



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our November newsletter! Our pupils had a wonderful day celebrating, Halloween, at the end of October, and we enjoyed seeing all of their colourful costumes, if they chose to dress up. We have a busy few weeks coming up in school; with our P5 campers, leaving for their stay at Lockerbie Manor and our P7 Pupils undertaking their F1 experience at Linlithgow Academy. Before we know it, our Christmas Calendar of events will be commencing, beginning at the end of this month and running through until 19th December, when we break up for the holiday period. We are adding the final dates, to our Christmas Calendar, at the moment, and we hope to publish this, shortly for all families.

Please read on to find out all of our latest news...

Have a great month everyone!

Staffing News: New Staff in School and Nursery: We are delighted to welcome Mrs Ford and Miss Malone to our school, in coming weeks, to take on the role of Pupil Support Workers. In nursery, we will be saying 'good-bye' to Miss Moore, for a few months, whilst she goes off to have her first baby. We will bring news of her safe arrival, when we have it. Mrs Warnock, will provide Early Years Practitioner cover for Miss Moore, until she returns from her maternity leave. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Warnock to our nursery and know that you'll all make her feel very welcome. In addition, Mrs McDonald will be joining us as a Pupil Support Worker in nursery, to help us on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/Curriculum News: Book Study: This term, pupils in P1-P6, will be studying a fiction book of their choice, based on children's interests. Here are the books that each class has chosen to study. Learning activities will be cross-curricular in nature and will be themed according to the book being studied. Each class will also be decorating their classroom door, around the theme of their chosen book.

P1A and P1B- Katie Morag stories by Mairi Hedderwick

P2A and P2B- Room on the Broom, The Gruffalo and Smartest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson

P3, P4/3 and P4- The BFG by Roald Dahl

P5A and P5B- A Walk in Paris by Salvatore Rubbino

P6A and P6B- Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Primary 7 pupils will undertake a novel study, later on in the session but at the moment, they are busy working on their F1 STEM topic, as part of their transition to S1.



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New School Phone Number: 01506 280093 (will show as 01506 284999 on your phone): As a reminder, 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.

Pupil Equity Group: October Blether Café Success: Well done to our Pupil Equity group for their amazing efforts to host a 'sell out', Halloween-themed, Blether Café, at the end of October. Over £300 was raised during the afternoon of the café, from the sale of teas, coffees, home-baking as well as crafts that the children had made. A percentage of the profits will be donated to River Kids, and the rest of the money will be put back into the running of the café. **The next café will be on Thursday 27th November and this will be our 'Christmas-themed' café.** Please come along and support this social enterprise initiative if you can. Thank you to all families, and 'friends of the school', who continue to provide delicious home-baking for the cafes.

We are also grateful to all school staff who donated to the 'Halloween Hamper' raffle. The hamper was won by a P4 pupil, who was just delighted to take it home. We raised around £115 for school funds from the sale of raffle tickets, which was just amazing. 😊

Pupil Equity Group: Inclusive Classrooms Audit: Members of our Pupil Equity Group, will be working with Mrs Gordon to support our school, self-evaluation work, in coming weeks. Self-evaluation means that we look at *how* we do things and *how well* we do them, before planning what to do next. The group are going to undertake an audit of our approaches to inclusion, in all classrooms, across school, before the Christmas holidays. The children will be thinking about what inclusion 'looks like' and 'feels like', for all children, and so that we know if we are getting it right for everyone. The group will be looking to see if classrooms have 'calm areas' for children to rest and relax in, as well as visual timetables, so that all pupils know what is going to happen and when. They will also look at seating arrangements in classrooms and which resources are available, to ensure that everything is fair and equitable for all children. The results of the children's audit will be used to plan improvements for pupils.

Health and Wellbeing Success: Junior Parkrun: Feedback: It was wonderful to see so many of our children and families at the Junior Parkrun event which was held at Xcite, Linlithgow on Sunday 2nd November. The theme for the run was 'fancy dress' and it was incredible to see so many little children, running on a Sunday morning in their different, costumes. Well done to the Junior Parkrun team and to everyone who took part. What a great (and healthy!) way to bring so many different members of our local community together!



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Health and Wellbeing Updates: Trauma Skills 2 Training: Our teaching staff team, recently took part in a morning's training session to develop their understanding of trauma and the way that this can impact children and other members of our school community. The session was led by colleagues from Education and from NHS Lothian. Staff will use the knowledge gained from the session to continue to support children in school. We know that trauma can impact everyone so please, just reach out, via the school office, if we can ever offer your child, or your family, further support. We are always here to help.

We'd also like to signpost parents to the West Lothian Council 'Listen and Link' service, which can be contacted for mental health support, at any time: 01506 283160 or email mentalhealthsupport@westlothian.gov.uk.

Pupil Achievements: School Football Team: Cluster Schools League: Our School Football Team, recently played against cluster schools, in their first league game at Linlithgow Academy. The children who took part displayed excellent football skills as well as showing respect for others. Well done to all children who took part and thank you to Miss Hunter and Mrs Chisholm for supporting the team.

UNCRC/Children's Right of the Month: Article 36 and Article 19: This month, as we approach Bonfire Night, we will be focusing on Article 36 – protection from harm and Article 19 – the right to be safe.

At Linlithgow Primary School, we have been teaching children about how to enjoy Bonfire Night safely, by learning about the dangers of fireworks and how to make sensible choices during celebrations. Road safety continues to be taught throughout the school year, ensuring that children understand how to keep themselves safe in different situations. Later this month, we will also take part in Anti-Bullying Week, reinforcing our message that everyone has the right to feel safe, respected, and supported.

Every child in our school has at least one trusted adult whom they can talk to, whenever they need help or reassurance. We hope that this also helps our children to feel safe, supported and listened to.

We are also using 'Calm Me' time, in all classrooms, once each day, when children have a short, quiet period to reflect and relax, whilst feeling safe within their classroom. Since August, we have



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been using our Jigsaw, Health and Wellbeing resource, to promote safety, wellbeing, and positive relationships across school. These practices are hopefully helping every child to feel secure and valued within our school community.

Partnership Working: Bo'ness Fire Service: This month, we'd like to express our thanks to team at Bo'ness Fire Service who continue to support us, in school, each year as part of our work around Bonfire Night safety. The team are always keen to come out to speak to children about how to stay safe around fireworks and bonfires. They also, readily, allow children to visit the fire engine and try on some fire-fighting equipment. Thank you so much to Bo'ness Fire Service for all that they have done for our school!

Pupil Leadership Groups: 'Bloom Buddies': Our P2-4 Eco group, 'Bloom Buddies', have recently been working hard to design 'bug hotels' for our playgrounds. The group are going to vote on a winning design, and this will be built into two, real 'bug hotels' for our front and back playgrounds. We are looking forward to attracting lots of creepy-crawlies and other wildlife into our school grounds, for the children to study. Well done to Taylor (P4) and Hannah (P2), who have recently been voted as Chair and Vice-Chair of this pupil leadership group!

Pupil Achievement: Fundraising by P6 Pupils: Bowel Cancer Charity: We are delighted to let you know that Merryn and Isla, in P6, raised £343 pounds for the Bowel Cancer charity 'Bowel Babe' during a recent Bake Sale at the Spooky Lane, community event. We are so proud of these girls for their amazing effort!





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Neurodivergent Learner: Parent Support Group: Feedback and Next Meeting Date: Thank you so much to all parents/carers who attended our Neurodivergent Learner, Parent Support Group on Wednesday 5th November, where the theme was 'supporting children's emotional regulation.' The next meeting of our Neurodivergent Learner, Parent Support Group, will be held in school on **Wednesday 21st January at 2pm**. 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 natural resources to help us to make 'nature themed' Christmas decorations. We'd be grateful for donations of any pinecones and corks. Please hand any of these items into school if you are able to help.

Extra- Curricular Club Programme: Feedback: Our Extra-Curricular programme is now in 'full swing' and we are thrilled to offer so many, different clubs for our pupils. Our junior dance club, has seen some of our youngest children, enjoying learning new dance steps as well as making up their own dance routines. Our Book Club has also started, to support children to read different texts and to share their thoughts and feelings around these. Thank you to all staff and parental volunteers, who are supporting us with the running of our clubs. We are so grateful!

BBC Children In Need Appeal: Friday 21st November: Dress Down and Bring in a Cuddly Toy! On **Friday 21st November** we will be celebrating 'Children in Need', in school. As part of this, all pupils are invited to 'dress down' and bring in a cuddly toy, on the day. Donations to Children in Need can be made via iPayimpact. We are hoping to raise as much as we can, for this extremely worthwhile cause. Please donate if you'd like to help and are in a position to do so. We'll send out a group email to you all, after the event, to let you know how much money we've managed to raise.

Family Learning Event: Library Open Afternoon: Feedback: Thank you to the families who attended our 'Halloween-themed' Library Open Afternoon on Friday 31st October. It was a 'spooktacular' event with lots of lovely, Halloween stories being read to the children who attended. We hope that everyone had fun!

Christmas Holiday Dates: 2025-2026: We will break up for Christmas holidays on Friday 19th December at 12.25pm and we return to school on Monday 5th January 2026. Our Christmas Calendar, containing all dates for the month of December will be published, for all families, in shortly. Please keep this somewhere handy so that no-one misses out on any of our festive events, at a busy time of year.



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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 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: P3 Write About the BFG! This month, we'd love to share two pieces of writing from our P3 pupils, who have written about the BFG, by Roald Dahl. We hope that you enjoy, reading their work. 😊

The BFG by Beth... *The BFG is a tall, lovely and polite gentleman. He and Sophie caught a Fizzwizz, which is a dream and it was Sophie's dream. They make a great team together, I think. The BFG is big-eared so that he can listen. It is a great book!*

Well done Beth for writing such wonderful thoughts about the BFG!

The BFG by Tristan... *The BFG is a giant who took Sophie! He is a friendly giant. The BFG is cool! He likes Sophie. I think that the BFG is a kind giant.*

Brilliant effort Tristan and well done for sharing your views. 😊

Uniform Swap Shop: Friday 28th November: Christmas Jumper Appeal! Our next Uniform Swap Shop of the session will take place on **Friday 28th November** from 8.50am until 11.30am, in our school foyer. In addition to our usual 'school uniform tables', we also hope to be able to provide a range of pre-loved Christmas jumpers, for families to pick up, for use over the festive period. We are therefore urgently seeking any donations of children's Christmas jumpers, (aged 5yrs to 12 years) which can be used by pupils in school. Please hand in any donations to our school office. Your contributions will make such a difference to families, during what is often, a very costly time of year.

For your information: we will be inviting all pupils to wear Christmas jumpers to school on Thursday 11th December and again, on Friday 19th December- more details to follow in our Christmas Calendar.

Nursery News: Children Learn About 'Changes' and Re-explore our Values: Our nursery pupils have been investigating different types of 'changes' including; the clocks turning back at the end of October, the darker nights and mornings and the change in the weather and temperature, as we move into a new season. They have also been re-exploring our nursery values of Kindness, Nurture, Opportunity and Wellbeing.



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Reminder: Parking in Our School Car Park: A little reminder, that our school car park is for the use of staff and visitors to the school, only. We know that parking around our school can be difficult and we'd ask families to walk to nursery/school as much as possible. Where this isn't an option, please park safely and sensibly. Please also, avoid parking in our disabled space, unless you are a 'blue badge' holder. Thank you so much for your support with this.

Assembly Calendar: Term 2: We enjoyed a lovely, Harvest Assembly at the end of the term. Children had great fun singing the two songs 'Conkers' and 'Harvest Samba', and we talked about showing gratitude to farmers, around the world, for producing the food that we eat. The team from Junior Park Run, supported by pupils from P3, led a super assembly about the health benefits of being active.

Forthcoming assemblies, for Term 2, will be as follows:

- Friday 7th November: World Kindness Day/Anti-Bullying Assembly, led by Mrs Menmuir
- Friday 14th November: Linlithgow Gala Day Information, led by Linlithgow Gala Day Committee
- Friday 21st November: Pupil Leadership Assembly, led by Pupil Leadership Groups and Mrs Gordon
- Friday 29th November: Pupil Leadership Assembly: Linlithgow's Big Blether, led by Miss Baillie
- Friday 5th December: Class Assembly, led by P7B

Remembrance Service at St Michael's Church on Sunday 9th November: Miss Baillie and our P7 Heads of Year are taking part in the procession from the Longcroft Hall to St Michael's Church on Sunday, they will then take part in the annual remembrance service at St Michael's at 10.50am, laying a poppy wreath on behalf of the school. Everyone is welcome at this service. Thank you to everyone who sent a donation to school, for a poppy, as part of this year's Poppyscotland appeal.

P1 and P2 Nativity Performances: Wednesday 3rd December and Thursday 4th December: Our P1 and P2 Children will perform 'A Little Nativity' on Wednesday 3rd December at 2pm and on Thursday 4th December at 6pm, for their families. All children will be given two tickets for both performances, to share at home and with more information to follow, in coming weeks. Our P3-7 pupils will have a chance to see the nativity performance at a special 'dress rehearsal' on Wednesday 3rd December.

Christmas End of Term Celebration: Walking in a Winter Wonderland: Friday 19th December @ 9.15am: On Friday 19th December, all P3-7 parents/carers are invited in to our 'end of term', holiday celebration. Each class/stage will sing a Christmas song of their choice to mark the festive season and to celebrate the end of the term. Children are invited to wear Christmas Jumpers and/or 'wintry clothing' on this morning.



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Festival of Christmas Trees: St. Michael's Church: 5th to 7th December: We will be taking part in this year's Festival of Christmas Trees at St. Michael's Parish Church, from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th December. Once again, two, decorated trees will be featuring to represent our school and nursery. This year, the chosen theme is 'Christmas through the ages' and we are very much looking forward to exhibiting our trees. Please come along to this lovely event, if you can. 😊

Christmas Marketplace: P3-7 Enterprise: Thursday 4th December: 2-3pm: All family and friends are invited into school for our P3-7 Christmas Enterprise activity on Thursday 4th December from 2-3pm. There will be 'stalls' in classrooms/areas, and children will be selling Christmas goods, that they've made in classes, with all proceeds going to school funds. As part of this project, children will also learn about profit and loss and running a business. We hope that you'll all come along and support us at this event.

Christmas Party Week: Monday 15th to Thursday 18th December: Children's Christmas parties will run over the last week of term and on the following dates:

- Monday 15th December- P4 party (plus P4 pupils from P4/3)- PM
- Tuesday 16th December- P5 party- AM
- Tuesday 16th December- P6 party- PM
- Wednesday 17th December- P2 party- AM
- Wednesday 17th December- P3 party (plus P3 pupils from P4/3)- PM
- Thursday 18th December- P1 party (plus a special visitor!)- AM
- Thursday 18th December- P7 party-PM

Children are invited to come into school dressed in party clothes on the day of their class party or to bring a change of clothes in a bag, to change into. We hope that everyone enjoys their party and has a wonderful time! Thank you to our Parent Council and FAST team for supporting us to cover the cost of parties and to make these events special, for all children. 😊

P4-7 Christmas Carol Service at St. Ninian's Church: Thursday 11th December at 1.50pm: All friends and family are invited to our 'traditional' carol service on Thursday 11th December at 1.50pm, at St Ninian's Church. We look forward to seeing you all there, if you choose to come along. Our strings players and school choir will perform at this service. If you, or a family member, are coming and can be a helper for the walk to/from the church, please let the school office know.

P.E Kits and Outdoor Clothing: Our children will continue to learn and play outdoors, during the colder months and when it is safe to do so. To support us with this, please can we ask that all children come to school wearing a waterproof jacket, outdoor shoes and keep a P.E kit in school, for changing into, during sports activities? Thank you so much for your help with this.



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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 2 (November-December 2025):

- Friday 7th November- 8.50-11.30am, Uniform Swap Shop, school entrance foyer
- Friday 7th November- P6 after school footballers at cluster league event, Linlithgow Academy
- Sunday 9th November- Miss Baillie and P7 Heads of Year at Remembrance Service, St Michael's Church
- Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th November- P5 Lockerbie residential trip
- Tuesday 11th November- P6 girls (and P5 girls not at Lockerbie) at 'Fearless Women in Computing' event, St George's School, Edinburgh
- Wednesday 12th November- P6 trip to Scottish Parliament and Holyrood Park
- Monday 17th November- Friday 21st November- Book Week Scotland
- Monday 17th November- P5 to 'Christmas Unwrapped' at St. Michael's Church
- Thursday 20th November- P1 and P2 to Linlithgow Library
- Friday 21st November- Children in Need (dress down and bring in a cuddly toy)
- Monday 24th November- deadline for ordering school Christmas lunch on iPay
- Thursday 27th November- Justin Davies author visit for P6 and P7 classes
- Thursday 27th November- 2pm, Christmas Blether Café in Hall, everyone welcome!
- Friday 28th November- Christmas Jumper 'Swap Shop' in foyer from 8.50am
- Friday 28th November- FAST 'Wreath Making Workshop' in hall from 6.30pm (ticketed event)
- Wednesday 3rd December- P1 and P2 Nativity performance for parents- 2pm
- Thursday 4th December- Christmas Market Place in P3-7 classrooms, for parents/carers- 2-3pm
- Thursday 4th December- P1 and P2 Nativity performance for parents- 6pm
- Friday 5th December- P7B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am
- Friday 5th December- 10.20am ELC Christmas Party and Fair
- Friday 5th December- Sunday 7th December- Festival of Christmas Trees at St. Michael's Church
- Friday 5th December- 7pm, School Choir performing at fundraising concert at St Ninian's Church
- Friday 5th December- FAST 'Wreath Making Workshop' in hall from 6.30pm (ticketed event)
- Monday 8th December- P1-7 panto in school 'Cinderella'.
- Thursday 11th December- Christmas lunch in school/nursery for all pupils (wear a Christmas jumper!)
- Thursday 11th December- P4-7 Christmas Carol Service at St Ninian's Church- all friends and family welcome at 1.50pm.
- Thursday 11th December- FAST 'Christmas Movie Night' in hall from 6.30pm- Polar Express (ticketed event)



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- Monday 15th December- 1.15pm- School Choir to Care Home re Christmas carols
- Monday 15th December- P4 party (plus P4 children in P4/3)- PM
- Tuesday 16th December- P5 party- AM
- Tuesday 16th December- P6 party- PM
- Wednesday 17th December- P2 party-AM
- Wednesday 17th December- P3 party (plus P3 children in P4/3)- PM
- Thursday 18th December- P1 party (plus a special visitor)-AM
- Thursday 18th December- P7 party-PM
- Friday 19th December: P3-7 'Walking in a Winter Wonderland' end of term, holiday celebration, at 9.15am, for all parents/carers, in hall. Pupils can wear a Christmas jumper!
- Friday 19th December: Christmas holidays begin at 12.25pm. End of Term 2. 😊

Staff and pupils return to school and nursery on Monday 5th January, 2026.

CONTACT US:

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