

# Linlithgow Primary School News!

January 2024



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

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to our first newsletter of 2024! I do hope that you had a lovely, festive period at home with your families. We have had a very positive start to Term 3, in school, and we look forward to a busy and interesting programme of learning experiences for all classes, before the February break.

Please read on to find out all of our latest news...

Have a great month everyone. 😊

## Staffing News

We were extremely sad to report the sudden loss of one of our teaching staff, Mrs Keery, at the start of December. As you can imagine, the weeks before Christmas were very challenging for our school community and our thoughts were very much still, with Mrs Keery's family.

In time, we would like to organise a memorial for Mrs Keery so that we can recognise and remember the work that she did for pupils at Linlithgow Primary School and especially her desire for all children to be active and enjoying P.E.

You may have also read in the local press about the sad passing of Mr Woodhouse, who ran our school Chess Club, as a volunteer for many years. Again, our thoughts and condolences are with the family of Mr Woodhouse at this time. Our Chess Club will continue at Linlithgow Primary, in his memory, and Mr Woodhouse leaves behind a legacy in our local community of teaching so many current and former pupils the rules of chess and how to play the game.

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment/Raising Attainment and School Curriculum

This term, in Social Subjects and Inter-disciplinary Learning (IDL), our pupils are learning about Famous Scots. Each class will choose some Famous Scots to study, including finding out about the contributions that they made to society and how we can learn from their work, today.

In Health and Wellbeing, all pupils will begin an age-appropriate block of work on the safe use of medicine and drugs and in upper stages, this will include work on substance misuse.

## Home Learning: New Year/New Cheer!

As part of our positive start to the new year and at a time when many people choose to make new year resolutions, we'd like to bring some cheer to 2024. We are inviting all interested pupils, along with their families, to make a 'happy journal' of 3 positive events that happen at home each day. We can all be guilty of focusing on the negative, especially at this time of year, when the mornings and evenings are so dark, and we thought that this activity might be helpful for everyone.

Children are welcome to bring any of their 'happy journals' into school to share, should they choose to do so...

## Nursery News:

The nursery children have been enjoying our spacious, new role play area since the Xmas break. There has been lots of house/homes related play with children pretending to be different members of the family. The children are also exploring their interests around winter animals and wildlife. Penguins are a particular interest ad focus.

## UNCRC/RRS Pupil Voice Committee: Right of the month

Our UNCRC and Rights Respecting Schools, Pupil Voice Committee would like to share their 'Right of the Month'.

*January's Right of the Month is Article 29; you have the right to be the best you can be.*

*January is the time where we all make New Year's Resolutions and goals for the year. At Linlithgow Primary School, the staff and pupils work together to help us achieve these resolutions and goals. We are always given the opportunity to grow, and this is one of our school values.*

### **Partnership Working: 'Nil by Mouth': Scots Storytelling for P3 and P7.**

At the end of January, we have accepted the chance for a Scots storyteller to come into school and read to our P3 and P7 classes. The storyteller is part of an organisation called 'Nil by Mouth' which was set up to challenge sectarianism in Scottish schools and to promote kindness and respect for all.

P3 will be read a special story called 'Neeps and Tatties' and P7 will be read a book that promotes safety and respect when using social media.

We may also have a very special visitor joining us for the story sessions- we will bring more news of this soon! 😊

### **Sharing Shelf: Winter Food Supplies**

In partnership with our local supermarkets, Aldi, Sainsbury's and Tesco, we will be re-stocking our Sharing Shelf with a variety of provisions. We know that the energy bills are rising alongside all costs in general, and the Sharing Shelf remains open for any of our families (or anyone else in the community), who needs this support.

We would also always welcome any donations for our Sharing Shelf of tinned or non-perishable goods and toiletry or baby care items. Thank you for your support everyone. 😊

If any of our families or wider community need further financial support at this time, then please complete the form (by scanning the QR code, below) at West Lothian Advice Shop. Help is always available during difficult times.



### **Pupil Writing: P6: Alice in Wonderland Recount**

Georgia in P6B wrote a wonderful recount of the recent. Alice in Wonderland IDL focus, which P6 undertook. Here is her work:

*After the October holidays. P6 began a topic on (drum roll please...!) yes, you already know, Alice in Wonderland! Leading up to Scottish Book Week, we learned about and celebrated the classic, Victorian novel.*

*First, we came into class on a normal morning, when we saw a table that was full of Alice in Wonderland decorations, such as plates, cups, teapots and more. Miss Noble surprised us with our new topic!*

*Next, we read the books. Some people read the book and others listened to a recording. Some of my friends and I even got the opportunity to record a chapter!*

*Finally, we had our Alice in Wonderland tea party. There were cakes, tea, sandwiches and we did Beanboozled! I got Stink Bug, and I nearly threw up!*

*The topic was the best topic that I've ever had in school; it was super interesting and very enjoyable.*

Georgia P6B

We are so glad that you loved this block of learning Georgia, and what fantastic writing! Well done! 😊

### **Pupil Voice/Leadership Committees:**

This month, we'd like to share the work of two of our infant committees.

Our Play Committee have been learning some traditional playground games. They have also been learning how to play board games, creating some of

our own games and thinking about why games have rules.

Our STEM committee have been finding out what the acronym 'STEM' means. The children have wanted to be 'proper' scientists and they have been undertaking some real experiments. The first experiment that they did was to make 'fireworks' in a jar! They can't wait to try some more!

### **Sharing the Learning/ X feed**

All teaching staff and their classes, will be posting an example of the learning taking place in classrooms at least 1x per week from now on. Please follow us on X if you've yet to do so and enjoy keeping up with the learning as it happens in our school. If you'd like to contribute to learning experiences in any way, then please email the School Office. We are always very grateful for parental input and any fresh ideas.

### **Biscuit and Blether**

At our last Biscuit and Blether session, in December, children looked at the pupil version of the How Good is Our School document, which we use to benchmark our improvement progress and decide upon next steps. The theme of the session was 'How good are our relationships?' Here are some of the children's views:

**How does our school help you to feel that you belong?**

*We wear our LPS uniform.*

*We feel safe talking to adults at LPS.*

*We feel supported by the teachers at LPS.*

**How does our school take care of children and keeps them safe?**

*If we are alone or feeling upset, the staff cheer us up and help us to make friends.*

Our next **Biscuit and Blether** session will be held on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** with a group of children from each class, across school.

### **House Point News: Wallace won the Treat!**

Wallace House won last term's House Treat and all pupils enjoyed a fabulous, interactive Beetle drive, in school this week. Children worked in teams to roll

a dice and to make a beetle. Great fun was had by all! 😊

### **P7 Burns Supper: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Our P7 pupils will take part in a Burns Supper on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January** in the afternoon. They are currently busy learning Scottish dances including 'Strip the Willow', as well as verses from Burns poetry, to recite on the day. Miss Baillie and Mrs Matos will be donning their pinnies to serve the Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, with a vegetarian option being available.

We wish you all a very, happy Burns Day, when it comes.

### **Assembly Programme**

P4A held our first assembly of the term, giving a fabulous performance from all pupils about Growth Mindset and the power of the word, 'yet'. Thank you to Miss Crosson and P4A for their efforts.

Here is a list of our assemblies for the next couple of months:

19/1/24: Wellbeing Assembly: Winter Safety

26/1/24: P7A Class Assembly- parents/carers invited at 9.45am

2/2/24: Wellbeing Assembly: I am respected!

9/2/24: P5A Class Assembly-parents/carers invited at 9.45am

23/2/24: Wellbeing Assembly: I am responsible!

1/3/24: Pupil Leadership Committees Assembly

8/3/24: P5B Class Assembly- parents/carers invited at 9.45am

15/3/24- P6B Class Assembly- parents/carers invited at 9.35am

23/3/24- Numeracy/Maths Assembly- World Maths Day

### **Uniform Swap Shop**

Our next Uniform Swap Shop will take place on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January** from 8.50am-11.30am in our school foyer.

We are reliant on volunteers to help us with the running of our Swap Shop. If you can spare an hour on the first Friday of each month, to help us with this, then please let our School Office, know. We'd be so grateful for any help that you can give.

Our Uniform Swap Shop helps us to recycle, avoid waste and it provides clothing support to families who need it.

### Reminders:

- **Parking and Stopping around School:** Just a gentle reminder to please avoid using our school car park for parking or stopping at any time. The car park is for staff use only, unless you are a Blue Badge holder.
- **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 3

-Friday 12th January- Uniform Swap Shop in School Foyer from 8.50am  
-Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January- P1-7 'Scottish Focus' begins.  
-Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January- P7 Burns Supper  
-Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January- FAST Family Ceilidh  
-Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January - P5A & P5B Handball Festival

-Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January - P7 Tour of Linlithgow Academy as part of their transition.  
-Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February -6.30pm Gala Day Draw in School Hall  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Swap Shop  
-Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February - Family Learning Event: Online presentation for parents - supporting your child to achieve.  
-Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February- Safe Internet Day for all children.  
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February- P1 and P7 Dental Health checks.  
-Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February: Break up for February holiday (Nursery will remain open)  
-Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February- Staff return to school (INSET day)  
-Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February- Pupils return to school  
-Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February- 'Explosive Food Science' show for P1-7- in school hall  
-Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February- 'Explosive Food Science' show for families- in school hall-6pm  
-Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February- P7 Rotary Quiz at St. Joseph's RC Primary  
-Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February - P5A trip to Bannockburn  
-Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February - P5B trip to Bannockburn  
-Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March - Swap Shop  
-Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March- Fairtrade Fortnight begins for all classes in school.  
- British Science Week  
-Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March- NYCOS music intervention to Nursery.  
-Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March- World Book Day  
-Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March- 'Let's Read Together' event for Dads/A special male relative, in the school library at 1pm  
-Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March - P7 Information Evening on Teams for Lagganlia  
-Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March - P5-7 Choir at Regional heat of Scottish Primary Schools Glee Challenge at Alhambra Theatre, Dunfermline  
-Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March- Red Nose Day  
-Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March- ' Daffodil teas' in school for pupils and a special elderly relative- more information to follow.  
-Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March- FAST School Disco (P1-3 from 6-7pm, P4-7 from 7-9pm)  
-Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March- Earth Hour  
-Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March- Internet Safety Focus Week  
-Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March- Parent Consultations in school- more info to follow.  
-Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March- Parent Consultations in school- more info to follow

- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March- Family Easter Egg Hunt- led by our pupil/parent Equity Groups. Break for Easter holidays at 3.20pm
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - School finishes at 3.20pm for the Holidays.
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April- Staff and pupils back to school for Term 4.
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April- P7 Camp to Lagganlia.