

Linlithgow Primary School News!

November 2023



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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our November newsletter! I hope that you all enjoyed Halloween and Bonfire Night, with your families, if you chose to celebrate these events. We had a wonderful 'dress down/dress up' day in school for Halloween, with children and staff arriving at school in some fabulous costumes.

As we progress through the month of November, we begin our festive 'countdown' in school, with all classes getting involved in preparations for our Christmas activities. This year, pupils will decorate our school hall with pieces of art work, created in keeping with the theme of a Christmas story or book. We are looking forward to seeing the creations of each class and enjoying the splendour of the decorated hall. Our Christmas decorations will be up in abundance from Friday 1st December.

We will also be taking part in the annual, 'Festival of Christmas Trees' which runs from 1st-3rd December at St. Michael's Church. We will be decorating two trees on behalf of our school and nursery and we hope that you are able to visit, with your family, to see our efforts.

We look forward to seeing you in school, over the next few weeks, as our Christmas events begin.

Have a great month everyone. ☺

Staffing News: Staff Professional Learning

Recently, our teaching staff have been learning about and further developing 'Thinking Classrooms', in Numeracy and Maths. We are working to de-front our classrooms so that more of the dialogue comes from pupils and less from the teacher, standing at the front. We are also making more use of mixed-ability groupings in Numeracy and Maths to allow children to 'bounce ideas' off each other and open up the learning for all.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/Curriculum@ Health and Wellbeing

From Monday 13th November, our pupils will be undertaking a block of lessons on anti-bullying/anti-discrimination and anti-racism. We will be reminding pupils of our Positive Relationships and Anti-bullying policies which were both refreshed and published, at the end of last session. See link to these policies here:

<https://linlithgowprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/17074/School-Documents>

Children will take part in progressive lessons, from P1-7, to explore themes such as kindness, 'Show Racism the Red Card' and the role of the bystander in bullying.

As always, we take a zero-tolerance approach to any incidents of bullying. We follow a clear procedure to ensure that incidents are fully investigated, dealt with promptly and recorded/monitored. We will always deal with any incidents of bullying a way that supports children to understand the consequences of their actions upon others and how to make amends/changes, to ensure that incidents do not occur again.

School Values: Mindset Monday

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we will be starting a new initiative in school as of this month called 'Mindset Monday'. As part of our school improvement priority to help all children to recognise their strengths and achievements as well as to become resilient learners, we will be promoting 'Growth Mindset' as a positive way to start off each week. Staff will plan 'Mindset Monday' activities to stimulate children's thinking and problem-solving skills, during the morning 'soft start' and at different points throughout the day. Please keep an eye on Twitter/X for our new, 'Mindset Monday' hashtag.

Home Learning/Wider Experiences: Make a Kindness Rock

As part of anti-bullying week, we'd like to invite all children to make a 'kindness rock' or pebble at home and bring it into school. We will display any painted rocks that we are given in our nursery garden.

Nursery News

Our nursery children have been following their interests as they explore the season of autumn. They have been creating pieces of art work and playing in fallen leaves.

We have been also been tidying the planters and raised beds in our nursery garden in preparation for winter.

Partnership Working

We continue to expand our range of partner organisations who support our school and nursery. This month, we'd like to thank Specsavers in Linlithgow who donated a number of high-vis vests to our school. These vests will be well-used, when we take children out for walks around our community.

We'd also like to thank Champfleurie Estate, Linlithgow and Huws Gray Ltd in Whitburn, for donating bags of bark chippings for our nursery garden. We are so grateful. ☺

Sharing Shelf: Christmas Food Supplies

Although the festive season can bring great joy for families, it can also be a time of financial pressure. We will therefore be supporting families, with bags of 'Christmas holiday food provisions', from our Sharing Shelf, in coming weeks. We'd also be happy to take any donations for our Sharing Shelf, should any of our families want to contribute in this way too. Thank you for your support everyone. ☺

Verified Self Evaluation Days: 27th-28th November

On 27th and 28th November, our staff team will be taking part in two, verified self-evaluation (VSE) days, in conjunction with West Lothian Council colleagues, and as part of our school improvement journey.

These two days, will allow us to reflect on our progress in recent months and to consider our next steps.

As part of these two days, we will be holding a parent's focus group on Monday 27th Nov at 10am,

where parents are invited to share any feedback on our school, with the VSE team. Many thanks to all parents/carers who have kindly agreed to help with this.

We will let you know how our VSE goes, in a forthcoming newsletter.

Family Learning:

Thank you all of our families who attended the 'Let's Read Together/Muffins with Mum' event in the school library, last month. Despite 'Storm Babet', we had a lovely afternoon where we read stories, chatted and enjoyed some yummy treats, in front of a mock 'log fire'.

Thank you also to the families who supported our Numeracy and Maths workshop this week. A group of our P6 children did a brilliant job at teaching the adults how we learn key mathematical concepts in addition, subtraction, division and multiplication, in school.

Our next Family Learning event is as follows:

-15/1/24- 'Liaise with the Leadership Team' at 3.45pm in school.

You Say/We Did: Halloween Celebration in School

At the request of some pupils and parents, we did our Halloween 'Dress Down/Dress up' day on the actual day of Halloween (31st October) this year. This allowed children to have a whole-day of dressing up/celebrations, rather than our school event being on a Friday (as per last session), which is only half a day. We hope that all pupils had fun in school, during the course of the day.

Pupil Writing: Poetry: Where is my Safe Spot?

In response to our recent 'Poetry' Assembly, one of our P5A pupils has written a wonderful poem about her 'safe space'. We'd like to share it with you here and we hope that you enjoy it as much as we did! Well done to Ameila M!

*I've been thinking a lot about my safe space,
It's a place that is relaxing,
Spending time here isn't taxing,
It's sometimes where I eat a meal,
But that depends on how I feel...
Whilst I'm taking about my feeding,
It's also where I do my reading.
It's the best place to spend my time,
So where is that? I hear you say,*

*Tell me quick and don't delay,
Okay, okay... don't be a grouch,
My safe post is my...
Lovely Couch!*

Pupil Voice/Leadership Committees: Expressive Arts

In this newsletter, we'd like to share the work of our P1-3, Expressive Arts Committee, which is led by Ms Quigley. The children in this committee have decided to hold an art competition for the rest of the children in the school. They are making flyers to provide pupils with the entry requirements for the competition and are planning how we vote on the winning entries and where they will be displayed! What excellent enterprise skills these children are showing, as they raise the profile of Art and Design, across school!

Biscuit and Blether

Our last, Biscuit and Blether session was held on Friday 27th October. The theme for this session was around children's perceptions of the way that we teach Numeracy and Maths in school.

Here are some of their views...

Grace (P5B)- "I enjoy Numeracy and Maths lessons because I get to learn super stuff each time."

Cameron (P7B)- "When I am struggling in Numeracy, I can do the grid method, 'bus stop' and 'chimney sums' to help me"

Alicia (P4B)- "My ideal maths lesson is one that is fun and where we play games."

We will be taking forward children's ideas as part of our improvement planning.

House Point News

Douglas House are currently in the lead, on our House Points total this term. In all Houses, children have begun to be earning Bronze Certificates for achieving 25 House Points. Well done everyone!

Assembly Programme

At our last assembly, we said 'goodbye' to our school chaplain, Mr Houston, who is retiring from his ministerial role at St. Ninian's Parish after 19 years of service. We presented Mr Houston with gift of a hamper, to thank him for his work over the years with us and Miss Baillie attended his final service, at St.Ninian's, last Sunday. We are sad to see Mr

Houston go but we are grateful for all of the support that he has shown to our staff, pupils and families over the years.

Here is the list of our forthcoming assemblies:

- 17/11/23: Wellbeing Assembly: World Kindness Day
- 24/11/23: Developing the Young Workforce: Pupil Leadership Committees
- 1/12/23: Pupil Voice Assembly: Linlithgow's 'Big Blether'- school improvement priorities.

Uniform Swap Shop: Christmas Event

A reminder that we will be holding a 'Christmas Jumper, Uniform Swap Shop' on **Friday 24th November, from 8.50-11.30am** in our school foyer.

Please feel free to hand in any donations of 'gently used' children's Christmas jumpers, before this date. Once again, please note that you do not have to donate to enable you to pick up a jumper. The jumpers are available to all. ☺

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 2

-Sunday 12th November- Remembrance Service at St. Michael's Church for Headteacher and Heads of Year

-Monday 13th-Wednesday 15th November: P5 Lockerbie residential camp

-Monday 13th-Friday 17th November: Book Week Scotland

-Monday 13-Friday 17th November: Anti-Bullying/Anti-Racism/Anti-Discrimination Week

-Thursday 16th November (morning): Tempest individual and group photographs for children in P1-7

Thursday 16th November: P1, P2/1 and P2 visit to Linlithgow Library PM.

-Friday 17th November: Children in Need- Wear 'spots or dots' to school, make a donation through iPay if desired.

-Thursday 23rd November- Author visit for P6-7 in school hall

-Friday 24th November- Xmas Jumper 'Swap Shop' from 8.50-11.30am in foyer

-Monday 27th November- P5 to 'Christmas Unwrapped' event at St Michael's Church

-Wednesday 29th November, 6.30pm- Parent Council meeting, school library

-Friday 1st December- Sunday 3rd December: Festival of Xmas Trees at St Michael's Church.

-Tuesday 5th December- P1 and P2 Nativity dress rehearsal for pupils in school to watch.

-Wednesday 6th December- 6pm- P1 and P2 Nativity performance for parents/carers

-Thursday 7th December- Flu vaccinations in school for P1-7 children who have returned a consent form

-Friday 8th December- 11am P1 and P2 Nativity performance for parents/carers

-Friday 8th December: P7/P4 Xmas Marketplace (enterprise activities) in school for all classes to visit and for parents/carers from 11.30-12.30pm.

-Monday 11th December- Panto in school for P1-7: Sleeping Beauty

-Tuesday 12th December- Choir visit to Linlithgow Care Home

-Wednesday 13th December- Xmas Lunches for nursery-P7 plus staff! ☺

-Thursday 14th December- P4-7 Xmas Church Service at St. Ninian's Church- 1.50pm

-Monday 18th December- PM- P3 party

-Tuesday 19th December- AM- P4 party

-Tuesday 19th December- PM- P5 party

-Wednesday 20th December- AM-P6 party

-Wednesday 21st December- PM-P7 party

-Thursday 21st December- AM- P1 and P2 party plus special guest ☺

-Friday 22nd December: 9.15-10.15am- Christmas Song Celebration in hall- all families invited.

-Friday 22nd December- End of term. Xmas holidays begin!

-Monday 8th January- all resume (school and nursery)