



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

September is now upon us and as we move into Autumn, Term 1 is very much in full-swing, with lots of events and happenings taking place around school. Classes have been making good use of the outdoors and despite a few showers, Primary 6 pupils enjoyed fantastic outdoor learning days, provided by Xcite, Linlithgow. The children took part in a variety of different activities including kayaking, archery and team-building skills to develop their self-confidence and inter-persona skills. Our Primary 7 pupils have visited Linlithgow Palace as part of their Palace Guide Programme, and they have begun their journey, back into the past, as they prepare to put on a performance for parents/carers and fellow pupils at the start of October. We are all looking forward to seeing these children perform in the Palace and bring history to life.

As we race through the term, we hope to see you in school at some point, either for our MacMillan Coffee Afternoon, on Thursday 25th September at 2pm, or for our parent consultations on Wednesday 8th or Thursday 9th October. Enjoy reading our latest news and have a great month everyone. 😊

Staffing News: Pupil Support Worker Vacancies: We are currently in the process of recruiting for a 12-hour Pupil Support Worker post in school and a 14-hour Pupil Support Worker post in nursery. Both posts are temporary in nature and have been advertised on MyJobScotland (West Lothian Council). We will let you know when we have secured staff for both of these posts.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/Curriculum News: Social Subjects/Inter-Disciplinary learning:

Across school (P1-7) pupils have been learning through a Geography context this term, focusing on comparing a geographical feature or concept in Scotland, to one further afield. Pupils have been given options about what they'd like to learn about and the following topics have been chosen, to meet the requirements of the Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes at each level:

- Primary 1: Into the Woods...
- Primary 2: Paddington Explores the World!
- Primary 3, Primary 4/3 and Primary 4: Under the Sea
- Primary 5: Land use around Linlithgow
- Primary 6: Live Linlithgow!
- Primary 7: The Theatre/ tourism (in our local community).

Health and Wellbeing Developments: Junior Parkrun Primary School: We are pleased to have recently become the first Junior Parkrun Primary School in West Lothian. Mrs Rowlings will liaise with a community team to support our children and families to take part in a variety of Park Runs across West Lothian, to promote 'good health', fitness, and a love of running outdoors. More news to follow...



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UNCRC/Children's Right of the Month: Article 3: This month, our featured 'Child's Right' will centre around a child's right for an adult to always try to do what's best for them. In our school, all adults know that *'it's the job of everyone to keep children safe'*. We work together, with our wider community, to safeguard all children and to be trusted adults and good role models for our young people. As always, please reach out to Miss Baillie, Mrs Gordon or Mrs Cringean/Mrs Murdoch (Nursery), if you have any concerns about any of our children. We will always listen and take your concerns seriously, getting the right support for children who need it.

Partnership Working: River Kids: This month, we'd like to tell you about our partnership with River Kids, West Lothian. We work closely with River Kids, to support families with a range of different services. These include providing furniture and soft furnishings for children's bedrooms, providing 'help' for Santa and supporting children to receive gifts on birthdays and special occasions. We are extremely grateful to all of the help that River Kids continue to give our children and families. This year, our Pupil Equity group plan to donate a percentage of the takings from our Blether Cafes, to the River Kids charity fund.

Pupil Achievement: Wider Curriculum: Linlithgow Union Canal Society: One of our P6 pupils, Conor, deserves special recognition, this month, for the volunteering work that he has been doing with the Linlithgow Union Canal Society (LUCS). Conor has recently been helping with barge trips and was recently described by one local visitor to the town, as "A skipper in the making." Conor also represented LUCS, at last year's Marches Day, as part of their tableau/float, which depicted life on the Canal, long ago. Well done Conor for representing our school, in such a positive way. We are all extremely proud of you. 😊

Pupil Leadership Groups: September Onwards: Our Pupil Leadership Groups have been created for the session, based on the feedback of children and staff and our school improvement priorities. Shortly, each pupil from nursery-P7, will have the chance to choose which Leadership Group they'd like to be in for the session. Leadership Groups will run, once per month, starting from the end of September and running through until next June. Here are the different groups that will run this session:

Nursery and Primary 1 Groups:

- Garden Gang (Outdoors)
- Singing Sensations (Mother Song)
- Woodwork Warriors (Woodwork)
- Digi Dudes (Digital Leadership)
- Busy Builders (Block Play)
- Creative Crew (Paper Craft and Cutting)
- Care Bears (Health and Wellbeing)
- Sewing Bees (Sewing)



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Primary 2-4 Groups:

- The Equality Enthusiasts (UNCRC/Rights Respecting Schools)
- Bloom Buddies (Gardening/Eco)
- Performance Paradise (Drama and Performance)
- Innovation Nation (STEM)
- Culture Connect (1+2 Languages)

Primary 5-7 Groups:

- Pupil Power Team (Pupil Council)
- Wellness Wanderers (Health and Wellbeing/Sports Leaders/Junior Road Safety)
- Sustainable Souls (Eco/Sustainability)
- Pixel Pioneers (Digital Leaders)
- Innovation Nation (STEM)
- Novel Navigators (Reading Ambassadors)
- Playground Pals (Playground Leaders and Peer Mediation)

We will bring news of the work of each group, in forthcoming newsletters. We hope that all children benefit greatly, from being in these groups and that they learn lots of new skills and make new friends. 😊

Educational Benefits: School Clothing Grants/Free School Meals: At the start of a new school year, we'd like to point all eligible families in the direction of educational benefits and how to apply for these. If you think that your child might be eligible for these please complete an application online, at www.westlothian.gov.uk/mealsandclothing. For further information please e-mail EducationBenefits@westlothian.gov.uk. If you'd like more help with the application process, please speak to our office staff who would be more than happy to assist you with this. 😊

Meet the Teacher Event: Feedback: It was lovely to see so many families, attend school and visit classrooms for our annual Meet the Teacher event. We hope that you enjoyed meeting your child's teacher for the session and learned lots about the plans for each class, for the year ahead. All presentations featured at Meet the Teacher, will be sent out to families, via email and for future reference.

Bike Safety: It's great to see so many children cycling to school and nursery each day. Please can you make sure that your child is supported when securing their bike/balance bike/scooter to the bike racks at the back of the staff car park. Please do not leave any unchained bikes or scooters in this area.



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STEM Room/Maker Spacers Plea: One Person's Trash is Another Person's Treasure! This year, we will continue to have a well-stocked STEM room in school, for all classes to use, as well as a dedicated 'Maker Space' in each classroom, to inspire children's creativity across the curriculum. To help us to resource these areas, we are going to put out a plea for support, in each newsletter. This month, we'd love families to collect empty egg boxes and old newspapers and hand these into school, for use by pupils. Please help us with this, if you can. We'd be so grateful.

P5 Junior Duke Award Scheme: We are thrilled to be undertaking a new initiative for our Primary 5 year group, in the form of the Junior Duke Award Scheme. 'Junior Duke' is the primary school version of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and are really excited to be starting this fantastic project with our P5 children. Each child in P5, will be supported to develop their confidence, independence and resilience as they undertake a variety of different challenges, around different aspects of the Curriculum. We will bring more news of this project in future newsletters. We hope that all of our Primary 5 pupils welcome the many opportunities that this project will give them. 😊

Neurodivergent Learner: Parent Support Group: Thank you to all families who attended our first, Parent Support Group of the session, for Neurodivergent Learners. At this Support Group, we shared our school guidance on Inclusive Classrooms, checking that it was still relevant and fit for purpose, to meet the needs of all of our children. Our next Parent Support Group will take place on Wednesday 5th November 2025, at 2pm. Please come along to the School Office on that date and at that time, if you'd like to attend. The discussion theme for this group will be; 'supporting children to regulate their emotions.' Come along to find out more.

Inclusion and Support Service: 'Tea and Toast' Event/Parent Support: Colleagues from West Lothian Council, Inclusion and Support Service (Parenting Support) will be in school on Tuesday 7th October and Tuesday 14th October, from 9am-11am, providing 'Tea and Toast' for any interested parents/carers as well as a 'listening ear', to support any parenting concerns. The ladies who run the group (Susan and Denise) are skilled at supporting parents to manage a variety of challenges at home, including dis-regulated behaviour, 'pushing boundaries', not sleeping etc. Please pop in to see their friendly faces and to ask any questions that you may have. No question is too big or too small.

September Holiday Dates: Friday 19th and Monday 22nd September: We will be off school for the September break on **Friday 19th and Monday 22nd of September**. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 23rd September. Our nursery will remain open on both of these dates, as normal.



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Extra- Curricular Club Programme: October 2025: Can you Help? Our 2025-26 Extra Curricular Programme, is currently being developed and will begin running for pupils, after the October break. As part of our drive for equity for all pupils, the majority of our after-school clubs will be free of charge for families. In order to help us with this, we are seeking the support of any parents/carers or grandparents, who may be interested in running a club for us, this session. Please reach out to our School Office if you'd be interested in supporting us with this initiative and sharing your talents and skills in school. All interested family members, would need to complete a PVG application, however this is generally a quick and simple process, and our office ladies will support you through it. Please let us know if you can spare some time to help. Once again, we'd be so grateful.

Uniform Swap Shop: Friday 3rd October: Our next Uniform Swap Shop of the session will take place on **Friday 3rd October** 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, to set your child up for the school year ahead. Thank you again to all of our parent volunteers who support the running of the Swap Shop. We could not provide this service for families, without your help. We are always looking for more volunteers to support this initiative and if you can spare a few hours each month to sort and organise clothing or to help to set up the Swap Shop, then please let our office staff know. We are always very grateful for all offers of help.

Pupil Leadership/Voice Opportunity: Biscuit and Blether: Mrs Gordon will lead our Biscuit and Blether initiative for us, this session, support by other members of our school leadership team. Biscuit and Blether is a monthly, school improvement-activity, that allows a focus group of pupils from P1-7, to take part in a variety of activities focused on change. Over the next few sessions, the pupils who attend Biscuit and Blether, will be taking part in learning walks, around different areas of the school. The children will be supported to give their views on what's working well in our classrooms and learning environments as well as providing their ideas for change. We will bring news of the work of our Biscuit and Blether groups, each month in our newsletter.

Nursery News: What Matters to Us? Our nursery children have been following their interests and expressing their views about things that are important to them. They have been exploring likes and dislikes, family structures and relationships. Our new children have been learning all about the structure of the nursery day, routines and the nursery values.

Pupil Writing: Primary 7: This month, we'd like to share two pieces of writing from our Primary 7 pupils. The first is a recount about a child's perception of meeting their best friend, for the first time, the second is a child's view of the word 'equality' and what this looks like in our school.



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Firstly, we'd like to share Cara's recount of meeting her friend, Johanne, for the first time.

In Primary 2, Johanne started at Linlithgow Primary. She has just moved from Shetland so she didn't have any friends, but luckily I was there for her.

Around 9.30am, my soon-to-be best friend walked into the classroom (AKA Johanne). Our old Headteacher told us all to be quiet and she introduced Johanne, to the class. I noticed that she was holding a packet of Snack-a-Jacks.

About two minutes later, our old Headteacher stopped talking and I immediately got out of my seat and said reasonably loudly, to the entire class "Me and the new girl have the same snack! Do you want to be my friend?"

After that Hrs Herbison (AKA our P2 teacher) asked if Johanne wanted to sit with me and she thankfully, said yes. We spent most of the time before break, chatting. We did A LOT of chatting!

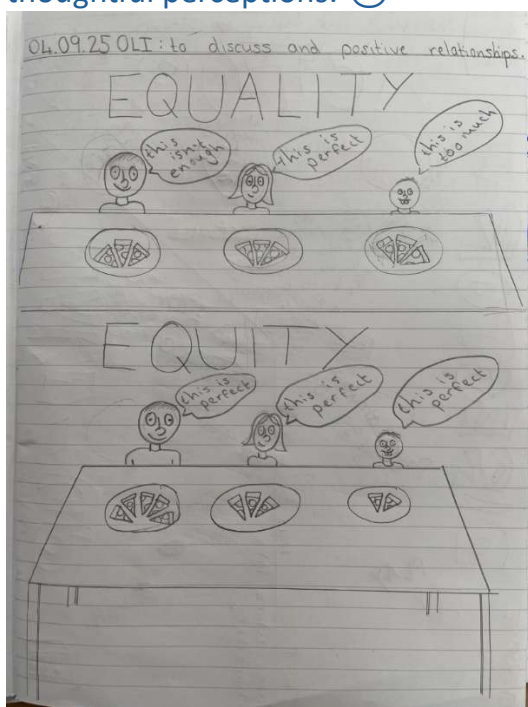
When it got to break time, we went outside together. We played together. We did lots of things together so basically, what I'm trying to say is that we did everything together.

Overall, it was a very fun day and to this day, we're still very, very, very good friends.

P.S. Thanks to the Snack-a-Jacks. 😊

Well done Cara for this beautiful account of meeting your friend, Johanne. I'm sure that Johanne will absolutely love reading this and knowing how much she means to you.

The second piece of writing, is a poster by Erin (also in P7). The poster describes what she thinks the word 'equality' means. Erin's drawing and captions, show that she understands that true equality, means giving each child, exactly what they need to flourish. Well done to Erin for her thoughtful perceptions. 😊





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Linlithgow Primary School Walking Bus (Mondays and Fridays): Our walking bus is a supervised group of children walking to school along a set route and picking up 'passengers' at specific points along the way. It's a fun, healthy and sustainable way of getting to school and everyone is welcome.

Our walking bus will run every Monday and Friday after that. We meet at Linlithgow Academy post box at 8.15 am and walk to school via the footpath at the side of the Academy. If you would like your child/children to join us at this location and walk to school as part of the walking bus, please email the school office and we will add them to our register. Mrs McCluckie and Mrs Ferguson, along with a volunteer helper, will meet you on Mondays, rain or shine!

Assembly Calendar: We have already held a number of insightful assemblies this term, including one on how to stay safe in our playground/local community, as well as an informative presentation by our Pupil Equity Group on the meaning of the terms 'Equity' and 'Equality' in schools. We were also treated to a wonderful assembly by P7A where all children, took part in their own unique way, to share their knowledge around the world of Theatre.

Our Forthcoming Assemblies for the remainder of Term 1 are:

- Friday 26th September-P5B assembly- parents/carers invited at 9.45am
- Friday 3rd October-Wellbeing Assembly, 'I am Active'-led by Mrs Gordon
- Friday 10th October- Wellbeing Assembly, 'I am Responsible' – led by Miss Baillie
- Friday 17th October- Global Citizenship/RME Assembly, 'Harvest Celebration'- led by Miss Baillie

Class Assemblies for the Session: We also thought that it would be helpful to give you plenty of notice for the date of our child's class assembly. Parents/carers are invited into school at 9.45am on the day of their child's assembly. Children will work together, as a class, to share an aspect of their learning during assembly-time. We hope that you enjoy coming in to school on the identified day/date, to see your child perform.

- Friday 12th September- P7A
- Friday 26th September- P5B
- Friday 5th December- P7B
- Friday 23rd January- P3
- Friday 30th January-P4
- Friday 6th February-P6A
- Friday 20th February- P6B
- Friday 13th March- P4/3
- Friday 15th May-P5A
- Friday 29th May- P1A and P1B
- Friday 5th June-P2A
- Friday 12th June- P2B



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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 or the turning circle 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 Gordon 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: Term 1 (Aug-October 2025):

- Friday 19th September and Monday 22nd September- September break for all school staff and pupils
- Monday 22nd September - Sunday 5th October- Fairtrade Fortnight
- Thursday 25th September, 2pm in school Hall- Macmillan Coffee Morning, everyone welcome!
- Friday 26th September- European Day of Languages
- Friday 26th September- P5B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am
- Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th September- STEM and Equality workshops for P6 classes
- Tuesday 30th September- P7A Palace Guides- Performance for parents/carers at 1.30pm, P6A watching dress rehearsal in morning at Palace
- Tuesday 30th September- Mrs Gordon and members of the Pupil Equity Group at the Cost of the School Day Summit, Glasgow
- Wednesday 1st October- P7B Palace Guides-Performance for parents/carers at 1.30pm, P6B watching dress rehearsal in morning at Palace
- Thursday 2nd October- School Photographer in school and nursery
- Friday 3rd October- Uniform Swap Shop in school foyer from 8.50am-11.30am
- Friday 3rd October- Fairtrade 'Brew it Fair' Tea Party in school- more details to follow
- Monday 6th October- Friday 10th October- Challenge Poverty Week
- Tuesday 7th October and Tuesday 14th October, 9.00-11.00am- 'Tea and Toast' Event/Parent Support sessions
- Wednesday 8th October- P1 NHS health checks
- Wednesday 8th October- P1-7 Parent Consultations from 5.30-8.30pm- more details to follow
- Thursday 9th October- P1-7 Parent Consultations from 4.00-6.00pm- more details to follow
- Friday 10th October- World Mental Health Day
- Monday 13th October- P7 trip to the Risk Factory, Edinburgh
- Tuesday 14th October- Flu Vaccine day for school pupils
- Wednesday 15th October- P1 trip to the Scottish Owl Centre
- Friday 17th October- Harvest Assembly/Food Bank collection
- Friday 17th October- All school staff and pupils break for October holiday
- Monday 27th October- Staff return to school for Term 2
- Tuesday 28th October- Pupils return to school for Term 2



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