



January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very Happy New Year to you all! Welcome to our January newsletter and the first newsletter of 2025. I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas with your respective families and that the new year, brings you many good things.

We have been spending the first week of Term 3, thinking about our school values and how we are going to approach the new year and new term, with positive mindsets and showing kindness and tolerance for others. As part of our Scottish Focus, each class in school will be looking at a different aspect of Scots culture including arts, crafts and music, over the next few weeks. This work will also, coincide nicely, with Burns Night, on 25th January and our P7 Burns Supper which will take place on Thursday 23rd.

Please read on, to hear about our plans for the term as well as key dates for you to be aware of. Have a great month everyone. 😊

Staffing News:

Mrs McGaw, one of our teaching staff, has been off on maternity leave since last May, after the birth of her second baby. It is likely that Mrs McGaw will re-join us, in school, on a part-time basis, around about or just after the February break. We will provide more information about which areas of the school Mrs McGaw will be working in, when she returns to work, and in due course. We look forward to welcoming her back. 😊

Communication Strategy:

We continue to be proactive about getting information to you, in an easy and accessible way and delivered in a timely manner. As we are mindful of the many new families, who have recently joined our school, we have updated our school Communication Strategy so that all parents/carers will know when and how, we will send on information. The Communication Strategy can be found on our school website by accessing the following link: <https://linlithgowprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/17074/School-Documents>

Please always let us know if you feel that we can improve any aspect of our home-school communication. We will always try our best to take on board any feedback given to us, in the spirit of improving things for the benefit of everyone. 😊



Family Learning Event: Open Afternoon: 28th January:

A little reminder that we are planning an 'Open Afternoon' on **Tuesday 28th January** for all classes, from **1.45pm-3.00pm**. Parents/Carers are invited into school, at this time, to share in the learning experiences in classes. Please come along if you can. You will all be made to feel very welcome and we hope that you will enjoy, learning alongside your child, in their class. 😊

Learning/Teaching and Assessment/School Curriculum:

For the next few weeks, all classes will be studying an aspect of Scottish culture. Class teachers have spoken to pupils and they will be exploring children's interests around the following:

P1- Scottish poems, stories and rhymes. Scottish artists

P2- Scots words, Scots traditional music, Steven Brown (artist)

P3/2- Weaving

P3- Scottish Highland Games, Steven Brown (artist) and Nathan Evans (musician)

P4- Gaelic culture

P5- Modern Scottish music, Ritchie Collins and Charles Rennie Mackintosh (artists)

P6- Scottish Inventors

P7- The work of Robert Burns

As always, if you have any resources or skills to contribute towards the planned learning in classes, then do let us know. We always love to have visitors in school to enhance children's learning. 😊

Pupil Equity Group: Social Enterprise Blether Café: Thursday 30th January:

Our next Blether Café will be held in our school hall on Thursday 30th January 2025 at 2pm. The café will have a Scottish theme. Please spread the word in the community as everyone is welcome. We have now raised around £300 which will be donated to West Lothian School Clothing Bank. We are delighted to be able to support the Clothing Bank, who have helped many of our children and families, across school.

Neuro-divergent Learner- Parent Support Group:

Our next meeting of the Neuro-divergent Learner, Parent Support group will be held on **Thursday 30th January at 1.30pm**, in our school library. Please come along if you feel that this group would be helpful. Everyone is welcome and please note that your child does not need to have a formal diagnosis for you to attend the group.



Equity for All: Sharing Shelf and Support for Families:

We continue to take regular deliveries from local supermarkets of non-perishable items (and sometimes fresh goods), for our Sharing Shelf. Please drop by at any time to pick up a bag of goods, if this service would be helpful for you. We also continue to link with the local organisations of Saint Vincent De Paul and Linlithgow Parish Trust who have provided food bags and others support for some of our families. Please reach out to Miss Baillie, via our Office Staff, if you need any support for your family. We will always help in a kind and discrete way.

If you or a family member is ever able to help us by picking up some of our grocery collections from local supermarkets, we'd be ever so grateful. Our staff do a marvellous job of picking up, where and when they can, but extra pairs of hands are always useful and welcome. Thank you so much everyone. 😊

Sharing the Learning with Families:

On **Friday 24th January**, we will share with you the planned learning for each class, in school, until the Easter break. Please check your emails on this day, and again, do let us know if you have anything to contribute towards the learning in school. From February onwards, each class will be learning about an aspect of history, that is of interest to them.

UNCRC/Children's Right of the Month:

January's right of the month is Article 29; You have the right to be the best you can be. Education should help children to develop their skills and talents in all areas. The blurb that the Equality Enthusiasts (our Rights Respecting Schools, Pupil Leadership Group), created to go with this right is: *"January is the time where we all make New Year's Resolutions and goals the year ahead. At Linlithgow Primary School, the staff and pupils work together to help us achieve these goals. We are always given the opportunity to grow, which is one of our school values."*

Partnership Working:

We are pleased to continue our association with the Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange. This Club support our school, and schools across the cluster, by running a variety of projects and competitions for children including, The P7 Writing Competition in memory of a former Rotarian, Jim Clark, and the Inter-Schools, Rotary Quiz which takes place once per year. A group of our P7 pupils won the Inter-Schools Quiz last year and as a result of this, we have been chosen to host the Quiz this year. We are very proud to be doing this, with more news to follow in coming newsletters.



Home Learning Activity: Scottish Tartan Making:

This month, we'd like to invite families to put on their 'creative hats' and make a piece of Scottish tartan. This could be done by paper weaving, printing, sewing or creating a collage of different colours and patterns. You may even want to research your family tartan and try to replicate this, in your work. Have fun and please send in any photos of your work, via our school office. We'd love to see how you all get on! 😊

Pupil Leadership Groups: P2-4 STEM Group: Innovation Nation!

Our P2-4 STEM, Pupil Leadership Group, is called 'Innovation Nation!' The children have been enjoying exploring the wealth of science, technology, engineering and maths resources that we have in school. They have been sorting the resources and helping to organise our STEM room, for all children to enjoy. They have created some STEM displays for the room, to promote the benefits of learning STEM subjects in school. They have also been conducting some explosive science experiments! Great fun is being had by all with lots of high quality learning taking place. Thank you to Miss Noble who facilitates the running of this group and well done to all pupils involved!

Family Learning Calendar: Pupil Profiling Presentation (Online):

Our next Family Learning event will be an online presentation on our approaches to Pupil Profiling, which will be presented by Miss Ferris. The event will take place on Teams (link to follow via email) on **Tuesday 14th January at 6.30pm**. Please come along to the session, if you are interested to hear more about how we support children to understand their strengths and next steps in learning, in school.

Family Learning Calendar: Save the Date: Daffodil Teas: Tuesday 18th March:

We will be running our Daffodil Teas in school, all day, on Tuesday 18th March for a grandparent or special person, to attend school at the following times, and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with children:

-9.00-9.45am- P1A, P1B and P2

-10.00-10.30am- P3/2 and P3

-10.50-11.20am- P4A and P4B

-1.30-2.00pm- P5A and P5B

-2.15-2.45pm- P6A and P6B

-2.50-3.20pm- P7A and P7B

If there are any parents who'd be willing to help us in school, on the day of the Daffodil Teas, then please let our office staff know. We'd be so grateful for any volunteers for all or part of the day.



Nursery News: Children's Interests:

Our nursery children have started back after the Christmas holidays, full of questions and curiosity around different types of adventures. We wonder about the different adventures that children have had at home, with their families, over the Christmas holidays? Children have been curious about modes of transport, journeys and exploring new places. We will be supporting children to investigate and explore these interests in coming weeks. Keep an eye on Seesaw and X for photos.

House Points/House Treat: Well done to Bruce House!

We are delighted to let you know that Bruce House gained the most House Points for children displaying our school values, in Term 2. These children will be invited to a House Treat on **Thursday 16th January**. Representatives from Bruce House, will Spin the Wheel to select their treat, this Friday at assembly. Please keep an eye on X for photos of the treat.

Family Learning Calendar/Pupil Equity Activity: Save the Date: Easter Craft Morning: Friday 4th April

On **Friday 4th April**, the last day of Term 3, our Pupil Equity Team will be running an Easter Craft morning, in the playground and in our school hall, for all families, with times and more information to follow, in due course. Please 'save the date', on your calendar and come along if you can. It should be a great morning and a nice way to celebrate Easter and to end the term.

Assembly Calendar: Our Forthcoming Assemblies for Term 3 are Planned, as Follows:

- Friday 10th January: School Values/New Beginnings
- Friday 17th January: Wellbeing Assembly: Winter Safety
- Friday 24th January- Wellbeing Assembly: The Power of Play
- Friday 31st January: Class Assembly: P5A (Parents/Carers invited at 9.45am)
- Friday 7th February: Class Assembly: P6B (Parents/Carers invited at 9.45am)
- Friday 21st February: Wellbeing Assembly: I am Responsible
- Friday 28th February: Class Assembly: P7B (Parents/Carers invited at 9.45am)
- Friday 7th March: Literacy Assembly: World Book Day
- Friday 14th March: Class Assembly: P7A (Parents/Carers invited at 9.45am)
- Friday 21st March: Numeracy Assembly: World Maths Day
- Friday 28th March: Class Assembly: P5B (Parents/Carers invited at 9.45am)

Uniform Swap Shop:

Our next Uniform Swap Shop will take place on **Friday 10th January** 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.



Pupil Writing: For the month of January we'd like to share some of the recent pieces of writing, created by some of our P4 pupils.

Harry in P4B wrote a persuasive piece, about his recent Christmas Enterprise activity. We know that the event has now passed, but we did think that Harry's work was so good that we had to feature it this month. We also think that he might be making a pitch on Dragon's Den in the very near future! 😊 Here is his work:

Hello, we are P4B and we are the best stall in the world! We will take you along with us! You will be disappointed if you miss out. It's going to be on the 6th of December. It's a great stall and you will get to know, later on, what we sell.

We sell pipe-cleaner decorations, such as snowflakes, angels and marvellous Christmas wreaths- all of them will brighten your day and they are all 50p.

We sell marvellous Christmas crackers filled with sweets that will give you a sugar rush, and they have a joke inside that will make you chuckle. You will not want to miss out on this and you will be annoyed if so, as it is a special product. Please, please, please, come along to our amazing stall.

We'd also like to share some Winter poetry which has been written by, Isla, Julia and Ansen in P4A. Congratulations to all of these children for their beautiful, creative writing.

Berries, by Julia

*I see orangey, red berries,
They feel squishy when I hold them,
Instantly they turn inside out, squish, squish, squish.
They are still and still.
They are like roses.*

Dragon's Breath, by Isla

*I can see my cold breath,
It is as white as snow,
It is warm but icy,
It curls up like dragon's breath,
It reminds me of smoke.*

A Little Stick, by Ansen

*A little, frosty stick like a small antler,
Brown, brittle bark,
Moss clinging on like a monkey,
One innocent leaf dangling for dear life.*



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

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

Works on Preston Road:

Works will commence on Preston Road from Monday 6th January for a period of around five weeks. The works will involve installing a Puffin Crossing between Preston Road and St. Joseph's Primary School, which will support our children to be able to cross the road safely, before and after school.

I have been advised to let all families know that parking will be prohibited, on a section of Preston Road, and around where the works are being completed, for the five-week period. There may also be traffic delays on the road, around this time.

I realise that this may be inconvenient for some of our families, who are unable to walk to school. By giving advanced warning of the planned works, I hope that this gives everyone some time to find alternative parking arrangements for the period.



Attendance matters, new year, new start:

We encourage good attendance for all pupils for the benefit of their learning, social relationships and wellbeing. Please help us by ensuring that your child attends school regularly, when they are well enough to do so.

Why is school attendance so important?

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow your child to have the best possible start in life.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To learn
- To have fun and make new friends
- To understand responsibility
- To experience new things in life
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religions, and gender difference
- To achieve
- To gain qualifications
- To develop new skills
- To build confidence and self-esteem
- To grow as individuals

Every school day counts

Attendance percentages can be misleading. Consider the following:

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off to a flying start.
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Less chance of success. Makes it harder to progress.
85% Attendance	27 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed Almost half a term missed	Serious implications on learning and progress.
80% Attendance	36 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed Half a term missed	
75% Attendance	45 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed Almost 1 whole term missed	

If your child has 90% attendance they will have the equivalent of:

½ a day off per week,

19 days off per year

247 days off over their school career of 13 academic years, equivalent to over 1 year of lost education.



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:

- Friday 10th January- 8.50-11.30am-Uniform Swap Shop in school foyer.
- Tuesday 14th January- identified P6 pupils at Young Leaders of Learning event, Sinclair Academy.
- Tuesday 14th January- Family Learning Presentation: Pupil Profiling (online) at 6.30pm- Teams link to follow.
- Thursday 16th January: House Treat- winning House from Term 2.
- Thursday 23rd January- P7 Burns Supper in school-PM
- Tuesday 28th January- Family Learning Event: Open Afternoon, 1.45pm-3.00pm.
- Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th January- P5 Mock Court Finals, Edinburgh Sheriff Court.
- Thursday 30th January- 1.30pm- Neurodivergent Learner: Parent Support Group- in school library.
- Thursday 30th January- 2pm- Social Enterprise: Blether Café in school hall- all welcome.
- Friday 31st January- P5A class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Friday 31st January- 7pm- Parent Fundraising Group- Family Ceilidh- in school hall.
- Wednesday 5th February- P4 trip to the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.
- Thursday 6th February- Safer Internet Day in school for all pupils.
- Friday 7th February- 8.50-11.30am-Uniform Swap Shop in school foyer.
- Friday 7th February- P6B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Friday 7th February- School pupils break for February Holiday at 12.25pm. Nursery to remain open.
- Monday 17th February- INSET day for teaching staff- school closed to pupils. Nursery open.
- Tuesday 18th February- School re-opens for pupils.
- Wednesday 19th February- P5 swim assessments at Xcite Linlithgow.
- Monday 24th February- Royal Institute of Science- Science show for pupils in school, plus evening performance for families at 6pm.
- Thursday 27th February- P5 trip to Bannockburn.
- Friday 28th February- P7B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Friday 7th March- World Book Day in school.
- Friday 7th March- 8.50-11.30am-Uniform Swap Shop in school foyer.
- Thursday 13th March: 6.30pm-P7 Lagganlia Camp meeting (online) for parents/carers- Teams link to follow.
- Friday 14th March- Euroquiz West Lothian heat event in school for identified P6 pupils.
- Friday 14th March- P7A class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Tuesday 18th March- Daffodil Teas in school, all day, for grandparents or a special person- see specific times in newsletter (above).



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Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

- Monday 24th March- Friday 28th March- P7 to Lagganlia Camp.
- Thursday 27th March- Tapestry of Sound Workshop for P5A and P5B, in school.
- Friday 28th March- P5B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Wednesday 2nd April- Parent Consultations in school- times to follow.
- Thursday 3rd April- Parent Consultations in school- times to follow.
- Thursday 3rd April- 1.50pm-P4-7 Easter Church Service at St. Ninan's Church.
- Friday 4th April- 8.50-11.30am-Uniform Swap Shop in school foyer.
- Friday 4th April- Easter Craft Morning in school for all families. Break for Easter Holidays at 12.25pm.
- Tuesday 22nd April- All pupils return to school. Nursery will remain open throughout the Easter holidays.

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