



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now well into the swing of Term 2 and all children are making progress in their learning and enjoying all of the different opportunities currently on offer in school. Our After-School Club and Lunchtime Club programme have now started for the year, with children benefiting from the chance to engage in Chess Club, Tennis, Netball and Football to name but a few clubs. We are so grateful to all staff and volunteers who give up their own time to facilitate our After-School and Lunchtime Club programme, for the benefit of our children. We will build on the range of clubs that we currently provide, based on pupil interest, throughout the year, and ensure that we offer clubs for all ages and stages. We also have a range of trips and excursions taking place for pupils in the next few weeks. P6 are due to visit the Scottish Parliament to find out more about democracy and P5 will go on their residential trip to Lockerbie in the middle of the month. Our Christmas Calendar begins at the end of November and with it, will come a whirl of different, festive experiences.

Enjoy the rest of the month everyone. 😊

Staffing News: We had a really successful training session on Outdoor Learning, for teaching staff, on the October INSET day which was led by Miss Noble and Mrs Menmuir. All staff wrapped up warmly, and had a great afternoon developing their skills at creating lessons in the 'outdoor classroom'. We are so lucky to have such large grounds at LPS as well as the Union Canal, on our doorstep, which both provide varied habitats and ecosystems for children to explore. Staff engaged in an outdoor, poetry writing session which was lots of fun, as well as discovering new ways to take Numeracy and Maths learning outdoors.

We have also recently provided re-fresher Paediatric First Aid training for all of our staff.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/School Curriculum: Book Study Inter-Disciplinary Learning Topic: All classes across school are currently engaging in a 'book study' topic as part of their Inter-Disciplinary Learning (IDL). Children have worked together to select a book that they'd like to read in class and base their learning around. Whilst the learning is rooted in developing children's Literacy skills, links are being made to Technologies, Expressive Arts and Science/STEM. The books that children have chosen to study are as follows:

P1- The Katie Morag stories by Mairi Hedderwick

P2- Room on the Broom, Snail on the Whale and Smartest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson

P3/2- The Gruffalo and The Gruffalo's Child by Julia Donaldson

P3- The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd

P4- Iron Man by Ted Hughes



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

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P5- A Walk in Paris by Salvatore Rubbino

P6- Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

P7- Wonder by R.J. Palacio

We will also be taking part in **Scottish Book Week** which runs from **Monday 18th- Friday 22nd November**. P1 will receive their Book Bug bags during this week and P2, P3/2 and P3 will be given 'Read Write, Count' bags, all donated by the Scottish Book Trust. We will continue to promote 'a love of reading' for all pupils, at all stages of the school.

Pupil Equity Group: Blether Café: October: Thank you to all members of our wider-school community to attend our Halloween themed Blether Café on the **31st October**. We had a great turn out for the day and people appeared to enjoy having some coffee and cake, a chat with friends and a chance to buy a raffle ticket to win our Autumn gift hamper. Many local businesses donated prizes for this hamper, and we are extremely grateful to all of them for their generosity and kindness. All proceeds from the hamper, will be spent directly on our children, to ensure that every child can take part in the experiences that we offer and that no-child needs to miss out because of financial constraints at home. Our next Blether Café will have a Christmas theme and will take place on **Thursday 28th November, in our school hall at 2pm**. Please spread the word and come along, if you can, to enjoy some festive cheer. 😊

Neuro-divergent Learner- Parent Support Group: Thank you to all families who attend our last Neurodivergent Learner, Parent Support group on **Thursday 10th October at 2pm**. Parents has the opportunity to learn more about the difficulties that Neurodivergent children and individuals can have when making daily transitions and how we can better support these at home and in school. If you have missed any of our previous sessions and feel that you need more support, as a parent, at any time, please contact Miss Baillie, via the school office, and we will reach out to you. Our next meeting will take place on **Thursday 14th November at 2pm**, when the theme, (as decided by our group members), will be around supporting children to self-regulate. Please come along if you feel that this group would be beneficial to you or your family. You will always be made to feel very welcome. 😊

'Your Choice' dress down day for Children in Need: This year for Children in Need, which takes place on **Friday 15th November**, we'd like to invite all children to come to school wearing their own choice of clothing, hairstyle etc. We are working to give children more choices in their learning in school and we thought that children would love to have a day when instead of wearing school uniform, they can come to school and express their own personality and likes/dislikes through their clothing and hair. We will also send out a flyer/reminder about this day, to all families in due course. Donations can be made to Children in Need, if desired, on iPayImpact.



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Sharing the Learning with Families: You will have hopefully noticed that our Twitter Feed (X), is looking really colourful at the moment, with all classes in school being encouraged to post pictures and comments about learning experiences each week. Please follow us on X if you aren't already doing so. Viewing our feed is a sure way to brighten up your day. 😊

We will also continue to send out a sample of our termly planning to you each term, so that you are aware of the main learning theme, in your child's class. We have updated our planning this year, so that what we share with you is relevant, based on children's interests and makes clear links to the Curriculum.

Please also view your child's **Pupil Profile** on Seesaw (P1-3) and Teams (P4-7) and engage in conversations about learning at home, to ensure that you are aware of your child's successes and next steps in learning.

Pupil Achievement: Fairtrade Competition Winner: We were so thrilled for Asia in P7A who was one of a handful of children in West Lothian to win an award for designing a poster to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Fairtrade movement. Well done Asia for your creativity! 😊

Partnership Working: Community First Responders: We are grateful to our community Police and Fire Service for supporting our P1 and P2 classes with their learning around 'Jobs People Do'. We know that our First Responders are very busy and we appreciate these individuals for taking the time to help our pupils. Thank you!

P5 Mock Court Update: P5 are continuing to make progress with their Mock Court project. Each team has now been paired with an opposing team from another school. It has been a very busy time for the 'lawyers' and 'researchers', as they have had to create their arguments and give responses to the opposing team. The children are now working on building the case, ready for trial. This includes deciding what evidence is needed, building witness statements, and making gowns to wear in court! The trial process is being reported by teams of 'journalists', who have interviewed 'lawyers' and 'witnesses' and are putting the articles together to make newspaper pages.

Here are some of the children's thoughts on the project so far:

Julen – 'We've been learning the jobs to do with court cases. My job as a researcher, which means I find information that will help our case. I am enjoying it because I can create things such as pieces of evidence to help the case.'

Ruaidri- 'My job is a journalist. I write newspaper articles on the court case. I like the Mock Court because it is a good opportunity to learn about Court in a fun way.'



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

P7 Palace Guide Programme: Our P7 pupils have been working hard over the past few weeks, putting together their Palace Guide performance which will be showcased at Linlithgow Palace this week. The children have increased their knowledge of Medieval Scottish history as well as developing skills in public speaking, drama and performance. We are grateful to Historic Scotland and their partner organisation, Illuminate, for helping our children to put this performance together. For the first time in several years, the performance will take place within Linlithgow Palace. Well done to you all! 😊

P6 Peer Mediation Programme: As part of our Health and Wellbeing programme for all pupils, our P6 classes are due to take part in Peer Mediation training, in due course. After this training, we hope that our P6 Buddies will feel more equipped to support other children with any conflicts that they may encounter in our playground. Learning the skill of how to resolve conflict will hopefully increase children's confidence in social situations and help them to be kind friends to others.

Support for Attendance: As the darker mornings come upon us, we'd like to take this opportunity to promote high attendance levels for all pupils. We know that it can be challenging, for many different reasons, to get children out to school and on time each morning, but we also recognise that there can be significant negative impacts of poor attendance on pupil's attainment and achievement in school and on their social relationships. We are always keen to support children and families, where attendance is an issue, following West Lothian Council policy. Please reach out to us at any time, if you are concerned about your child's attendance or would like more help with this. We are here to support you all. 😊

Winter Health Advice: As we head towards the colder months in school and to prevent the spread of any winter bugs, please encourage regular handwashing at home. We also recommend that any child who presents with a tummy bug, stays at home for a further 48hrs, after the symptoms have cleared. We have had a few parents/carers in school report outbreaks of Head Lice at home and we'd encourage all families to 'check heads' regularly and seek support from the Pharmacy, for any persistent outbreaks so that we can keep all children comfortable and healthy. Thank you so much for your help with this. 😊

Home Learning Activity: Outdoor Art: For the month of November, we'd like to invite all families to create a piece of 'fireworks' themed art work using outdoor materials. Can you use sticks, cones and leaves to make a fireworks design? Please take photos of your efforts and send these to our school mailbox. Happy 5th November!



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

Biscuit and Blether: At our last Biscuit and Blether session which took place on **Friday 25th October**, the pupils who attended discussed **Pupil Participation** in lessons. They talked about what it means to be fully engaged in learning experiences and how staff can support this.

Here are some of the children's ideas:

"Pupil Participation means listening to the opinions of everyone."

"It means working together, collaborating and being a good sport."

"It means that you don't talk when other are talking."

"It makes you feel happy because you know that people are listening to you."

Nursery News: In the nursery, our children are currently following their own lines of enquiry as they learn about the World of Work. There has been lots of fun in the role-play area as children have pretended to be medics and police-officers. Children have also benefitted from a visit from a 'real-life' police-officer who told them more about their daily job and answered lots of the children's questions. We are hoping to give children experience of traditional craft-making in coming weeks, including sewing and weaving, experimenting with clay and possible basket-making. We are excited to see the children's creative efforts! 😊

Uniform Swap Shop: Our next Uniform Swap Shop will take place on **Friday 6th December** from 8.50am until 11.30am, in our school foyer. Please feel free to come along and either donate or pick-up any 'pre-loved' school clothing.

Christmas Events Calendar: As a reminder, our Christmas Events Calendar was published last month for your convenience. Please put this onto the front of your fridge or in a handy place, so that you can keep up-to-date with all of our festive events in school, at a very busy time of year.

Family Learning Event: School Library: Thank you to all families who attended the 'Let's Read Together' event in our school library on **Friday 25th October**. Children and families had a lovely time, browsing the book selection, listening to stories and enjoying the quiet space. Our next Family Learning event is on **Thursday 21st November from 4-4.30pm**, when representatives of our Pupil Equity Team will be sharing their work, for any interested parents/carers, online. A Teams invite will follow for the meeting. All are very welcome to attend.



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Pupil Writing: This month, we'd like to feature a beautiful poem about nature, that was written by Alexis in P6A. Well done Alexis for your creative writing! We are very proud of you.

The Little Meadow

*The leaves fall slow in the Autumn sun,
The grass waves 'hi!'
In the whispering wind.*

*I can hear the sweet tweeting of a bird,
In a family of leaves growing on arms of trees,
With the round, red Rowan berries dotted about.*

*Glittering droplets like stars in the sky,
Sit on growing, green grass,
But then the wind lies quiet,
Like me in my bed.*

By Alexis in P6A

Pupil Leadership Committees 2024/25: Pupil Council: Our P4-7 Pupil Council, who are supported by Miss Hunter, have been busy organising our school contribution towards the BBC Children in Need appeal. They have made posters to tell all children about our dress down day for **Children in Need on 15th November**. At the next meeting, they will be learning a variety of playground games to teach to the other children in school. What great work they are all doing!

Assembly Programme: Term 2: Well done to P6A who led a fantastic, Halloween assembly, on Friday 25th October. All children had the opportunity to perform in a way that best met their needs and individual preferences. There was singing, dancing, poetry recitals and acting. It was such an entertaining assembly. Great work everyone. 😊

Here is a list of our forthcoming assemblies:

- Friday 8th November: Wellbeing Assembly: 'I am included': World Kindness Day/Anti-Bullying
- Friday 15th November: Wellbeing Assembly: 'I am safe'.
- Friday 22nd November: Pupil Leadership Committees: Open-Mic session to share progress.
- Friday 29th November: Pupil Leadership: Linlithgow's 'Big Blether.'



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.



DATES FOR DIARIES:

- Wednesday 6th November- P7B Palace Guides Performance at Linlithgow Palace: Cast A (P6A watching performance)
- Thursday 7th November- P7 at Linlithgow Academy for F1 in schools event
- Thursday 7th November –Selected P6 footballers to Football League event at LA.
- Thursday 7th November – 2pm – Parent Focus Group:Pupil Engagement. All welcome
- Friday 8th November- P7A Palace Guides Performance at Linlithgow Palace- Cast B (P6B watching)
- Sunday 10th November- Remembrance Parade and Church Service at St. Michaels- P7 Heads of Year and Miss Baillie
- Monday 11th November- Wednesday 13th November- P5 to Lockerbie Camp
- Monday 11th November- Anti-Bullying Week in school
- Wednesday 13th November- P7 trip to The Risk Factory, Edinburgh
- Thursday 14th November- Flu vaccinations in school for P1-7
- Thursday 14th November – Neurodivergent Learners- Parental Support Group– 2pm All welcome
- Friday 15th November- Children in Need “Children’s Choice Day” - more information to follow.
- Monday 18th November-Friday 22nd November- Book Week Scotland
- Wednesday 20th November – P2 Trip to Linlithgow Library
- Thursday 21st November- Dogs Trust in P4A and P4B
- Thursday 21st November- P1 trip to Linlithgow Library
- Thursday 21st November- 4pm (online) -Family Learning Presentation: Pupil Equity Group- Teams link to follow.
- Monday 25 November – Deadline for School and ELC Christmas Lunch orders
- Monday 25th November- P5 to ‘Christmas Unwrapped’ event at St Michael’s Church
- Thursday 28th November- 2pm-Social Enterprise Christmas Blether Café in school hall. All welcome.
- Thursday 28th November – P1-3 6.00pm – 7.15pm and P4-7 7.30pm – 9.00pm FaST Christmas Disco
- Wednesday 11th December- P6 trip to the Scottish Parliament and Holyrood Park
- Friday 20th December- Christmas break begins for school pupils at 12.25pm and nursery pupils, all resume Monday 6th January



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