

Linlithgow Primary School News!

September 2023



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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the September edition of our school newsletter. What wonderful weather we have been having of late! We hope that you have managed to take advantage of the sunshine and have enjoyed being outdoors with your family.

The nights are beginning to draw in and as we move into Autumn, we have launched our extra-curricular club programme for 2023-24, after the October break.

We hope that all children find a club or after-school activity that interests them. As always, we also have a wide-range of pupil led clubs in school which are held at break and lunchtimes. At the moment we have children running football and ballet clubs with a poetry group, following soon!

Please read on to find out about the most recent events in school and any forthcoming dates, for your attention.

Have a wonderful few weeks everyone and may the sun continue to shine!☺

Staffing News

A few members of our Additional Support Team recently attended the West Lothian Council, Additional Support Needs (ASN), Conference at Winchburgh Academy and our staff are also part of the West Lothian Council, ASN Network, to share good practice and continue their professional learning in supporting children with additional needs.

For your information, Mrs Russell, one of our fabulous Pupil Support Team who works mainly, in the P3-4 area and supports us with Equity interventions, will now be known as Ms Scotland.

Parents' Evenings

Our first round of parents' consultations for the session will take place on **Wednesday 4 October from 5.30-8.30pm** and **Thursday 5th October from 4-6pm**. These parents' sessions will allow class teachers to let you know how well children have settled into their new classes and to give information regarding their progress in learning and next steps.

Appointments can be made from Sunday 17th September at 6.00pm at <http://www.parents-booking.co.uk/linlithgowprimary>

Health and Wellbeing: Active Outdoors

We continue to support all of our children to be active and fit and healthy through providing, two hours of P.E each week, in addition to regular opportunities to run around outdoors and to engage in active learning experiences.

This term, Miss Livingstone from Active Schools is also running a small intervention for a targeted group of children, to support their sensory needs through movement experiences.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/Curriculum

This month, we'd like to share our work in Outdoor Learning:

Outdoor learning, provides incredible opportunities for children to learn in and through the outdoor environment. It's also known as a great way to boost children's wellbeing and to allow them to be active.

Some of our P6 children have had a fantastic time this week, undertaking a variety of outdoor learning activities, in conjunction with Xcite. These activities have included archery, canoeing and team-building skills.

Our P1 and P2 children are going to be taking part in a 'Forest Friends' experience at Rosemount Park, alongside our nursery pupils, in coming weeks. They will also be having a 'Buddy Bonanza' with their P6 buddies, where they will work to create an indoor woodland, for our infant corridor. We are so excited to see the results of their efforts!

All classes continue to make use of the outdoors as a motivating environment for learning. Please keep an eye on our X feed for more information.

Observing children in the outdoor environment is an excellent way to assess their knowledge and skills in a variety of areas. It also allows staff to build up a 'holistic' picture of a child's strengths and development needs. Some of our quieter children, are more likely to vocalise in the outdoor environment, where nature is a wonderful stimulus.

P7 House Captains and Heads of Year.

We have broadened the range of Leadership roles and duties available to our P7 children as we support them to develop Skills for Learning, Life and Work.

Our P7 children help us around school, to ensure that all children, follow our values and stay safe. All pupils seem to be relishing their roles and the chance be positive role models for younger children.

This year, our Heads of Year are Caroline and Ruairi, supported by the Vice Heads; Annabelle A and Emma.

Our House and Vice Captains are as follows:

Bruce: Ameila and Finlay
Douglas: Anwen and Daniel
Stuart: Robbie and Katherine
Wallace: Ellie and Niamh

Well done to all of our P7 for showcasing such wonderful, leadership skills across school.

Home Learning/Wider Experiences: Outdoor Learning

This month, we'd like to invite all children to share with their class any outdoor learning that they may have done at home, this could be a sport or hobby that they do regularly e.g. rock climbing or a one-off activity, such as nature walk. Please also feel

free to email any photos or comments to the school mailbox. We will always celebrate children's achievements and progress, both in and out with school.

Sharing Shelf: Winter Hats

One of our parents, has very kindly donated a supply of beautifully, knitted hats to our nursery and also to our 'sharing shelf'. These hats are free to a good home or head! Please drop by to pick up a hat for your child, if need one.

Financial Education Day/Maths Week Scotland

We are delighted to let you all know that we will be having a Financial Education day in school on **Thursday 28th September** as part of Maths Week Scotland. During the day, Lloyds/TSB volunteers will be in school to deliver workshops to P1-7 children around the theme of finance.

In the afternoon, our volunteers have also kindly agreed to support a school, environmental project. The volunteers will be painting the wall at the back of our football pitch. Please come along to our pitch from **1.15pm on Thursday 28th Sept**, with old clothes and a paintbrush in hand, if you can spare a few hours to help. We'd be so grateful. ☺

Family Learning:

You will all have received an email copy of our Family Learning Calendar for the session. The first activities of the session are as follows:

20/10/23: Let's Read Together: 'Muffins with Mum' (or a female carer/special friend), in our school library from 1-2pm

30/10/23: Online/Teams Presentation: 'Supporting your child to achieve in school'- 6.30pm

Please note that you are all very welcome to attend our family learning events. We hope to see you all there. ☺

You Say/We Did: Parental Equity Team Suggestion.

Our parental Equity Team have been working with local business to provide a range of snacks for children in school, to ensure equity for all. If children don't bring a snack to school, then class

teachers will be easily able to provide these. We are grateful to our Equity Team for this great suggestion and for helping us to facilitate it.

Meet the Teacher Evening- Feedback.

Thank you to all families who attended our recent 'Meet the Teacher' evening in school. It was so lovely to see you all and there was a really positive atmosphere around school. All presentations from the evening have been uploaded to our School Website for ease of access.

Pupil Writing: Nature Poem

This month we'd like to share the work of three, P5 poets; Cara, Iona and Isla B. The girls will also be running our pupil-led poetry club.

*Nature is fantastically,
And very majestically,
Trees and leaves are so much fun,
Unbelievable in the sun,
Raindrops falling from the sky,
Every bird deserves to fly.*

What creative writing girls! Well done! 😊

Pupil Voice/Leadership Committees:

All children are currently signing up to a Pupil Leadership Committee, and these will run every three weeks, on Friday mornings, starting after the September break. We look forward to sharing the work of our Pupil Leadership Committees again this session. Our pupils always amaze us with their resourcefulness and ideas for improvement and change.

Biscuit and Blether

Mrs Matos held our first 'Biscuit and Blether' session of the term, last Friday when the group discussed what it means to be a 'Confident Individual'. Being a 'Confident Individual', is one of the 4 capacities of Curriculum for Excellence and confidence in the self, is our hope for every child, by the time that they leave us in P7. Here are some of the children's views:

Harvey B (P7) "A Confident Individual helps others, is kind and encourages others. A confident individual never gives up. A confident individual

never backs down. A confident individual is kind, caring, respectful and brave.'

Kaeden (P2): 'A Confident Individual helps people, gives high fives and thumbs ups. A confident individual says, "You can do it!" A confident individual will encourage others.'

Our next **Biscuit and Blether** session will be held on **Friday 6th October**. The theme for this session will be 'I am an effective contributor.'

Assembly Programme: Term 1: World Roald Dahl Day

Last Friday, we celebrate World Roald Dahl Day in school as part of a special, Literacy Assembly.

Our P1-3 children were treated to a viewing of 'The Enormous Crocodile' story by Roald Dahl and our P4-7 children took part in a Roald Dahl, 'test of knowledge' quiz. Our P-7 voted for their favourite Roald Dahl book and *The Twits* was the overall winner.

We also inspired children to read a Roald Dahl story that was unfamiliar to them, with many children telling us that they'd been inspired to read titles such as 'Danny Champion of the World', after taking part in the assembly.

Promoting a love of books and reading is something that we will always be highly passionate about in school.

Our forthcoming assemblies are as follows:

22/9/23: European Day of Languages Assembly
29/9/23: Wellbeing Assembly: I am Achieving!
6/10/23: Harvest Assembly

We'd like to invite all children to bring in a non-perishable food item for the West Lothian Food Bank, as part of our Harvest Assembly on 6th of October.

School Budget/Pupil Equity Funding

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

-New stories and information books about Numeracy and Maths for our nursery.

Uniform Swap Shop

Our first uniform 'swap shop' of the session was very well attended at the start of the month. Once again, thank you very much to our parental volunteers who set up and run the Swap Shop. Our next Swap Shop will take place on **Friday 6th October in our 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 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- Maths Week Scotland

-Thursday 28th September: Financial Education Day with Lloyds/TSB.

-Monday 25th September, 7pm: Parent Council AGM (Zoom)

-Monday 25th - Tuesday 26th September: Xcite Outdoors activities

-Thursday 28th September: selected P7 children at West Lothian P7 Cross Country Championships, Bathgate

-Monday 2nd October- Friday 6th October- Outdoor Learning/Science Week/Challenge Poverty Week

-Wednesday 4th October: P1, P2/1 and P2 trip to Rosemount Park

-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- please bring in a donation for the WL Food Bank, if desired.