

# The Compass School

## Summer Newsletter 2019



Welcome to our news update! A number of these items have been reported on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/thecompassschool](http://www.facebook.com/thecompassschool)). However, we are aware that some parents do not perhaps use Facebook on a regular basis so we hope you will enjoy this more traditional style report on our children's activities.

As always, the Summer Term brings many opportunities for our children to be involved in our extensive programme of outward bound and residential visits. In May, Form 6 spent three days at the watersports centre at **Loch Insh** where they undertook sailing, canoeing, paddle-boarding, wind-surfing and mountain-biking.



Form 5 spent also spent three days at **the Dounans Centre, in Aberfoyle** for their three day 'adventure', where they undertook problem-solving tasks, orienteering, archery, gorge walking and learning how to survive in the wild.

In early June, Form 4 had a brilliant time on their first residential trip to **Netherurd House** in the Borders. It was a pretty soggy couple of days but that did not discourage any of Form 4 children giving everything a go and having a great fun time! The children were able to experience many firsts; first time canoeing, first time caving and for some the first time away from home! Everyone showed great determination and were very helpful and encouraging to each other. A super time was had by all!



**Form 8** spent four days in **France** where they enjoyed a very enriching experience of French life and culture. Once more, the children were based outside Paris in a PGL centre at Château de Grande Romaine, near Lésigny. Activities include a visit to the château and town of Fontainebleau; the Museum of World War One at Meaux; a tour and medieval show in the UNESCO World Heritage town of Provins; and various French-related activities at the PGL centre.

Other outings this term have seen Form 1 at the Bailey's Farm, at the Seabird Centre, the Gallery of Modern Art and Butterfly World; Form 2 have visited the Royal Highland Show and the Gallery of Modern Art; Form 3 have Archerfield Walled Garden; and Form 4 have visited the Seabird Centre, Yellowcraigs Beach and Butterdean and Clerkington Woods; Form 5 have had a walk with the countryside ranger along the River Tyne and then spent a day canoeing and learning how to survive in the outdoors; whilst Form 7 continued their Monday visits to Amisfield. Form 7 also spent a morning at the Risk Factory in Edinburgh and Form 8 have been to the Scottish Parliament and to the Forth Bridges' Centre at Queensferry.



On Wednesday 5 June, Form 7 braved the weather to complete a very enjoyable walk in the **Pentlands**. The walk had to be modified as a result of the conditions with pupils having a well-earned lunch at The Flotterstone Inn rather than tea. Pupils then completed map reading work before visiting the souterrain at Castlelaw Hill. Along the route, each pupil had the chance to use a compass and lead the way. Everybody had a fantastic time and they all had a great sense of achievement at the end!

On the same day, children in Form 8 achieved a true summit of achievement **when they climbed the munro, Mayar (928m) in the Cairngorms**. In spite of the bad weather across Scotland that day, the children, along with Mr Becher, Miss Peacock and Mrs Wightman, managed to reach the summit without a drop of rain falling on them! Conditions were less favourable on the way down and we were all



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delighted to reach the warmth of the Clova Hotel for a well-deserved, celebratory meal! They were a fantastic group of walkers who reached the top of the mountain in record time and who marked the end of their time in primary school in a very special way.

Children in Forms 7 & 8 had great fun this term taking part in a **writing competition hosted by Rettie & Co.** in which they wrote about what they most enjoyed about living in East Lothian. There were some super entries and some wonderful writing. Emma Bruce from Rettie & Co. attended morning assembly in June to make the awards and present the prizes, before recording each of the winners reading their work.

To music now and **Form 4** performed a wonderful class musical, '**Oceans Of Fun**' in May and impressed audiences in the Hall, whilst in March, Forms 1-3 performed a very enjoyable and humorous **Mothers' Day celebration** to their parents.

To sport and at the start of April, we enjoyed our annual **whole school Swimming Gala** which this year, after 73 races, was won by the Tadpoles by an extraordinary half-point margin! The children swam with enthusiasm and great determination, evidenced by 81 'Personal Best' times being recorded in Gala 3, showing the effort that each child put in for their respective teams.



Our senior swimming team (the current East Lothian Small Schools Swimming Champions!) took part in **the final gala of the school session at Merchiston**. In what was a very closely fought competition between the eight teams involved, including Fettes, Craigclowan, Clifton hall, Ardvreck, Belhaven Hill and the hosts themselves, our swimmers signed off a fantastic season with a superb victory in the event,

Very successful rugby and hockey seasons came to a close with the traditional 'Parents v. Children' hockey and rugby matches on the final Saturday of the Spring Term, with a great turnout of children and parents to sign off the competitive season. Children have also turned out in very healthy numbers for Summer Hockey Club on Saturday mornings this term and that too culminated in a contest between children and their parents!

As always, the Summer Term saw a busy sporting programme in **athletics and cricket**. In the latter, there **was** a clean sweep of victories in our three matches at Fettes; a win and a loss at Merchiston; a sound victory at Belhaven Hill; and a well-fought win v Cargilfield.



In athletics, our first competitive outing of the term at Fettes College saw our children record 14 'Personal Best' times and four new school records achieved. Further success followed, particularly at the IAPS Athletics Championships at Fettes in June when seven medals were won, including a Gold for shot put with a throw which broke the event record! In addition there were 22 PBs among the 28 children who took part that day.

Finally, at our **Sports Day** at Knox Academy on the final Monday of the term, we had a great afternoon of fun and competition as the children undertook traditional races, roared on by their peers and a large gallery of parents, family and friends. Thankfully, the Parents Race was run without too many mishaps! Well done to everyone who made the afternoon such a success!

It has certainly been a **golden year of sport at The Compass** with successes in all sports and at all levels throughout the year. Remarkably, no less than *twelve* school records have been either broken or set this year in athletics and swimming. A normal year would see perhaps one or two at most being broken, if at all! This is testament to the skills and talents of our



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children and to the dedication and enthusiasm of all who coach them, both in and out of school. Well done to them all!

To other competitive events now and on Sat 5 May, a team of five Form 7 pupils took part in the **Farr Out Challenge Day** at St Mary's, Melrose. The fifteen teams involved undertook a variety of team and individual challenges throughout the day which included art, drama, engineering, PE skills and other physical challenges. The children worked well together and represented the School very well.

On 26 March, the Pupil Council organised a **sponsored Swimathon** at the Aubigny Centre which **raised over £3000 for Wateraid** – a phenomenal sum and one of the largest fundraising amounts we have ever achieved. We were pleased to welcome Mr Jimmy Hudson from WaterAid to the School to receive our cheque and to tell the children how the money they have raised will help in the projects WaterAid undertake around the World.



Our **Rights Respecting School Steering Group** also led a used shoe collection in school during the Spring Term which saw them gather a large number of shoes from Compass families which they then took to Clarks Shoes at Fort Kinnaird who run the ShoeShare initiative which supports a whole range of UNICEF projects across the globe.

On 28 June a group of children from The Pupil Council visited Mrs Kay at the **Beach Wheelchairs'** facility in North Berwick. It was a very interesting visit as children had the opportunity to view all of the wheelchairs and to meet with a family who had travelled from the west of Scotland in order to use the electric wheelchair. The children chatted to the family about the benefits of the charity and they all observed the importance of these chairs first-hand. The children then presented a cheque to Beach Wheelchairs (North Berwick) with our final total of £849.17 from the 'Enterprise Sale, the Pupil Council ran in early June, which saw the children making and creating a variety of goods which they then sold to their peers and to parents.



The biannual whole school photograph was taken on 16 May. We have also had Gavin Bryce from Daysix Film and his colleague in school this term filming for our new promotional film which we look forward to premiering at the **Information Evening for Parents on Wednesday 4 September**.

As always, it was a thrilling end to the school year with F1-4's performance of '**Blooming Gorgeous**' and F5-8s performance of '**What a Knight!**' In the theatre which showed off the incredible range of talents of our young people.



Finally, it was a very happy and emotional day on the final day of term as we celebrated the end of a very successful school year and wished our Form 8 (Primary 7) children all the very best as they leave primary school and make the transition into secondary education. Each of them has contributed to the life of the School in their own particular way during their time at The Compass and it is with sadness

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that we bid farewell to them. We will certainly miss them, but will have fond memories of friendly, enthusiastic and happy children who made the most of their time at West Road. Good luck and best wishes to all of them!



We look forward to welcoming the children back to school after the holidays and to continuing to work with each one of them in helping them to develop as happy, fulfilled and confident young people in the new school year!

We hope you have a lovely summer ahead!