



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearly coming in the end of Term 1 and our October break, is now, in close sight. It's feeling very autumnal outside, with the nights drawing in and the darker mornings. The leaves on the trees have given us the most beautiful colours this year and our children have been having fun stomping in leaf piles in the playground and making collages, with different leaves. Very soon, we will be thinking about Halloween and Bonfire Night, two autumn festivals, so loved by our pupils. We also have our Harvest assembly coming up as well as our school collection for West Lothian foodbank. With lots to look forward to, we wish you all a lovely October break, when it comes. Please read on to find out about all of our latest news and continue to follow us on X, to see photos of the weekly learning in classrooms.

Staffing News: A fond Farewell: We are sorry to be saying 'good-bye' to Miss MacLennan, one of our Pupil Support Workers, who will leave us at the end of term. 'Miss Mac' is leaving us to move on to a new post, supporting adults in the wider community. Although she has only been with us for the past session, Miss Mac has given so much to our pupils and staff, during her time with us. We are so grateful to her and wish her well for the future.

We are in the process of recruiting two new Pupil Support Workers, for our school, with more news of the successful applicants, to follow.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/Curriculum News: Outdoor Learning: Across school, (P1-7) pupils have been taking part in some outdoor learning experiences, linked to the following contexts. Classes will continue to revisit this learning, throughout the school year and to enable children to explore an aspect of nature, throughout the different seasons.

P1A and P1B- Habitats

P2A and P2B-Nature around us

P3, P4/3 and P4- Trees and Woodlands/Make a Garden Grow

P5A and P5B- Feed the Birds/Local Flora and Fauna

P6A and P6B- Pond Life

P7A and P7B- Community Project

New School Phone Number: 01506 280093 (will show as 01506 284999 on your phone): Our school phone system has recently been modernised and updated and as a result we have a new school, telephone number. This is now: 01506 280093. Please save this number in your mobile phones, replacing the old number, with the new one.

Our 'old' phone number, will continue to be in use for the next few months, until everyone gets used to our new number. We hope that this is helpful for everyone.



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Primary 7: Palace Guides Performance: Linlithgow Palace: Our Primary 7 pupils put on an amazing, performance again this session, within Linlithgow Palace, to culminate this year's Palace Guide programme. The children performed a series of drama 'skits', themed around the time of Mary Queen of Scots, in front of family and friends. It was wonderful to see the children, bringing their own personalities into the performances, as they brought an aspect of the past to life, through drama. Thank you so much to our P7 teaching staff as well as to Nicola and Victoria from Illuminate, and to Historic Scotland, for supporting our Palace Guides programme. A huge, congratulations to all involved!

Health and Wellbeing Developments: Junior Parkrun Primary School: Come for a Run! As the first primary school in the cluster to become a Parkrun Primary school, we will be hosting members from WLCC junior parkrun at our assembly on Friday 31st October.

The next exciting step - we have been invited by WLCC Junior Parkrun to attend the event as a whole school on **Sunday 2nd November, 9.15am, at the West Lothian Cycle Circuit**. It will be their first Big Fancy Dress Event (optional) and we hope that as many children and parents accept the challenge to run!

Please feel free to take your children along on 2nd November, if you'd like them to take part in this lovely, community event. 😊

Junior parkrun is a free, weekly, 2k community event for children aged 4 to 14 and their families. It's all about fun, inclusivity, and building confidence through physical activity. Schools that join as a parkrun primary enjoy benefits such as:

Fostering healthy habits – encouraging children to enjoy regular exercise outside school hours.
Strengthening community links – bringing pupils, families, and staff together in a positive, supportive environment.

Supporting education and wellbeing – reinforcing PE and PSHE curriculum goals while promoting resilience and social growth.

Pupil Achievements: Dunfermline Road Race: A massive 'well done' to Akira in P6 and Leo in P7, who both represented our school at the recent Dunfermline Road Race. The children were taking part, with a host of pupils from across Fife and the Central belt and we are so proud of their efforts. It takes a lot of courage and resilience to run in a major race and both of these children, were a credit to our school. Congratulations to you both!



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UNCRC/Children's Right of the Month: Article 3: Each month, we will continue to highlight our commitment to upholding children's rights as we work towards gaining a Gold Award in this area. This month, we are focusing on a child's right to give their opinion and to have their views taken seriously (Article 12). At Linlithgow Primary School, we value pupil voice and believe that every child's perspective is important. We encourage children to share their views in many ways; such as through class discussions, circle time, learning conversations, and our Pupil Council. This month also saw the launch of our new Pupil Leadership Groups, where children are able to choose something that they are interested in learning about and join in with others, who share the same passion. These groups give children a direct say in their learning and provide opportunities for collaboration, creativity, and leadership. We recognise that listening to children not only upholds their rights, but also helps us to build a stronger, more inclusive school community where everyone feels respected and heard. Thank you so much to Miss Hunter and Miss McGann, who are leading our school approaches to UNCRC, this session.

Partnership Working: Burgh Beautiful/Linlithgow Rotary: Children's Town Trail: A representative from Burgh Beautiful, has recently been working with a group of Primary 5 children to create a Children's Trail for our town. We are thrilled to report that a draft version of the Trail has now been produced. The final publication will be available in local retail outlets, in the spring, for visitors to the town to enjoy. The Trail encourages families to explore the historical features of Linlithgow as well as enjoying the local flora and fauna. Well done to the following P5 pupils who helped to create the Trail: Hudson, Magnus, Quinn, David, Isla, Isobel, Yuki and Ruby. Thank you also to the Rotary Club of Linlithgow and Bo'ness, who kindly sponsored this project.

Skiing Success: National Schools Indoor Championships: Manchester: School Win! Our LPS Ski Team have got off to a fantastic start, this session, with some amazing achievements from both the team and from the individuals within it. Recently, members of the Team took part in the National Schools Indoor Championships North, in Manchester. One of the team, Logan (P6), finished in third place in the under twelve-year-olds' race, with Callum (P7) coming in fourth place. With the support of Oscar, in P4, the boys combined scores, enabled them to win the Junior Team event for our school! As a result of this win, we have another, beautiful ski trophy for our school cabinet. What an amazing result boys! We can't wait to see your progress, in coming months. 😊

Fairtrade Fortnight: 'Brew it up Fair' Tea Party: Thank you to Mrs Paton, Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Cameron who recently helped all children to enjoy a little taste of tea, in all classrooms, (P1-7), as part of our efforts to promote Fairtrade for farmers, across the world. A lovely morning was had by all. 😊



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Pupil Leadership Groups: Playground Pals: Our Playground Pals Pupil Leadership Group, have started off the session with a 'flurry of success.' They have appointed Luca in P7 as their Chair and Leila in P5 as Vice Chair and they have been busy supporting children in the playground, to learn how to play a wide variety of traditional games. It has been an absolute joy to see all of our pupils benefiting from learning new games, joining in and having fun. Thank you to Mrs Meikle for supporting this group. Very soon, our Playground Pals will be wearing high-vis vests, lanyards and blowing whistles, alongside our playground staff. We are so glad to have their help.

Educational Benefits: School Clothing Grants/Free School Meals: We'd like to remind all eligible families 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. 😊

Pupil Equity Group: Cost of the School Day Summit: At the end of September, we were thrilled to attend the Cost of the School Day Summit, in Glasgow, in the presence of First Minister of Scotland, John Swinney. Mrs Gordon (acting Depute Headteacher) attended the summit along with two members of our Pupil Equity Group, Maisie and Nairn, both in P6. Both girls were given the opportunity to chat with Mr Swinney and he spoke to them about the work that they do, in school, to ensure equity for all children.

We were also delighted to see such a large number of friends and family, join us for the MacMillan Coffee afternoon, at the end of September, which was again held by our Pupil Equity Group, supported by Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Gordon. We raised £575 at the coffee afternoon, with all money going straight to MacMillan. Well done to all involved, including all of our staff and parents/carers, who contributed home-baking for the event.

Neurodivergent Learner: Parent Support Group: The next meeting of our Neurodivergent Learner, Parent Support Group, will be held in school on **Wednesday 5th November at 2pm**. We will be looking at supporting children to regulate their emotions, during this meeting. Please come along if you feel like this session would be helpful for your family. 😊

STEM Room/Maker Spacers Plea: One Person's Trash is Another Person's Treasure! This month, we are looking for empty egg cartons, cereal boxes, wool, paper straws, milk bottle lids and corks, for our classroom 'Maker Spaces' and STEM room. Please hand in any of these items, that you may have at home and be willing to donate to school, into our school office. We'd be ever so grateful.



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Extra- Curricular Club Programme: October 2025 onwards: Our Extra-Curricular programme, is due to start after the October break and we couldn't be more excited with this year's programme. 😊 Thank you to all staff, wider-partners and parent volunteers, who have agreed to run clubs for us. We are going to be running a host of clubs, including; dance, book club, chess and arts and crafts as well as sports clubs.

Pupil Leadership/Voice Opportunity: Biscuit and Blether: A Learning Walk and a Discussion about Reading in School: This session, our fantastic Heads of Year, Alexis and Zac, are responsible for running our "Biscuit and Blether" sessions. 'Biscuit and Blether' is an opportunity for different pupils from across school, to come together to talk about things that happen in school and to make suggestions for things that could be improved.

In their first session, Alexis and Zac, supported by Mrs Gordon, met with representatives from each class, to discuss reading. As a school, we are re-examining our approaches to teaching reading as part of our improvement priorities. Part of the discussions at Biscuit and Blether, involved a 'learning walk.' During the 'learning walk', the children visited the infant area to have a peek in the P1 and P2 classrooms and to look for evidence of reading.

On the learning walk, pupils discovered that the infant classrooms have lots of excellent reading resources. They have wonderful libraries and many of the classrooms have little interactive reading displays, with books and props, linking reading to current topics and to Health and Wellbeing.

Pupils who attended Biscuit and Blether were also asked the following question: "What do you like about reading, in LPS?". Here are some of the children's answers:

-Finlay in P5b said: "We have a good library"

- Evie in P7a and Jorgi in P5a said: "We enjoy reading in "Calm Me" time as it helps our minds to relax and to be calm.

In answer to the question; "What could we improve about the way in which we teach reading?"

-Macaulay in P4 said "I would like to see more comic and action books."

-Charlie in P7b said: "I would like more whole class reading time and more football books."

Halloween Celebration: Dress Down/Dress Up: We'd like to invite all pupils (P1-7) to 'dress up' or 'dress down' on Friday 31st October for Halloween. If children do choose to dress-up for the day, please can we ask that no masks are worn, or 'props' brought into school? We hope that all pupils have a lovely day in school, celebrating Halloween. 😊

Family Learning Event: Library Open Afternoon: Friday 31st October: On Friday 31st October, our school library will be open for families to visit between 1.00-2.00pm. Staff will be on hand to read stories, to children, should you like to come along. Everyone is welcome. 😊



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October Holiday Dates: Monday 20th October- Monday 27th October. We will be off school for the October break from **Monday 20th October until and Monday 27th October.** Pupils return to school on Tuesday 28th October. Our nursery will remain open over the October break, as per the norm.

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 continue on Monday and Friday mornings, from 8.15am- meeting at the post box, beside Linlithgow Academy. Please email the school office if you'd like your child to join the Walking Bus. All pupils are very welcome. 😊

Pupil Writing: Primary 5: This month, we'd like to share a piece of writing from Scott in P5. All pupils, from P1-7 are developing their skills in writing discursive texts, this term, and Scott has written a thought-provoking piece about zoos. Please read his superb work, below.

Should Zoos Be Banned?

A zoo is a place where people from all over the world go to see animals. Some people don't like zoos and say that they are bad, but some think that they are good.

Firstly, zoos are great because the animals are cared for daily, making them healthier and therefore, they can live longer. Also, zoos can keep animals from going extinct by helping them breed and keep their numbers up, so zoos are amazing.

On the other hand, some people think zoos are horrible and torture for animals, because they force animals to change their home and stop them from properly hunting or foraging, because of human interference. Another reason against zoos is that the human can irritate the animals and put them off, because they might not like being watched all of the time. Zoos should also definitely be banned because the animals cages are so tiny that they can't walk much around and they would have more space in the wild.

In conclusion, zoos are good because many species could be extinct without them and help them breed but they are bad because animals can't hunt on their own. I think that zoos are good because they can help animals.

Another reason why zoos should definitely stay, is that they provide excellent education on wild animals for children and if you took them away, it would be much harder to learn about animals.



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Uniform Swap Shop: Friday 7th November: Our next Uniform Swap Shop of the session will take place on **Friday 7th 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 Term 2. 😊

Nursery News: Exploring the Season of Autumn: In the nursery, children have been noticing signs of autumn and exploring nature's treasures. They have been counting and sorting a range of natural materials including; leaves, conkers and acorns, as part of their learning in Numeracy and Maths.

Assembly Calendar: Well done to P5B who held a wonderful assembly about European Day of Languages at the end of September. It was amazing to hear the pupils, speaking in a variety of different languages including: French, Spanish, German, Italian and Norwegian.

Our Forthcoming Assemblies for the remainder of Term 1 are: -Friday 17th October- Global Citizenship/RME Assembly, 'Harvest Celebration' - led by Miss Baillie



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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 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):

- Thursday 16th October- Bo'ness Fire Station visit for P7 and Nursery classes
- Friday 17th October- Harvest Assembly/Food Bank collection
- Friday 17th October- All school staff and pupils break for October holiday (Nursery remains open)
- Monday 27th October- Staff return to school for Term 2
- Tuesday 28th October- Pupils return to school for Term 2
- Wednesday 29th October- UK Parliament outreach visit for P6 classes
- Thursday 30th October- Halloween Blether Café at 2pm in school hall, everyone welcome!
- Friday 31st October- Halloween Dress Down/Dress Up day
- Friday 31st October- 1.00-2.00pm, Family Learning Event: Library Open Afternoon
- Wednesday 5th November- Neurodivergent Learner, Parent Support Group at 2pm
- Friday 7th November- 8.50-11.30am, Uniform Swap Shop, school entrance foyer
- Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th November- P5 Lockerbie residential trip
- Wednesday 12th November- P6 trip to Scottish Parliament and Holyrood Park

CONTACT US:

Linlithgow Primary School
Preston Road
Linlithgow
EH49 6HB
Telephone: 01506 842686
Email: wllinlithgow-ps@westlothian.org.uk
Website: <https://linlithgowprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>
X: [@LinlithgowP](#)

