

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our February newsletter. The first month of the year, is now behind us and we are starting to look ahead towards, Spring. The days are beginning to get a tiny bit lighter and Snowdrops are starting to appear, to mark an early sign of Spring.

January has been a super month in school, with children embracing their learning, in classes, around the theme of Scotland and particularly, studying aspects of Scotlish culture. P7 hosted a wonderful Burns Supper, where they recited Scots poetry, danced traditional ceilidh dances and enjoyed the traditional meal of 'Haggis, Neeps and Tatties.' P5B dazzled us all with their fabulous assembly about Scotland, where they again sang, danced and performed to an audience.

Our February break begins at the end of this week (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February), for P1-7 pupils and school staff. Our nursery will remain open during the holiday period. We will see all pupils, back in school. On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Whether are choosing to spend the break at home, or are venturing further afield, we wish you a restful and enjoyable holiday.

Take care everyone and enjoy the rest of the month. ©

**Staffing News:** Mrs Dunlop (Pupil Support Worker) in nursery, will be helping us out in school on Fridays, for the next couple of months to cover for staff absence. Mrs Dunlop will work in the infant area and playground, and due to her time in nursery, she knows our youngest children very well. She will be running intervention groups, including a homework club, for P1-3 children who need this support.

You Say/We Did: Thank you to all parents/carers who took the time to complete our annual Health and Wellbeing questionnaire. We were delighted by the positive feedback on how well we look after our children in school and how committed the staff are, at all times, to 'getting it right' for every child. Any feedback given in this questionnaire will be taken forward, where possible, in coming weeks and months. Thank you again to those who completed the questionnaire.

This month, in the newsletter, we have detailed the planned learning in Numeracy/Maths for each class in school, for the remainder of the term. This request came from parental feedback, in the recent questionnaire. We do hope that the information helps everyone and supports learning at home.

**Uniform Swap Shop: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February:** Our next Uniform Swap Shop will take place on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February** 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.

Neuro-divergent Learner- Parent Support Group: Thank you to the parents/carers who continue to support the running of the above group. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30pm.** Please come along if you feel that this group would be of benefit. You will all be made to feel very welcome. ©



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**Learning, Teaching and Assessment: Numeracy/Maths Learning for Term 3:** This term, all classes (P1-7) will be undertaking learning around the following areas/themes in Numeracy and Maths:

- P1- Numbers to 30, addition and subtraction to 10, 2 and 3-D shape, position and movement.
- P2- Addition and subtraction to 20 then 100, shapes and symmetry
- P3- Multiplication, measure and weight
- P4- Addition, subtraction and time
- P5- Multiplication and division, shape and measure
- P6- Fractions and decimals, graphs and data analysis, acute and obtuse angles
- P7- BODMAS, measure and shape.

We hope that the above information is helpful to support learning at home. Numeracy and Maths learning can easily be incorporated into day-to-day activities; such as counting money to go shopping, cutting a pizza into pieces and writing each piece as a fraction, measuring objects in nature, using non-standard and standard units.

Please always let teaching staff know, if you'd like more ideas for how to develop your child's skills in Numeracy and Maths at home. There will also, continue to be Numeracy and Maths activities, suitable for your child's age/stage, on the termly home-learning grid. Please engage with these activities, at home, if you can.  $\odot$ 

Family Learning Event: January Open Afternoon: Feedback: It was fantastic to see so many families, learning together in classrooms, during our open afternoon at the end of January. Teachers worked hard to ensure that pupils were leading the learning in the classrooms and that activities were 'hands on' and fun. We hope that you had an enjoyable time, if you chose to come along. There was a really, lovely 'buzz' around our school that afternoon and we are grateful to everyone, who came along to support this event.

**Mock Court: P5 Achievement:** Our P5A and P5B classes, have completed a fantastic piece of learning around their Mock Court project which has been running since September. The project culminated in a real, Mock Court session which took place at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, last week. We were so proud of all of our children who took part as both 'defenders' and 'pursuers'. Well done especially to P5A who won a £250 'pay out' as part of their Mock Court 'trial'. Thank you to all parents/carers who took their children along to the event and to all staff who supported this project. It has been an amazingly, worthwhile experience for our children.

<sup>\*</sup>P3/2 will undertake the work for each respective stage e.g. P2 and P3.



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**Young Leaders of Learning: P6 Pupils:** A group of our P6 pupils are taking part in an exciting project, supported by Education Scotland. The project is a pilot that will eventually be rolled out across more schools in the Authority, if it is successful, so we are thrilled to have been invited to be a part of it. The children are being trained to take part in school, self-evaluation activities, with a particular focus on examining the quality and relevance of our school curriculum. Miss Noble is supporting this group of enthusiastic learners and we look forward to hearing more about their work, in coming months. Well done to you all!

Pupil Equity Group: Social Enterprise Blether Café: Feedback: Our January 'Blether Café' was another great success with a large turn-out of families and members of the community who came along to enjoy a cuppa and a cake. We are grateful to staff who baked for the event. Items on sale included a traditional 'Clootie Dumpling' which supported the Scottish theme of January's café. We have been able to donate around £300 to West Lothian Council School Clothing Bank, as a result of profits made from the running of the Blether Café. Thank you everyone including our fantastic Pupil Equity Group, Mrs Matos and Mrs Ferguson who continue to facilitate the running of the café. © The next café will run after the Easter break, with a date to follow, in due course.

Parent Council/ Parent Fundraising Group: Family Ceilidh: Thank you to our Parent Council and Parent Fundraising Group who organised another fantastic ceilidh for families on 31st January. The evening was a rip-roaring success and children and families from Nursery and P1-7, enjoyed dancing to the Scottish music provided by Gary Coupland. The event raised a superb amount of money which will be used to benefit children in school. Thank you to everyone involved. ©

**Equity for All: Sharing Shelf and Support for Families:** Our Sharing Shelf continues to be open, each day, containing a variety of non-perishable goods. We often, also, get supplies of fresh produce and we will send out an email to let you all know if fresh produce is available, in school, for pick up within the same day. We are always eager to take donations for our Sharing Shelf so if you'd like to donate any non-perishable foods, toiletries, baby or pet supplies, please hand these in to the school office. Any contribution will be gratefully received and will be used to support another family.  $\odot$ 



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**Partnership Working:** This month we'd like to highlight the work that we do with one of our partnership organisations, YouthSpace. YouthSpace (formally LYPP) support us in school by providing adult mentors for children who would benefit from this 1-to-1 interaction and support. All mentors are fully trained to work with children and to engage them, through stories, games and different activities. The mentors act as positive role-models for children, helping them to build confidence, resilience and self-belief. We have many children who have benefited from a mentor, as provided by YouthSpace, and we are very grateful for the continued support of this fabulous, local organisation.

**UNCRC/Children's Right of the Month: Articles 17, 19 and 34:** February's, Right of the Month, is linked to Safer Internet Day which will be marked in all classrooms, on February 6<sup>th</sup>. All children have the right to feel safe and secure and that means both being safe online and in the real world. Safer Internet Day is an annual event that promotes the safe, responsible use of the Internet, by children. In school, children learn that the Internet can be a great place where lots of information can be found and where there is a large online community, however, we teach children that it needs to be used carefully and responsibly. We encourage all families to speak about how to use the Internet safely at home, reminding children to never give our personal details and to seek the support of an adult if they come across anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. We also recommend that children are supervised closely, at all times, when using the Internet and/or when they are online, to help them to stay safe.

If you are ever concerned about the safety of your own child, when they are online, or about the safety of another child, online, please contact Miss Baillie or Mrs Matos in school.

**Health and Wellbeing: Anti-Bullying Policy:** As a reminder, we take a zero-tolerance approach to unkind behaviour and to any form of bullying, in school. Whilst conflict in children's friendships will sometimes be inevitable, please let us know if your child is repeatedly complaining of a child or children being unkind to them and/or making them feel unsafe. We will always take your concerns extremely seriously and act on these promptly for safety, happiness and overall wellbeing, of all of our children.

Home Learning Activity: Valentine's Day Craft Activity: Supporting Friendships: We'd like to invite children to celebrate their friendships this month and to make a simple, Valentine's 'heart' to pass on to another child. Valentine's hearts can be made out of any paper or construction material- coffee filters also work really well for this. The paper can be coloured, painted or dyed and then once it's dry, children can choose to write a special message onto the heart, for their friend. Let's help children to be thankful for the special friends in their lives, by engaging in an act of kindness. I wonder how many 'hearts' could be passed around our playground to make everyone feel special? ©



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**Pupil Leadership Groups:** Our UNCRC, Pupil Leadership Group are called the 'Equality Enthusiasts'. This group of children work hard to promote children's rights and 'fairness for all' across our school community. Recently, they have invited all pupils in school to take part in competition, to design a mascot to represent the UNCRC. We will let you know of any winners, in due course. Well done to this group, which is facilitated by Miss Crosson for continuing to raise the profile of children's rights.

**Nursery News: Children's Interests:** Our nursery children have been learning all about different shapes, both 2-D and 3-D shapes in the nursery and wider environment. They have been exploring the different properties on shapes, through their investigations.

Family Learning Calendar: Daffodil Teas: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March: As a reminder, we will be running our Daffodil Teas in school, all day, on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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. Thank you for your help with this.

House Points/House Treat: House Treat Afternoon: Feedback: The children who are in Bruce House had a wonderful afternoon playing different games in our hall, at the start of January, for the Term 2 House Treat. As we progress through Term 3, children will continue to earn House points/tokens for displaying qualities related to our school values, in classes and around school. As a reminder our school values are: Growth Mindset, Opportunities, Relationships and Wellbeing. We especially encourage all children to be polite, show kindness towards others and to be willing to 'have a go' at all activities presented to them.

Family Learning Calendar/Pupil Equity Activity: Save the Date: Reminder: Easter Craft Morning: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April: On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

- -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)

**Pupil Writing: Scottish Creative Writing:** For the month of February, we'd like to share the wonderful work of Siddu in P7, who wrote a parody of the Robert Burns poem 'Red, Red Rose.' Well done Siddu, for your creativity and for making us all smile. ©

A Gas Barbeque by Siddu

Oh my love is like a gas BBQ,
That's newly bought from Facebook;
O' my love is like a hunk of metal,
That always gets my food cooked.
So fair art though, my BBQ,
So deep in love am I;
And I will cook on thee still, my dear,
Till the propane tank runs dry.

Till a' the propane runs out, my dear, And the food cooks, with the heat; I will cook on thee still, my dear, While your food makes people upbeat.

And cook thee weel, my BBQ, And cook on thee weel awhile! And I will cook again, my love, Your food will make me smile.



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#### **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.



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#### **DATES FOR DIARIES:**

- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February- P4 trip to the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February- Safer Internet Day in school for all pupils.
- Friday 7th February- 8.50-11.30am-Uniform Swap Shop in school foyer.
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February- P6B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February- School pupils break for February Holiday at 12.25pm. Nursery to remain open.
- · Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February- INSET day for teaching staff- school closed to pupils. Nursery open.
- · Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February- School re-opens for pupils.
- · Wednesday 19th February- P5 swim assessments at Xcite Linlithgow.
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February- P7 Rotary Quiz event for identified P7 team.
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February- Pamela Butchart author event for P4 pupils.
- · Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February- Royal Institute of Science- Science show for pupils in school, plus evening performance for families at 6pm.
- · Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February- P5 trip to Bannockburn.
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February- 1.30pm, Neuro-divergent Learner- Parent Support Group.
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February- 2.00-3.00pm, Blether Café in school hall.
- Friday 28th February- P7B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- · Friday 7th March- World Book Day in school.
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March- 8.50-11.30am-Uniform Swap Shop in school foyer.
- Thursday 13th March- Drama Kids workshops for P2, P3/2 and P3.
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March: 6.30pm-P7 Lagganlia Camp meeting (online) for parents/carers-Teams link to follow.
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March- Euroquiz West Lothian heat event in school for identified P6 pupils.
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March- P7A class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March- Daffodil Teas in school, all day, for grandparents or a special person- see specific times in newsletter (above).
- · Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March- identified P7 pupils to CoSD Voice Network meeting at Boghall Primary School.
- Friday 21st March- Netball Festival at Winchburgh Academy for P7 netball team.
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April- Sustrans Big Walk & Wheel fortnight- details to follow.
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March- P7 to Lagganlia Camp.
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March- Tapestry of Sound workshop for P5A and P5B.
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March- P5B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April- Parent Consultations in school- times to follow.
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April- P2, P3/2 and P3 trip to the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April- 1.50pm-P4-7 Easter Church Service at St. Ninan's Church.



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- Thursday 3rd April- Parent Consultations in school- times to follow.
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April- 8.50-11.30am-Uniform Swap Shop in school foyer.
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April- Easter Craft Morning in school for all families. Break for Easter Holidays at 12.25pm.
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April- All pupils return to school. Nursery will remain open throughout the Easter holidays.

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