



# Head Teacher's Welcome

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our November Newsletter which is once again full of many exciting activities that our pupils have been involved in. As we enter the Advent season we will be working with pupils to prepare them spiritually for Christmas. We also have a few key events that you are warmly invited to including our Carol Service and Infant Nativity. The academic focus and pace of learning in our school however, never drops in particular for our senior students who see SQA prelim exams approaching on the horizon! We recently held our first whole school evaluation activity involving staff, pupils and parents. Feedback is really interesting and will be shared with the whole Fernhill Family. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for organising the successful Christmas Fayre and successful Ladies night and I would like to thank all parents for their continuous support to Fernhill School.

God Bless **Dr Laura J Murphy**  
Head Teacher

Our annual Christmas Fayre was a fun filled afternoon for everyone. We had a very special visit from Santa which the boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed! The tea, coffee and cakes were a huge hit with the mums and dads and our ever popular tombola and raffle didn't fail to excite its many visitors. All in all, a great day was had thanks to our wonderful PTA, staff and family members who give so generously of their time and their support to make events such as this a huge success.



This month saw another Fernhill School first when we decided to 'up scale' our self evaluation efforts in the shape of 'Parents views matter' and 'Pupil's and staff views matter' workshops.

The pupil event took place during the day and was attended by all children and staff members from Primary 5 upwards and there were two parent events, one during the school day and the other in the evening.

All three sessions were extremely productive and encouraging and we are delighted with the quality of feedback we received. Over the next week we will collate and assimilate the information we received and look forward to updating you with the collective findings of our pupils, staff and parents.



The Fernhill School Mini Vinnies group launched this month with lots of eager members ranging from Primary 4 to Primary 7. The group is hoping to put their faith into action by helping in various different ways in the local community. The first project that the Mini Vinnies are excited to be taking forward is the Advent Foodbank Collection, the proceeds of which will be donated to St. Columbkilles Parish and the Foodbank in Coatbridge.



We were delighted to welcome Dani Garavelli back to Fernhill School for a non-fiction writing workshop on Wednesday. Dani is a Scotland on Sunday columnist, and one of the country's leading feature writers. She put on a brilliant session for our senior pupils aimed at helping them develop their English Portfolios and Close Reading skills. Many thanks to Dani for being so giving of her time and expertise.



Senior pupils spent a weekend in creative relaxation at Cove Park, an artists' centre near Helensburgh. With a roaring log fire, stunning scenery and plenty of hard work, the two days of rural seclusion flew by. The annual trip to Cove Park is organised by the English department, and is a popular excursion for some of our most creative and artistic students.



Fernhill film fanatics from the Primary were lucky enough to take part in the Into Film Festival again this year. We were made very welcome by the wonderful staff at the iconic Glasgow Film Theatre. The upper primary enjoyed a full length French animation re-voiced by British actors and our infant department enjoyed the animated film 'The Giant Pear'.



Primary Seven had a fantastic trip visiting Fairfield Heritage Centre in Govan to attend a workshop on scale drawing. They had been learning about scale in maths. The workshop put their learning into a real life context for them.



Some of our pupils attended the annual Education Mass at Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral in Motherwell. Bishop Toal celebrated the Mass and it was concelebrated by priests from throughout Motherwell Diocese.



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Two of our S6 pupils represented Fernhill School at St Mary's Cathedral as Motherwell Diocese passed on the 100 years of Catholic Education Icon to the Diocese of Edinburgh and St. Andrew's.



We were delighted to launch our P6-S3 football club this month. Well done to all who took part and we look forward to following the progress of the club.

Welcome to our first ever cohort of Health and Wellbeing Ambassadors. This new role has been introduced to help drive forward our health and well-being initiative and we look forward to seeing our young people develop into their new positions.

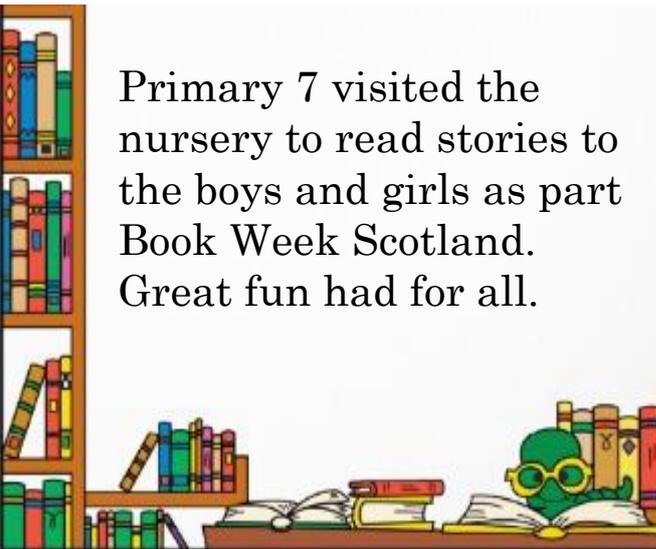


Fernhill School was buzzing with anticipation for the fourth annual Spelling Bee. Not only were house points up for grabs, but also the coveted Gillespie Cup. In a tense competition which was a true spellebration of our pupils' abilities, Piaras (S3) won the championship for a third consecutive year. Josie (S6) and Erin (S6) took the silver and bronze position, respectively.

Our Junior Road Safety officers presented a fantastic assembly to the whole school with the help of their classmates! Well done Samuel and Nirvana.



Primary 7 visited the nursery to read stories to the boys and girls as part Book Week Scotland. Great fun had for all.





# Key Dates

Monday 10th December	Choir performing at Princes Square 2-3pm
Tuesday 11th December	Preparation Day for Prospective Pupils
Thursday 13th December	Nursery and Infant Nativity at Cambuslang Institute 4pm
Friday 14th December	Senior Christmas Prom in School Hall 7-11pm
Monday 17th December	Carol Concert at St Marks Church, Rutherglen, 7pm
Tuesday 18th December	Primary and Nursery Christmas Parties
Wednesday 19th December	Christmas Lunch in School Hall (Please contact school office to order a lunch)
Thursday 20th December	Term Ends 12noon
Monday 7th January	Spring Term Begins 8:55am
Thursday 17th January	January Open Evening, 7pm
Monday 21st January	Entrance Assessment Day for new pupils