



August 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school for Term 1 of session 2024-25! I do hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday. It has been so lovely to welcome all children back into school and to meet our new P1 pupils, who looked so excited on their first day. Starting school is a very special milestone in a child's life and we are always thrilled to meet our new families and to help settle our youngest learners into the swing of school life.

We also have many new children and families joining our nursery community and we'd like to extend a very warm welcome to them too. A school community is like an extended family and through our Family Learning opportunities, extra-curriculum events and school assemblies, we hope that all family members feel fully included and able to contribute to the life and work of our school.

Please read on for all of our 'back to school' news as well as key dates for the term. 😊

Staffing News:

We are delighted to welcome a new member of staff to our school family this year. Miss Hunter has started with us in P3. A very warm welcome to you! We are excited to see all of the new ideas that you will bring to our school.

Over the summer holidays, Ms Graham got married and we will now be known as Ms Daniels. We are thrilled for Ms Daniels and wish both her, and her new husband, a wonderful life together.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Buchanan, is expecting her second baby and she will be starting her maternity leave after the September break. We wish Mrs Buchanan a safe and healthy new arrival and we will bring news of her new baby, when we have it. 😊

We are sorry to report that Mrs Cringean is off sick from her role in nursery at present. We know how much Mrs Cringean is loved by all families in our nursery and we all wish her a speedy recovery.



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

Class Structure 2024-25: Our class structure and teaching staff for this year are as follows:

-P1A- Mrs Menmuir (Mrs Meikle on a Wednesday)
-P1B- Mrs Paton
-P2- Miss Crosson
-P3/2- Mrs Bell and Mrs Chisholm
-P3- Miss Hunter (Miss Farooq on a Thursday)
-P4A- Ms Daniels
-P4B- Mrs Robertson/Mrs Orskov

-P5A- Miss Ferris
-P5B- Ms Quigley/Mrs Ward
-P6A- Miss Noble (Ms Quigley on a Thursday)
-P6B- Mrs Marshall
-P7A- Miss Horsburgh
-P7B- Mrs Bryce

Miss Farooq will teach P.E this session and Mrs Meikle will continue her teaching in Support for Learning.

Ms Quigley and Mrs Bell will also teach different aspects of the Curriculum, across school.

Line Managers for Key Stages of the school: The following members of the Senior Leadership Team will line-manage these key stages:

Nursery and P1- Miss Baillie (Headteacher)
P2-3- Mrs Menmuir (Principal Teacher)
ASN and P4- Mrs Matos (Depute Headteacher- Acting)
P5-7- Miss Noble (Principal Teacher)

As always, Miss Baillie and Mrs Matos can be contacted about any concern that you may have about your child. We are always here to help. 😊

Raising Attainment and Inclusion, Equality and Excellence: As part of our continued drive to raise attainment and to provide the best care and education for every child, Mrs Matos has formulated our support interventions for the term. These interventions are part of our extensive ASN programme in school, and will range from morning wellbeing 'check-ins' with an adult in school to small group Literacy and Numeracy support. Many of these interventions have already started for some pupils and the rest will commence in due course. All of our support interventions are flexible and based on the emerging needs of our children. Please contact us if you feel that your child needs more support in any area in school. We know that children's needs can change over the summer, so please let us know of anything that we can do to help.



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Neuro-divergent Learner- Parental Support Group: At the end of last session, we launched a support group for the families of Neuro-divergent learners. The next meeting of this group will be held on **Tuesday 3rd September from 2-3pm** in our school library, when we will be looking at the use of social stories. Tea and coffee is always provided as well as chance to meet new people and to have a chat. Do come along if you are interested or feel that you would benefit from this support. 😊

Health and Wellbeing: Sun Protection: Although the weather has been a little changeable this summer, we do anticipate that we will still have some sunny days before we get to the September holiday. As usual, we plan to be outdoors with children as much as we can be. Please ensure that pupils come to school wearing sunscreen, on hot days, and that a hat and bottle of water are provided. Thank you for your help with this. 😊

Home Learning for Term 1: Our Home Learning (Homework) programme will commence for all stages (P1-P7) from **Monday 26th August**. Our home learning programme will consist of weekly reading and spelling tasks as well as a learning grid of cross-curricular, optional activities, including Numeracy and Maths.

P7 pupils will be invited to complete a piece of Numeracy and Maths homework, each week, in addition to their reading and other literacy work, as we help to prepare them for S1.

We know that home-life can be very pressured but please support your child to complete home learning tasks, where you can, and let us know if your child requires further support, in school, to enable them to do this. 😊

All children will be given a homework jotter to enable them to record their learning at home and tasks/information from teachers will be posted on the following platforms:

P1-3- Seesaw

P4-7- Microsoft Teams

Seesaw logins will be provided for parents/carers within the next couple of weeks and all P4-7 children know their Teams login details. Please contact our office if you or your child needs more support to log in to either Seesaw or Teams.

Social Enterprise Community Café: Mrs Matos and her Pupil Equity Group will run our next Social Enterprise Community Café in our school hall on **Thursday 19th September at 2pm**. All members of our community are welcome to come along for a cuppa, cake and a chat, for a small donation. All proceeds are split between funding the café and supporting The School Bank West Lothian.



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'You said/We did': Progress in Learning: As part of our commitment to continuous improvement and in listening to and acting on the views of all who use our service, we are introducing a new system for Pupil Profiling this session. Pupil Profiling is the system or systems that we create and use in school to help children, staff and parents/carers to understand strengths and next steps in learning. Profiling helps us to build up a holistic picture of each child, knowing their interests, the things that they enjoy in school and any areas in which they need more support. Each child will have their own personal 'profile' on Seesaw or Teams and they will be able to share information about themselves, their achievements and next steps in learning on the platform, enabling them to easily share this with parents/carers. Children will be given time to work on their 'profiles' regularly in class and most importantly to engage in discussions with their class teacher about their learning.

After the September break, parents/carers will be able to use Seesaw and Teams to view their child's profile, which will hopefully invite discussion around learning, at home.

We hope that you like our new profiling system, when it is launched and feel that it provides a clearer picture of your child's learning in school. 😊

School Trips and Excursions: Each class will go on at least one trip or excursion this session, to enable pupils to learn from and within the wider community. Details of individual class trips will be emailed to parents/carers and shared on iPayImpact and Parentsportal as and when they are planned.

Family Learning Calendar: We are excited to launch our nursery and school, Family Learning calendar, for the year and this will be emailed to all families by the September break. If there are any activities that you would like us to include in school, for the benefit of your family, please let us know. We are always open to fresh ideas. Our Family Learning events will include a combination of informative presentations for parents/carers, as well as workshops for the whole family to attend. We hope that you enjoy coming in to our school and taking part in our activities, should you choose to do so.

Equity for All: Sharing Shelf: As part of our desire to support all families, our 'Sharing Shelf' will be back in action and fully stocked with a range of household items and non-perishable foods in coming weeks. Thank you to our staff team who help us to pick up goods from our suppliers: Aldi, Sainsbury's and Tesco. The Sharing Shelf can be assessed at any time by any family who needs it and it is conveniently located in our school foyer.

Partnership Working: We are delighted to have formed a link with the local charities: Linlithgow Parish Trust and St. Vincent de Paul. Both of these organisations have already started to help us to support families in school and we are extremely grateful. Together we can do more.



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Pupil Leadership Committees: Our Pupil Leadership Groups will commence later on this term with some exciting groups and activities planned, to take forward our school improvements.

This session our leadership groups will run in the following stages:

- Nursery will work together with pupils in P1, to take part in activities such as Woodwork, Sewing and Weaving, gardening and cooking.
- Primaries 2, 3 and 4 will take part in improvement groups such as: Play, Junior Road Safety, Eco/Gardening, STEM and 1+2 Languages
- P5-7 pupils will take part in improvement groups including: Pupil Council, Sports Leaders, Digital Leaders, Reading Ambassadors and Rights Respecting Schools.

We will bring news of a different Pupil Leadership Group in each newsletter, each month.

Fairtrade Fortnight 30th Anniversary: 9th-20th September 2024: From **Monday 9th September to Friday 20th September**, our children and staff will be taking part in the 30th Anniversary celebrations for Fairtrade Fortnight. Did you know that it is 30 years since the Fairtrade movement began in schools and communities, across the United Kingdom? Globally, millions and farmers and workers have benefited from the stable prices for goods, community services and facilities such as education and clean water, that Fairtrade has provided.

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight we'd invite families to see if they can try to use Fairtrade products at home, during the fortnight and to think how these goods, benefit people, across the world.

Nursery News: Our nursery pupils had a wonderful summer, following their interests along the theme of 'dinosaurs' during the school holidays. They are currently exploring the theme of 'ourselves' learning about their own likes and dislikes and comparing these to those of their friends.

Uniform Swap Shop: Our last Uniform Swap Shop will begin again for of the session, kindly supported by our parent volunteers. The first Swap Shop will take place on **Friday 6th September** from 8.50am-11.30am in our school foyer. Please come along to donate or to pick up any 'pre-loved' uniform that you need for your child. 😊

Pupil Writing: This month, we'd like to share a fantastic piece of 'back to school' writing by Cole in P3. Well done Cole for getting your work published. We are proud of you!

I went to Pets at Home, during the summer holidays to get a hamster with my Mum. I spent 50p on the hamster. My Hamster is called Riley. He is soft and he is white and black. We got food from Pets at Home too.



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Meet the Teacher Event: Wednesday 11th September 2024: On **Wednesday 11th September**, we will be holding our annual 'Meet the Teacher' event in school for all P1-7 children. Please come along to school, between **5.30-6.30pm** to meet your child's class teacher(s) and find out about the planned learning for the year. Teachers will give an informative presentation to help you to support your child at home, with the school year ahead.

Each teacher will run their presentation **twice** to enable families with more than one child, to attend different classes. The presentations will run as follows:

Presentation 1 in all classrooms: 5.30-6.00pm

Presentation 2 in all classrooms: 6.00-6.30pm

We hope to see you in school on that evening however, for the convenience of families who are unable to attend, we will provide an email link to all of the presentations that were delivered by teaching staff, after the event. This means that information can be re-visited at home, as many times as needed. We hope that this helps everyone. 😊

School Improvement Priorities: Session 2024-25: We will publish our School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report to our School Website **by Thursday 12th September**. These documents detail our progress and achievements in school as well as our planned improvements for the session. We detailed our planned improvement work for this session, in our June newsletter but as a reminder, here are our improvement priorities below:

1. To enable all pupils to have greater opportunities to lead the direction of learning experiences in classrooms and to have a say in what they'd like to learn and the way in which they'd like to learn it.
2. To develop a Listening and Talking teaching and learning progression, to ensure that all pupils develop a range of skills for talking and are given varied opportunities to talk for different purposes and in front of different audiences.
3. To continue to use our Pupil Equity Funding to support our most disadvantaged children, through a range of interventions in school, and to help them to close any gaps in their learning and to make continued progress.
4. To support all of our pupils to develop skills for work, through the effective use of digital technologies and through outdoor learning opportunities.

As always, if you can contribute to any of our school development work, then please get in touch. We are always grateful for input and support.



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Parent Council/FAST Support: Our Parent Council and FAST (Fundraising And Social Team) will continue their fantastic work to support our school this session. The next Parent Council meeting will take place, online, on **Monday 26th August at 7.30pm**. The link to the meeting will be emailed to all families in due course and everyone is very welcome to attend. 😊 Minutes of the meetings are always sent out to families after the event, so that those who were unable to attend, can catch up on anything discussed or planned.

Health and Wellbeing/One Trusted Adult: All children in school will continue to have a daily opportunity to report on their Health and Wellbeing and seek any support that they need from staff to stay healthy and happy. In addition, each term, children will complete a formal Health and Wellbeing screening tool and questionnaire which is used by staff to provide support for individuals who need it. Each child will also choose a trusted adult in school who they can access at any time, should they need someone to talk to.

Assembly Programme: Term 1: Each class will have a turn to present an assembly to parents/carers and wider family, again, this session. **Class assemblies will commence after the October break**, on Friday mornings at 9.45am, with the dates of all assemblies being provided in the September newsletter. Here are the list of our assemblies planned for pupils up until the October break:

Friday 23rd August: Wellbeing Assembly: I am Healthy

Friday 30th August: Wellbeing Assembly- I am Safe

Friday 6th September: Global Citizenship Assembly- Fairtrade Fortnight

Friday 20th September- Pupil Leadership Assembly- Pupil Equity Group

Friday 27th September: Wellbeing Assembly: I have choices

Friday 4th October: Global Citizenship Assembly: Harvest Assembly

Pupil Equity: 'Pay it Forward' System: The majority of families voted for us to set up a 'Pay it Forward' system in school before the summer holidays. Already, this fund is enabling us to support *all* children in school to have the same opportunities with residential experiences and trips, regardless of any financial constraints that may be encountered by their family. We are so grateful to all families who have chosen to contribute to this fund. The money will be used to ensure that no child in school, has to miss out, on any of the additional experiences that we offer and where a charge is in place. If you'd like to donate to this fund, you can do so, via iPayImpact at any time. Thank you again for making a difference. 😊



REMINDERS:

Parking and Stopping around School: Please drive and park safely on Preston Road for the safety of all children. Please also, 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.

Child Protection: Please speak to Miss Baillie/Mrs Matos if you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of any child in our school community. You can also phone Broxburn Social Work Department (Children and Families), to report a concern for any child on 01506 284440 at any time. It's the job of everyone to keep children safe.

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.

Sunscreen: As we move into warmer months (hopefully!), please ensure that children are supported to apply suntan lotion before coming to school each day, to keep their skin safe in the sun. Please also provide a cap or hat, as needed.



DATES FOR DIARIES: TERM 1:

- Wednesday 28th August- P7 Palace Guide programme begins in school
- Monday 2nd September-Friday 6th September- P6 Outdoor Education Days
- Tuesday 3rd September- Neuro-divergent Learner- Parental Support Group, 2-3pm in our school library
- Friday 6th September- Uniform Swap Shop, 8.50am-11.30am in our school foyer
- Monday 9th September- P6 Outdoor Education Day
- Wednesday 11th September- Meet the Teacher event in school- 5.30-6.30pm
- Friday 13th-Tuesday 17th September- School closed for September break for staff and pupils- nursery remains open.
- Thursday 19th September- Social Enterprise Café in school at 2pm. All welcome!
- Monday 23rd September- Friday 27th September- Maths Week Scotland
- Friday 4th October- Harvest Assembly/Donations for West Lothian Food Bank
- Monday 7th October-Friday 11th October- Challenge Poverty Week
- Tuesday 8th October- Parent Consultations in school- 5.30-8.30pm- more information to follow
- Wednesday 9th October- Parent Consultations in school- 4-6pm- more information to follow
- Friday 11th October- October break begins for school staff and pupils.
- Tuesday 22nd October- School re-opens for Term 2 for pupils.

CONTACT US:

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