ethos across the school and allow children of all ages to have a common goal. Every child, from Reception through to Year 2, belongs to a house: Kilgarvan (red), Egremont (blue), Ashtone (green) and Lanark (yellow). Each house also has teachers allocated to them.

How are house points earned?

House points are given out as a recognition of achievement by individual children. They include::

- Demonstration of our learning behaviours: **Self-Worth, Engagement and Purpose**.
- Demonstration of our behaviour values:

At Livingstone Academy, we are:

- ★ **Respectful**- being polite to those around them, for example holding doors open for others, looking after our environment, using their please and thank you's and listening to others.
- ★ **Safe**- walking safely and silently around the building, when lining up as well as during playtimes, lunchtimes and assemblies.
- ★ **Ready to learn**- putting up their hand in class, wearing their smart uniform with pride, offering suggestions and trying their best in lessons. Showing dedication and commitment towards their learning within their books, home learning and school projects.
- ★ **Kind**- going above and beyond to show kindness to others, supporting both their peers and teachers.



Individual achievement

The number of house points that children earn will also be rewarded with milestone certificates during our whole school achievement assembly at the end of every term:

100 house points = Bronze

200 house points = Silver

300 house points = Gold

We are really excited to share with you our behaviour 'House Point' and 'Gem' achievement posters which the children see up and around our school. Please scan the QR code and talk about our behaviour posters at home with your children to celebrate their successes.



Parent Forum:

We held our first successful Parent Forum for parents: an opportunity for parents to share their suggestions to support improvements to school and listen to our new incentives and initiatives we have planned. This term we discussed home learning and we are looking forward to sharing this with you our future plans in January.

Assemblies:

This term we have had many exciting assembly opportunities, we had a visit from Paul to talk about 'Beavers',

He talked to us about how he is called 'Skip' and the different opportunities, skills and activities that take place at Beavers and he even taught us a new song about a very wriggly worm!

- Beaver information with Paul
- Diversity and Celebrating differences
- Self-Worth and Belonging
- British Values and Black History Month
- World Mental Health Day



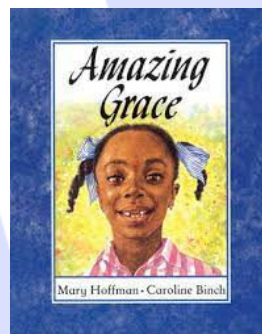
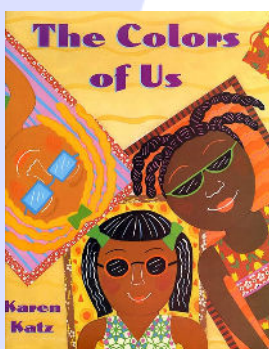
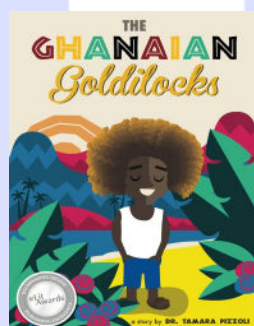


Celebrating Differences:

This term our PSHE curriculum across the whole of our Primary community has been around 'Celebrating Difference'. Our school Community is diverse in many ways, and this brings us strength and opportunity. We have initiated more discussion about tolerance, awareness and the importance of understanding a range of experiences, which needs to happen at home as well as at school. It is our goal and responsibility to work together to prevent prejudice forming or stereotypes being reinforced across our school..

Home Learning for Primary students this holiday:

As a staff at Livingstone, we have collated some resources for children and parents to watch, read and discuss together. We take care of everybody at our school, and it would be great if you and your child could listen and discuss one of the following stories together. We will then discuss this with them at the beginning of our new term:



 [The Ghanaian Goldilocks - Audiobooks for Kids - Listen & Learn - The English Schoolhouse Publishing](#)

 [Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman | READ ALOUD | CHILDREN'S BOOK](#)

 [The Colors Of Us READ ALOUD!](#)

Further Reading for Parents

[National Literacy Trust](#) has published book lists for children and young people of all ages to share black stories and promote black voices.

[Virtual Library](#) – A selection of books to read with your children around DEI Race and Anti-Racism.

[Talking to children about racism](#) NSPCC- Advice to help understand how to talk to children about race and racism and what you can do to support a child who's experiencing racial bullying

[Understand Me](#) Childline Website

[How to talk to toddlers and young children about race, racism & religion](#) – BBC Tiny Happy People

[Talking to children about Racial Bias](#) – An article published by Healthy Children.Org weblink includes additional resources to support parents addressing racism and discrimination

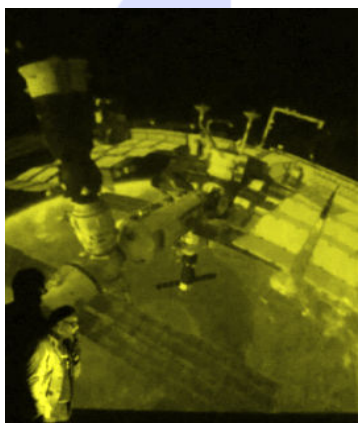


What have we been up to this term?

Reception:

We have had a very busy and productive second half term in reception. Having established our routines in September, we were able to fully explore the topic of 'Space'. We began by finding a spaceship that had crashed onto our school roof! We were also visited by a science dome, which projected images of space all around us. The children have been inspired and we now have many budding astronauts and astronomers.

We marked special days and events, including visitors to teach us about Diwali, All Saints Eve and BCP Road Safety. We noticed the children's awareness of being safe around the roads increased and they used the words STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK when crossing the road.



To develop the children's communication and language skills, we have introduced 'Word of the day' and 'Poem of the week' - the children have really embraced this and can be heard practising their new language throughout the day.

For the final two weeks, we have turned our attention to Christmas. We have learnt the Christmas story and have also compared what and how people celebrate Christmas around the world. We have loved practising and sharing with you our Christmas performance.





Year 1:

Year 1 has had a fun-filled and incredibly busy half term, and we are so proud of the children's achievements. The children have continued to apply themselves to their learning, show a real zest for learning and positively access their learning by showing a growth mindset.

In English, we have linked our learning to 'Lost in the Toy Museum' whereby the children sequenced the events, and wrote sentences that included time adverbials and specific verbs. The children wowed us in their independent writing, whereby they wrote to inform, explaining how to play 'Hide and Seek' using their learnt knowledge.

In maths, the children have been learning about addition and subtraction. We have been learning about part-whole models, number bonds, first, then and now number sentences, and written number sentences. The children thoroughly enjoy the challenge in maths, and are always eager to extend their own learning.

In history, the children have been learning about past and present, using timelines to understand the order of events. We have looked closely at our school, Livingstone Academy, and what the buildings were before they became a school. We took a tour around the school building and identified areas which were 'old' and 'new'. We enjoyed looking at the stained glass windows and the courtrooms. We studied the Old Fire Station and equipment and uniforms from hundreds of years ago compared to now. We were incredibly lucky to be joined by one of the local fire stations who showed us their fire engine, key pieces of kit and answered our questions. Mrs Joiner even got to try on the uniform!

The children were so proud to share their books with you during parents evening. The hard work and dedication of your children is so evident. Merry Christmas! Have a lovely break and see you in 2024!





Year 2:

The children have been learning about the Wright Brothers in history this term, discovering the world's first successful piloted engine-powered aeroplane - The Wright Flyer. We have been looking at the similarities and differences between 1900 and present day. The children have used pictures, stories, and the internet to find out about the past; and learnt about the era of modern aviation and the past adventures which the brothers inspired after their creation in 1903. Scan the QR code below to hear a keen historian share her findings!



In English, the children have been focusing on writing to entertain whilst exploring the Fairy Tale - Rumpelstiltskin. Over the past few weeks, the children have used their imagination to change the ending of the story by using different noun phrases, compound sentences, exclamation sentences. I'm sure you also noticed your child's incredible pre-cursive handwriting whilst looking through their book at Parents' Evening. We have now completed each letter in the alphabet and will be continuing to practise this skill in the Spring Term.

Earlier in the term, the children looked incredibly smart for their school photos (some children were busy having their sibling photos at the time this was taken so we have a few missing faces in this photo).

As I am sure you will agree, our Yr 1 and 2 children provided a show stopping performance at our Christmas Carol service this week. They worked incredibly hard to learn the songs shared and we are enormously proud of them all.

We would like to wish our wonderful Livingstone Families a restful Christmas break, and a Happy New Year! We look forward to more learning and new memories to come in 2024.

- Merry Christmas 🎄

Reading Books

At the beginning of next term, we will be sending further hard copies of our 'Little Wandle' reading scheme books home. To protect the books, we will send them home in a plastic popper wallet along with your child's reading record. We ask that you don't put your child's water bottle in their bookbag as they can often leak and ruin our books. Please ensure this book is returned each morning in your child's school bag. This book cannot remain at home because it needs to be read at school each day.



If books are not returned, on the first occasion your child will receive a reminder slip. If books are not returned after two occasions then we will require a payment to cover the cost of replacing the book. However, if books are still not returned after three occasions, physical books will no longer be sent home and will instead be replaced with our Collins ebooks.

In addition, please note that on a Friday your child will not have their Little Wandle book in their book bag as we will collect these in and give you a picture book called a 'share book' for you to read as a family over the weekend. You are already familiar with this routine as these books are sent home to promote reading for pleasure; they are chosen by the children and can be used as a bedtime story.

Finally, please record your child's reading in their reading journal. It is important that you listen to your child read every day for at least 10 minutes. Like the Little Wandle books, it is vital that the reading journals remain in your child's bag each day as the teachers mark these weekly to check progress.