



December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our December Newsletter and to all of the fun and frolics that this time of year brings in school. Christmas is most definitely about children and we do hope that our pupils enjoy all of the exciting experiences coming up over the next three weeks. Please keep an eye on your Christmas Calendar 2024, so that you don't miss out on anything.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year, when it comes.
😊

Staffing News: Our teaching staff have been busy learning about some different approaches to planning Interdisciplinary Learning Experiences, including through the use of The Project Approach and Project Based Learning. Our children will be consulted on their existing knowledge of a topic, and on their ideas about what they'd like to learn and how they'd like to do it, in all classrooms, moving forwards. Hopefully, when you are next in classrooms, you will see that the 'voice of the child' is more evident in wall displays and in the documentation of learning,

Save the Date: Family Learning Event: Open Afternoon: 28th January: In addition to our published, Family Learning Calendar for the session, we'd like to invite all parents/carers and/or wider family members, to come into school on Tuesday 28th January between 1.45pm- and 3pm, for an 'Open Afternoon'. We will be opening our doors and inviting families to come into school and share in the learning experiences, taking place in our classrooms. Please come along if you can. You will all be made to feel very welcome. 😊

Learning/Teaching and Assessment/School Curriculum: P7 Christmas Enterprise Project: Both P7 classes have been working hard to create their own businesses in preparation for their Christmas Marketplace on the 6th of December. Children have learned about the set-up of a business. This has included, designing their own product and service, creating their product and service and then learning all about advertising. Some children have chosen to use this month's newsletter to advertise their business. Please see advert from 'Santa's Little Cupcakes', below:

Hey, we are "Santa's Little Cupcakes". We are a fabulous team of little elves that will make your Christmas cupcake dreams come true!

We sell:

- Cupcakes 75p
- Snowmen cupcakes 80p
- Melted candy canes 30p



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- Top hat cakes 15p
- And we have a great game of "BOBBLE TOSS"! Where you can win a bobble wreath and mystery prize.

So why not lead yourself to our stall this Friday to get all these great products? Come to us for your own treat!

Thank you to our 'Little Cupcakes' for providing this fantastic advert. 😊

Pupil Equity Group: Blether Café: December: Our December Blether Café has been the busiest yet! We were thrilled to see a jam-packed hall, full of friends and family, gathering to support our pupils by enjoying a festive cuppa and cake. Well done to our Pupil Equity Group who ran the café so well, supported by Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Matos. Thank you also, to Mrs Cameron for leading our P4-5 choir who sang so beautifully on the day. All proceeds will go back into the running of future cafes, with a substantial proportion also being donated to West Lothian Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this fantastic, Social Enterprise activity which also benefits the whole community.

Our next Blether Café will be held in our school hall on Thursday 30th January 2025 at 2pm.

Neuro-divergent Learner- Parent Support Group: Thank you to the parents/carers who attended our October meeting of the Neurodivergent Learner- Parent Support Group. At this meeting we looked at how we can use the Zones of Regulation resource to support children to self-regulate in school and at home. Our next meeting will take place on **Thursday 12th December at 2pm**, when we will have an open, Q&A session around support needs at home. 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. 😊

Sharing the Learning with Families: Pupil Profiles: A little reminder to keep up to date with your child's learning in school in the following ways: Firstly, class learning is updated each week on X, and secondly, for individual progress, please view your child's **Pupil Profile** on Seesaw (P1-3) and Teams (P4-7). We hope that both of these platforms, help you to engage in conversations about learning at home, and make you more aware of your child's strengths and next steps in learning. If you are ever unsure or would like more guidance on this, please arrange for a chat with your child's class teacher. We are always happy to help. 😊

Pupil Achievement: Skiing: Our LPS ski team deserve another huge 'shout out' this month for their continued achievements. As individual skiers, and as a team, they continue to go from strength to strength in both the quality and speed of their skiing. We have recently taken ownership of a beautiful trophy after a few members of the team took 'first place' in the National Schools Outdoor Championships. Next week, the team hope to continue their success in the Boyd



Anderson Competition. We can't wait to hear how they get on! Please keep an eye on X for photos.

UNCRC/Children's Right of the Month: Articles 45: As part of our work towards gaining our Rights Respecting Schools, Gold Award, we plan to continue to promote children's rights in our newsletter each month. Our pupil led, Rights Respecting Schools Group, continues to be supported by Miss Crosson, with Mrs Russell also facilitating this work in our nursery. This month our Article of the Month is Article 45. Article 45 states that non-governmental organisations, such as UNICEF and other United Nations bodies, can provide advice and assistance on children's rights. At the end of November, children learned about World Children's Day in their classrooms. World Children's Day took place on 20th November and it is UNICEF's annual day of action for children. From climate change, education and mental health, to ending racism and discrimination, children and young people are raising their voices on the issues that matter to them, and they are calling for adults to create a better future.

Partnership Working: Dogs Trust: We are delighted to have an on-going partnership with West Lothian Dogs Trust who have been coming into school for the past few years, to speak to P4 about safety around dogs and responsible dog ownership. Thank you to the Dogs Trust for the valuable information and skills that they give to our pupils. We are very grateful.

Home Learning Activity: Christingle: R.M.E.: This month, we'd like to invite any of our families who celebrate Christmas to make a Christingle. A Christingle is a symbol of the Christian faith and it is often used in Christmas services. To make the Christingle, you will need:

- An orange
- A candle
- Some red ribbon
- Some tinfoil
- 4 cocktail sticks
- Some dried fruit

What to do:

- With an adult's help, make a whole in the top of the orange for the candle. You can put a small amount of tin-foil around the candle to catch any wax, that may drip if the candle is lit.
- Tie the red ribbon around the middle of the candle.
- Push the cocktail sticks into the top of the orange and put some dried fruit on each stick.

N.B: Only let an adult light the candle and make sure that you don't leave it unsupervised when it is lit.

If you do plan to attend a church service over the Christmas period, then you might like to take your Christingle along with you. It also makes a very nice decoration on a Christmas table and it smells lovely too. 😊



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Pupil Writing: A Persuasive Text: Fireworks: This month, we'd like to feature the work of Ben in P3, who wrote a persuasive argument about why he feels that we shouldn't ban fireworks. We teach persuasive writing from P3 onwards, to help children to understand that there are always two sides to an argument or an issue, and through the effective use of the written word, we can support them to be able to argue for something that matters to them. What a great life skill to have! Well done for this fantastic writing Ben! 😊

I am writing to say that fireworks that fireworks shouldn't be banned. These beautiful, sparkly bangs light up the sky.

Firstly, I think that fireworks shouldn't be banned because they are shiny, sparkling and shimmering like a big star.

Secondly, they bring joy to the world and get people out of their houses. They get to see big, dazzling sparks explode into little flames.

Thirdly, I like fireworks because they glow up the big night sky and they put smiles on everyone's faces. Fireworks make a bright scene for everyone to see.

1+2 Languages: Linlithgow Twinning Association: Guyancourt Link: We are thrilled to have re-established a link with a school in Guyancourt, near Paris, in France. As you may know, Linlithgow is twinned with Guyancourt and schools in the town, used to share very purposeful links together. Unfortunately, over time and particularly since the Pandemic, these links have been lost.

Ms Daniels will lead this project for us and we hope to have some new, exciting developments in the pipeline for our children, both here at Linlithgow Primary and in Guyancourt too. Vive la France! 😊

Pupil Leadership Groups: An 'Open-Mic' Assembly! We had a fantastic Pupil Leadership Groups Assembly on 22nd November which saw representatives from each committee, come up to the microphone to share their recent work and to provide information on how each group, continues to undertake initiatives to help to improve our school. Here is a little bit of information on some of the groups:

Our 'Novel Navigators' group talked about their work in promoting a love of reading for all pupils. This group are helping us to achieve our Reading Schools, Silver Award and we hope that we will gain this award very soon. Our 'Merry Makers' group are learning about different playground games, as well as creating their own games, to support children in the playground. Our 'Bloom Buddies' group shared the learning that they have done on bio-diversity and habitats, whilst looking at the flora and fauna in the LPS school grounds. The 'Pixel Pioneers' group have been learning about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and how AI can be effectively used in classrooms, by pupils and teachers, to assist learning. Did you know that there are some schools who even have a virtual Headteacher, created by AI! 😊 Well done to all children who shared information at this special assembly and to all groups that took part. Thank you all!



Family Learning Event: Pupil Equity Presentation: Thank you to all families who attended the presentation on how LPS helps families to Reduce the Cost of the School Day, which was led by our members of our Pupil Equity Group on Thursday 21st November. The children who presented, spoke confidently and eloquently about how we support, all children to have the same access to opportunities in our school through measures such as: Free after-school clubs, snack baskets, Pay it Forward, our Uniform Swap Shop and our Sharing Shelf.

Assembly Calendar: 'Big Blether' Assembly: All pupils recently had the opportunity to contribute their thoughts and opinions to our school improvement work. At both the P1-3 assembly and at the P4-7 assembly on Friday 29th November, children were invited to comment on how well we give choices in learning experiences and how they are given opportunities to lead initiatives around school. We got some fantastic responses which we will use to take forward improvements in the new year.

Here are some of the children's views on the leadership opportunities that they feel we provide in school:

- I get to be a leader in school because I help others when they are hurt.
- I get to be a Sports Captain and Sports Leader
- I get to be a leader at Biscuit and Blether
- I get to be a leader when I do my P7 jobs.
- I get to be a leader when we do class projects.
- I get to be a leader when we do school shows.
- I get to be a leader when we run the Blether Café
- I get to be a leader when we get to do enterprise activities.
- I get to be a leader when I am a Reading or 1+2 Ambassador.

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.

Tesco Stronger Starts, please pick up a blue token and vote for us! We're in the customer vote for a Tesco Stronger Starts grant of up to £1,500. Tesco customers can vote in the Linlithgow and Bo'ness stores now until mid January 2025 to decide how much funding we get, so please support us next time you shop at Tesco in Linlithgow or Bo'ness!

Any funding we receive will go towards promoting health and wellbeing at Linlithgow Primary School and Nursery, including our Health Week, after-school clubs and other activities to create opportunities for all our learners to get involved in taking care of their health and wellbeing.

To vote you need to make a purchase within the Linlithgow or Bo'ness Tesco stores of any value, you will then receive one blue token per transaction, you can use this to vote for us at the voting boxes by the checkouts. Your support is invaluable and we would be grateful if you could spread



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the word to family and friends to participate in the voting process as well. Every vote counts!

Christmas Events Calendar: 2024-2025: Please continue to use the Christmas Events Calendar to help you to keep up-to-date with all of the events for the remainder of this month and until we break up for the Christmas holidays on Friday 20th December. As an extra help, we have also added the dates at the bottom of this newsletter too. We return to school on Monday 6th January 2025.

Christmas Hamper Raffle Draw: If you'd like to buy raffle tickets for our Christmas Hamper, you can do so at the school office entrance, tickets are £1 per strip. The hamper is filled with lots of festive treats, including a giant Christmas Percy Pig, all proceeds from the ticket sales will go towards school funds. Good luck!

Nursery Christmas Fair: Our Nursery pupils and staff will be running their own Christmas Fair to raise money for nursery funds on Thursday 5th December from 3-5pm. Please come along if you'd like to buy some home baking, crafts and to enjoy the festive ambiance. 😊

P1 and P2 Nativity Performances: Our P1 and P2 Nativity performance of 'Snuggle Up Stable' will take place for ticket holders on Thursday 5th December at 6pm and Friday 6th December at 11am, in our school hall.

We will have a Christmas refreshment stall at both performances where we will be offering a selection of hot beverages and snacks for a small charge, plus the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for our Christmas hamper. Please bring a useable mug with a lid, if you can.

All classes will get to see our Nativity at a special 'dress rehearsal' performance on the afternoon of Thursday 5th December.

Christmas Marketplace: On Friday 6th December, our P7 pupils will be running their annual Christmas Enterprise Stalls in the Middle Area of our school. Children from P3-6 have also made a small selection of goods, which will be on sale at the Enterprise to raise money for school funds. All classes will be given an opportunity to visit the Marketplace on Friday morning. Please send children into school on Friday morning, with loose change, in a purse or wallet, labelled with their name, should you wish them to buy something from the Marketplace.

Parents/Carers are also invited to visit the Marketplace at 11.30-12.10pm. please come into school and leave via the school office. If you would like to take your child around the Marketplace with you, please ask at the school office, when you arrive in school, and we will bring your child to you.

We will keep selling goods until we run out of stock, with final sales at 12.10pm.

We hope that everyone has a festive and fun-filled morning. All proceeds will go to school funds, with the money being spent directly on children.



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Choir performance at Christmas Concert, Friday 6th December: Our Choir are performing at a Christmas Concert in aid of the Linlithgow Day Care Centre at St Ninian's Church on Friday 6th December. The concert starts at 7pm and tickets can be purchased at the door. We're sure it will be a wonderful evening and it's a pleasure to help support such a valued local charity.

P1-7 Pantomime: Aladdin: On Monday 9th December we will welcome M&M Productions into school for our annual pantomime. This year, the company will present Aladdin to our pupils. In the interests of equity for all children, there is no charge for the panto this year. We hope that all children love the pantomime and have a wonderful time. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a panto.

P4-7 Christmas Church Service; St. Ninian's Church: All P4-7 parents/carers are invited to attend our annual, traditional carol service on Tuesday 10th December at 1.50pm at St. Ninian's Church. Please come along as we'd love to see you there.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day: Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper for Christmas Lunch Day, which this year, will take place on Thursday 12th December. We hope that children enjoy eating with their friends and enjoy the Christmas fare on offer.

P1-7 Christmas Parties: Christmas party week begins on Monday 16th December. Children are invited to come to school dressed for their class party, on the day of their party. They can also bring their party clothes, into school, in a bag and to change into, if you'd rather they do this.

The dates for each party are as follows:

Monday 16th Dec: P5 party- PM

Tuesday 17th Dec; P4 party- AM and P3 party- PM

Wednesday 18th Dec: P2 party- AM and P6 party- PM

Thursday 19th Dec: P1 party- AM and P7 party-PM

Please note that P3/2 children will attend the party for their age and stage and so that they can be with their wider group of friends e.g. P2 party or P3 party.

N.B- A special visitor will come to our P1 party. 😊

"A Holly Jolly Christmas" Musical Celebration: Our Primary 3-7 families are invited to come along to our End of Term Christmas Celebration on Friday 20th December from 9.15am. The event will be held in the school hall and teas/coffees will be available. Please bring a useable mug with a lid, if you can.

Each stage (P3-7) and our school choir will perform a Christmas song of their choice, to get everyone in the mood for the holidays! We hope that you enjoy the morning, if you choose to come along.



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:

- Thursday 5th December, 3-5pm, Nursery Christmas Fair
- Thursday 5th December, 6pm, P1-2 Nativity performance for parents/carers (ticketed event in School Hall)
- Friday 6th December, P3-7 Christmas Market, parents/carers invited 11.30am-12.10pm
- Friday 6th December. 11am, P1-2 Nativity performance for parents/carers (ticketed event in School Hall)
- Friday 6th December, 8.50am – 11.30am, Uniform ‘Swap Shop’ (foyer)
- Friday 6th December, 7pm, Choir performing at Christmas Concert in aid of Linlithgow Day Care Centre, St Ninian’s Church
- Friday 6th - Sunday 8th December, St Michael’s Festival of Christmas Trees, including trees decorated by Linlithgow Primary School
- Monday 9th December, 9.15am, P1-7 Pantomime ‘Aladdin’ (School Hall)
- Tuesday 10th December, 1.50pm, P4-7 Christmas Service at St Ninian’s Church, all parents/carers welcome
- Wednesday 11th December- P6 trip to the Scottish Parliament and Holyrood Park
- Thursday 12th December, Nursery, P1-7 and Staff School Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day
- Thursday 12th December, 2pm Neuro-divergent Learner Parent Support Group
- Monday 16th December, PM P5 Christmas Party
- Tuesday 17th December, AM P4 Christmas Party, PM P3 Christmas Party (incl. P3 children in P3/2)
- Wednesday 18th December, AM P2 Christmas Party (incl. P2 children in P3/2), PM P6 Christmas Party
- Thursday 19th December, AM P1 Christmas Party, PM P7 Christmas Party
- Friday 20th December, 9.15 – 10.15am, P3-7 Christmas Musical Celebration, “A Holly Jolly Christmas” (School Hall), all parents/carers invited.
- Friday 20th December, Christmas break begins for school pupils at 12.25pm and Nursery pupils, all resume Monday 6th January



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