

Linlithgow Primary School News!

August 2023



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL ~ Together we learn, together we grow!
Growth Mindset Relationships Opportunity Wellbeing

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and to the start of a new session! It has been a joy to see all pupils, dressed so smartly in their school uniforms enjoying meeting their new teacher, reuniting with their friends and exploring their new classrooms and learning areas.

We are so excited about the year ahead and of all the happy memories we will make, alongside the children as we work and learn, together.

We have quite a few new families who join us this session, in addition to our P1 parents/carers. We are delighted to welcome you to our lovely school and we will do all that we can to support your family, during your time with us.

I do hope that you all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed time with your family, regardless of whether you spent time in this country or abroad.

Please read on to find out more about our school structure and systems, the different things that have been going on in school and forthcoming events and dates, for your attention.

Enjoy the rest of the month everyone. 😊

Staffing News

The start of a new session, always brings new staff to our school. We are extremely pleased to welcome two familiar faces back to our staff team, this month. Mr Connor Glen and Miss Lucy Crosson who were students with us last year, rejoin us as class teachers in P4A and P6A. We know that all families will make Mr Glen and Miss Crosson feel very welcome.

In our nursery, Mrs Murdoch has joined us on secondment from Windyknowe Nursery as EYO, alongside Mrs Cringean. Miss C Baillie (now Mrs Johnstone) will return to her substantive post of

Early Years Practitioner. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Johnstone for supporting us as EYO-Acting, over the past session.

We'd also like to congratulate Mrs Johnstone (formally Miss C Baillie), on her recent marriage.

As a reminder, our teaching staff in school this year are as follows:

P1 Mrs Paton
P1/2 Mrs Menmuir (Miss Farooq on a Thursday)
P2 Mrs Buchanan/Mrs McGaw
P3A Mrs Bell/Mrs Chisholm
P3B Mrs Robertson/Ms Orskov
P4A Miss Crosson (Mrs Ward on a Tuesday)
P4B Ms Graham
P5A Mrs Marshall
P5B Miss Ferris
P6A Mr Glen (Mrs Baty on a Wednesday)
P6B Miss Noble (Mrs Ward on a Wednesday)
P7A Miss Horsburgh
P7B Mrs Baty/Mrs Bryce

Specialist teachers:

Expressive Arts: Ms Quigley
P.E/French: Mrs Keery
Nurture/Wellbeing: Miss Farooq
Support for Learning- Mrs Meikle

Line managers:

Nursery and P1: Miss Baillie (Headteacher)
Additional Learning Needs: Mrs Matos (Depute Headteacher- Acting)
P2, P3, P4: Mrs Menmuir (Principal Teacher)
P5, P6, P7: Miss Noble (Principal Teacher)

In addition, Miss Baillie and Mrs Matos will continue have whole-school responsibility.

Our teaching staff and leadership team are always available to speak to you if you have a concern

about your child. Please phone the school to chat on the phone or to make an appointment to come in to see us.

Child Protection

Our school follows, Lothian and Borders Inter-Agency Child Protection Guidance and we work with our colleagues in Health, Social Work and the Police to keep children safe.

It's everyone's job to keep children safe and Miss Baillie, Mrs Matos and Mrs Cringean (Nursery) are always available to discuss any concerns that you have about any of our pupils.

You can also report any matter to Social Work on 01506 284440 if you have concerns out with school hours and/or at any other time.

This term, our pupils from P1-7 will undertake a special assembly created by the NSPCC with follow-up lessons, to enable them to know how to get help if they are in a difficult situation.

Health and Wellbeing: Nuts in School

Please note that we are a 'nut free' school. Children should not be sent to school with nut products for snack or with lunchboxes containing nuts or nut butters. This important measure will help us to keep all children safe in school. We appreciate your support with this.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/Curriculum

This term, all classes will begin a block of learning in Social Subjects around the theme of Geography and the Environment. Part of this work will include some interdisciplinary learning experiences or IDL. IDL allows children to apply their knowledge and skills from more than one curriculum area, in a specific context. This context is usually a topic of interest or a world-wide issue or concern.

Here are the different learning contexts that our children will learn through, this term:

Primary 1/Primary 1/2 and Primary 2: Into the Woods...

Primary 3: Pirate explorers on a Climate Zone Adventure.

Primary 4: Farming at home and farming abroad

Primary 5: Land use in our local area.

Primary 6: Weather, climate and eco-systems around the world: The Island

Primary 7: Japan and Scotland/country comparison.

P7 Palace Guides:

Although Linlithgow Palace is not fully open to the general public at present, our long standing Palace Guides opportunity continues regardless. The programme has been adapted to meet the needs of the current situation. Historic Scotland and Illuminate will in in school from **Wed 30th August** until the start of November to lead our P7 pupils through the programme. We hope that all pupils learn lots and have fun as they re-enact part of Linlithgow's history.

Home Learning Programme

Our home learning (homework) programme for all classes will begin from **Monday 28th August**. From this week onwards, children will be given the following home to consolidate and extend the learning taught in school:

- Reading and spelling/phonics- weekly
- A learning grid of activities which cover all aspects of the curriculum, including Numeracy and Maths- termly.
- P7 will also be given a weekly piece of Numeracy and Maths homework, to prepare them for the homework expectations of S1.

This session, we have asked all staff to provide weekly opportunities in class for children to share the work that they have chosen to do on their learning grids and/or any other learning that they have done at home. This will take the form of a 'home-learning showcase'.

Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion

Mrs Matos and Mrs Meikle have been busy setting up our programme of interventions to support children across our school, with a range of needs or barriers to learning.

Once again, we have a wide range of interventions planned including nurture/wellbeing groups, fine-motor skills groups and raising attainment groups in Literacy and Numeracy.

Mrs Meikle, Ms Quigley and Miss Farooq will lead our support interventions this session and they will

be assisted to do this by our amazing team of pupil support workers.

Before the summer break, Mrs Matos held the first meeting with our parental Equity Group. We also have a pupil Equity Group in place. These two groups will help our school to continue to be focused on equity for all and to reduce the cost of the school day for families. We will bring more news of the work of these groups, in future newsletters.

Sharing Shelf: Equity for All

Our Sharing Shelf is fully re-stocked after the summer break and we are ready to provide food and household items to families who need this support.

Please use the form below (see link) to request a bag, which can be picked up in the school foyer, anonymously, using our ticketing system: <https://forms.office.com/e/PLH8CantXc>

Alternatively, food/items can be chosen in person and picked-up in person at any time during the school day.

Once again, we are extremely grateful to Sainsbury's, Tesco and Aldi for providing daily produce for our Sharing Shelf.

We will continue to send out a group email to you if we receive any fresh food or produce from our partner supermarkets and this can be collected at school, on the same day that the message is sent and on a 'first come/first served' basis.

Family Learning:

Miss Baillie and Mrs Matos have begun to work on our school and nursery Family Learning Calendar for the session. Last year, our calendar contained a range of events including, informative presentations about aspects of the school curriculum, 'stay and plays' as well as 'liaise with the leadership' sessions. Please email the school office by **Friday 25th August** if you have any specific events that you'd like us to include.

We did have a parental request for us to organise a 'daffodil tea' for Grandparents or 'elderly' friends and we will make sure to put this into our calendar.

You Say/We Did: Meet the Teacher Event

Based on parental feedback given to use last session, we have moved our Meet the Teacher to an evening slot this year. Hopefully this will make it easier for parents/carers to attend.

Meet the Teacher will run this session on Wednesday 6th September from 6-7pm.

All parents/carers are invited into school on this evening and at this time, to meet their child's class teacher(s) and to see their child's classroom.

Teachers will run a presentation/slideshow of helpful information at 6.00pm repeated at 6.30pm, for the benefit of families who have more than one child in school.

A copy of the presentations, presented to parents/carers on the evening will be put onto our website, with the link sent out to you all, after the event. We hope that this is helpful for everyone. ☺

Digital Learning Award:

We were thrilled to receive the Digital Schools Award for our school at the end of last session. This award is in recognition of the work that staff and pupils have done to take forward the use of technologies in our school.

Mrs Baty was instrumental in helping us to gain this prestigious and nationally recognised award and we are so grateful to her for her efforts.

Miss Ferris will lead our improvement work in the use of technologies this session, with Mrs Baty's help.

Pupil Writing: P3A: Black Beard The Pirate

This month, Grace M in P3A has written a wonderful predictive text about finding a set of rusty keys in her classroom. The keys have been used as a way to ignite the children's imagination for further learning. Grace wrote:

I think that it was Black Beard the Pirate who gave the keys to us because someone was trying to steal the key. I think that we should keep them safe.

Well done Grace for your super writing and ideas!

Letter from HRHs the King and Queen:

We are excited to report that we have received a written letter from His Majesty the King and Queen Camilla! Our nursery pupils, supported by Miss Moore, wrote letters to the King and Queen upon their coronation in May. We were delighted to receive a royal letter acknowledging the children's work and thanking us all for our efforts. We will frame the letter and put it in our nursery foyer, as well as some of the children's work, for you to enjoy. Well done Miss Moore!

School Garden and Vegetable Harvesting:

A group of our P6 and nursery children had great fun harvesting vegetables that were planned last session, in our school garden. We have fabulous courgettes, carrots, onions and potatoes that were grown in our raised beds. The nursery children are going to make a big pot of soup with the vegetables and share this with our P6 children. Thank you to Mrs Ferguson, Ms Orskov and Miss Wallace for their help with the school and nursery gardens. Please see Twitter for photos of our vegetable harvest!

After School Club/Extra-Curriculum Calendar: 2023-24

Mrs Matos has been busy planning and finalising our extra curriculum programme for P1-7 for the session, with most clubs (except for Chess) commencing after the October break. We will provide more information on this, as the term progresses.

We are very excited to announce that we will have some new clubs this session, led by parent volunteers. Please note that all of our parent volunteers will undertake the PVG process, before leading clubs.

We also continue to promote pupil leadership as well as celebrating the individual interests and hobbies of our school community, pupils will therefore be supported and encouraged, to lead their own clubs, this session. Planning, organising and running a club for other children is a great life skill!

Pupil Voice/Leadership Committees:

All pupils from P1-7 will once again take part in a Pupil Leadership Committee, on a Friday morning every three weeks or so.

The Pupil Leadership Committees give children the opportunity to inform progress and change in our school through groups such as Eco, Pupil Council, STEM, Sports Leaders, Rights Respecting Schools, Digital Technologies etc.

We will be speaking to children about our range of committees this year and helping them to 'sign up' to a committee, of their choice, in due course.

We will publish information on our committees once we get them back up and running. This will most likely be after the September break.

Biscuit and Blether

Our regular 'Biscuit and Blether' sessions are due to recommence on Friday mornings, with Mrs Matos/Miss Baillie. The first session of the year will be held on **Friday 8th September** when we will look at what it means to be a 'confident individual' in school. All children, from each class, will get a 'turn' to come to Biscuit and Blether throughout the school session.

Biscuit and Blether gives children a chance to express their views and ideas on a range of different subjects that help us to improve learning and teaching, our Curriculum and life around school.

Assembly Programme: Term 1

Our assembly programme has already begun, with our termly 'Values' assembly which was led by Miss Baillie on Friday 18th August. At this assembly, we reminded everyone of our school values of Growth-Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity and Wellbeing and how these values permeate through all aspects of the work that we do. We also linked our Values to the United Nations Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as part of our Rights, Respecting School work.

All parents/carers will be invited in to see their child perform in a class assembly before the end of June 24. Here is the list of class assembly dates for the session so that you can plan ahead. Please note that all assemblies for parents/carers will take place at 9.45am in the school hall:

10/11/23: P7B
12/1/24: P4A
26/1/24: P7A
9/2/24: P5A
8/3/24: P5B

15/3/24: P6B
26/4/24: P6A
10/5/24: P4B
24/5/24: P3B
31/5/24: P3A
7/6/24: P2
14/6/24: P1/2
21/6/24: P1

Pupil Health and Wellbeing Questionnaires: One Trusted Adult

At the start of each term, all pupils in school complete a Health and Wellbeing questionnaire. This is done in addition to the daily, Health and Wellbeing check-in and One Trusted Adult conversations that take place in every classroom and across school.

The results of the questionnaires are examined closely by class teachers and the Senior Leadership Team. Any child who raises a wellbeing concern is spoken to and appropriate interventions put in place, if necessary.

N.B: All children will have the chance to choose or change their One Trusted Adult this term and using the power of technologies, they can request a 1-to-1 conversation with their trusted adult at any time.

School Budget/Pupil Equity Funding

We have been using our budget to purchase/maintain the following of late:

-New stationery, art resources and other 'goodies' for all classrooms to ensure that all pupils have everything that they need to enable them to have a positive start to the year.

You Say/We Did: Meet the Teacher

As mentioned, we have now moved 'Meet the Teacher' to a slot in the evening. This move came at the request of a few parents/carers. Please let us know if this is an improvement. Also, please feel free to provide feedback on any of work via the school mailbox, at any time. We will always listen and try to take on board your feedback and views, for the benefit of our children.

Uniform Swap Shop

We will continue with our popular uniform 'swap shop' again this session. Thank you to our parent volunteers who help us to run this, highly worthwhile initiative.

Our first uniform 'swap shop' will take place on **Friday 1st September in the school foyer from 8.50-11.30am**. Please come along to pick up any 'nearly new' uniform that you need for your child or to hand in any donations of clothing. Thank you everyone. 😊

Reminders:

- **P.E Kit:** Please can we ask that children have a P.E kit available at all times in school? Sometimes, staff will take children for an extra P.E lesson and or activity that is better suited to sportswear. In younger years, a P.E kit is helpful if children have an accident and need to be changed in school. Thank you for your help with this. 😊
- **Drinks in school:** Please help us to help our children to learn best, by only providing water for them to drink in school. We don't allow energy drinks in school as many of these aren't recommended for children's consumption.
- **Dogs in the playground:** Please remember that it is West Lothian Council policy that dogs are not allowed in our school playground or grounds at any time. Thank you for your help with this important matter.
- **Labelling clothing:** We still have a large volume of lost property in school each day. Please help us to re-unite lost items with their owner by labelling all items that children wear and/or bring to school.
- **Outdoor Clothing:** Please help us to allow children to play and learn outdoors, in all weathers, by ensuring that they come to school wearing waterproof jackets and have appropriate footwear. Many thanks for your help with this.

Dates for diaries: Term 1

- Friday 1st September- Uniform Swap Shop in school foyer
- Wednesday 6th September- P1-P7 Meet the Teacher event in school- 6-7pm

- Wednesday 6th September- P7 Palace Guide programme begins
- Monday 11th September- P6 Xcite Outdoors activities
- Tuesday 12th September- P6 Xcite Outdoors activities
- Wednesday 13th September-P6 Xcite Outdoors activities
- Thursday 14th September- P6 Xcite Outdoors activities
- Friday 15th September- September holiday weekend
- Monday 18th September- School closed to pupils and staff- nursery open
- Tuesday 19th September- School closed to pupils and staff- nursery open
- Wednesday 20th September- Pupils and staff return to school
- Monday 25th September-Thursday 28th September- Financial Education Week/Maths Week Scotland
- Monday 25th September-P6 Xcite Outdoors activities
- Tuesday 26th September-P6 Xcite Outdoors activities
- Monday 2nd October- Friday 6th October- Outdoor Learning/Science Week/Challenge Poverty Week
- Wednesday 4th October- Parents' Consultations- 5.30pm-8.30pm
- Thursday 5th October- Parents' Consultations- 4-6pm
- Friday 6th October- Uniform Swap Shop in school foyer
- Friday 6th October- Harvest assembly for pupils in school