



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Who can believe that we are now in the month of December and coming to the end of another calendar year! Time has been flying past in school, with children benefiting from a diverse range of learning opportunities and experiences including; P1 and P2 visiting Linlithgow Library for a 'story-telling' session, author visits for P6-7 and P5 having the chance to attend the Christmas Unwrapped event, at St. Michael's Parish Church. Our Primary 7 pupils benefited especially from taking part in the cluster schools, STEM challenge, focused around Formula 1 racing, at Linlithgow Academy, at the start of November. We are thrilled to report that a winning team, is now through to the national finals, in Rotherham, in March. A massive 'well done' to all pupils who were part of the winning 'Lightning Legends' team. We will bring news of the children's trip to Rotherham in future newsletters. Christmas is a very special time in our school, and excitement is certainly rising, from all children, as we take part in all of the events, featured in our Christmas Calendar for 2025. We hope to welcome you all into school for some of our festivities over the next few weeks, and up until the end of term on Friday 19th December. Wishing you all a very, merry Christmas and a healthy and happy, new year. We will see all pupils, back in school on Monday 5th January 2026. Have a great break everyone! 😊

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/School Curriculum: P1-7 Business Enterprise Activities:

Our pupils, from P1-7, have been learning about the World of Work through their different, business enterprise experiences, this term.

Primary 1 and Primary 2, have been investigating how to put on an event/performance for others, as part of their work around the Nativity.

Children in Primaries 3 to 6, have created Christmas crafts, to sell to families and friends, as part of our **P3-7 Christmas Marketplace, on Thursday 4th December, from 2-3pm.**

Primary 7 have gone one step further, and as well as creating goods and services to sell at the Marketplace, they have also been learning how to set up and run a successful business including; finding out about different ways to advertise as well as simple financial concepts, such as profit and loss.

We look forward to welcoming P1 and P2 parents and carers to our **Nativity on Wednesday 3rd December at 2pm and/or on Thursday 4th December at 6pm.** Our P3-7 parents/carers are warmly invited to attend our **Christmas Marketplace on 4th December between 2-3pm.**

Pupil Equity Group: Christmas Blether Café Success: Our Pupil Equity Group along with Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Gordon and an amazing band of volunteers, did an outstanding job of running, the most successful Blether Café, that we've ever had, on Thursday 27th of November! The teas and coffees, never stopped pouring and the hall was a buzz of activity and chatter. Well done to our school choir and to Ms Quigley and Mrs Cameron for leading them, in fine form. The children 'sang their hearts out' and brought some festive cheer to the afternoon. Once again thank you to all families who provided baking for the café. We raised over £540 in total which is just fantastic. A small percentage of the money will be ploughed back in to the running of future cafes



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and the rest will be donated to the River Kids charity, in the new year. River Kids provide clothing and toys, to children from across West Lothian, who need this support. They are a wonderful charity, who have helped many of our families, over the years, and we are delighted to be able to help them in this way.

Pupil Achievements: Ski Team Success: Hillend Finals 2025: Our Ski Team have once again, made us very proud, due to their amazing performance in the Hillend, School Finals Race. The team made up of Callum, Logan, Oscar and Rupert, came in second place, overall, which is an incredible result, considering that teams from all over Scotland, were featuring. Well done to all of the pupils involved and thank you to the parents/carers who continue to support this.

Pupil Achievement: Little Princess Trust: Leila in P5 worked incredibly hard to grow her hair, which she recently had cut off, to donate to the Little Princess Trust. This brilliant charity works to provide wigs to children who have lost their own hair, due to receiving treatment for Cancer. It costs the charity around £700 to make one wig and with the help of kind donations, from members of our school community, Leila managed to raise around £1000. What a fantastic effort Leila. We are very proud of you!

Pupil Achievement: Schools Cross-Country: Well done to Leo D in P7, who ran incredibly well at the West Lothian Schools, P7 Cross-Country Event, earlier this month. Leo managed to take second place, overall, which was an amazing effort and achievement on his part.

Pupil Achievement: Taekwondo: One of our P7 pupils, Luca, had recently gained both a gold and a silver medal at the National Taekwondo championships, in Manchester. Luca's dedication and commitment to the sport as well as his ongoing training and hard work, have paid off and he absolutely deserves these awards. We couldn't be more proud of you Luca! Well done!

Pupil Achievements: P7 Rotary Essay Writing Winners: We are delighted to announce that Elliott and Johanne in P7, were both awarded prizes for the extremely high-quality of their written work, as part of the Linlithgow Rotary P7 Essay Writing Competition, which runs each November. Well done to both of these children for displaying real talent in this area and for their wonderful achievement. Thank you to Linlithgow Grange Rotary Club for providing this experience for our pupils.

Pupil Achievement: P7 Rotary Art Competition Winner: Clara in P7, recently got through to the finals of the Rotary Art Competition which is run for P7 pupils in cluster schools. The theme this year was 'stained glass' and Clara's design, to represent a feature of Linlithgow, was absolutely stunning. Well done Clara!

Primary 7: Debate Club: Mrs Noble, supporting by some senior pupils at Linlithgow Academy is now running a Debate Club for our Upper School pupils, who are interested in this experience.



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The children are learning the skills of debating, including how to project their voices, pose an argument and justify their answer/opinion. We will bring more news of the club in future newsletters.

P7: Bike Buddies Project: Our Primary 7 pupils have recently had a marvellous opportunity to engage with a new, Bike Buddies project in conjunction with FEL Scotland and Linlithgow Community Development Trust. Bike Buddies connects directly, with the new, Active School Travel Hub at Linlithgow Academy, with the idea being, that encouraging children to cycle to school, is helping them to make healthy and sustainable choices, in the longer term.

As part of the project, families can take part in Linlithgow Bike Library, which provides pupils with access to a quality bike, which is serviced regularly and can be used for cycling to school as well as for using out with school.

The team from Bike Buddies, also offered a 'Doctor Bike' session in school to enable pupils to bring in bikes from home, to be serviced for the winter. What a great project and we are so grateful to the team, behind Bike Buddies, for providing this opportunity for our children!

STEM Room/Maker Spacers Plea: One Person's Trash is Another Person's Treasure! This month, we are looking for any donations of stamps, stencils and ink pads that you may have at home and may be looking to pass on. Stamps and stencils are loved by children in classrooms, as a way to decorate work and be creative. We'd be very grateful for any donations, if you have these items lying around.

West Lothian Schools Creativity in Literacy Competition 2025-2026: This session, we are hoping to take part in the West Lothian Schools, Creativity in Literacy Competition, to highlight the innovative work, that we've doing in Literacy, across school, of late. We are planning to present the children's learning around their class 'Book Study', this term, which has included decorating classroom doors, in the theme of their chosen book. We thought that we'd share some of the photos of the classroom doors, below, so that you can see the children's lovely work. The children have also been using technologies to support them to engage in reading. We now have Kindles in our classroom libraries, from P3 upwards, and in some lessons, children have been uploading their answers to questions on their chosen text, to platforms such as Padlet. One of our parent volunteers, is also running a successful Book Club, in school, to encourage children to read books that they may not have tried before and to discuss aspects of the text.



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UNCRC/Children's Right of the Month: Article 14: Every Child Has The Right To Choose and Express Their Own Beliefs: As we approach the festive season, we're focusing on Article 14 of the UNCRC: every child has the right to choose and express their own beliefs. At Linlithgow Primary, we celebrate Christmas while also learning about other faiths and traditions. This helps children understand the meaning behind different celebrations and respect the beliefs of others.

Throughout the year, we explore a variety of different World Religions and festivals such as Diwali, Eid, and Chinese New Year. These activities encourage curiosity, inclusion, and respect for the different opinions and beliefs of others. Children are given opportunities to share their own experiences and ask questions in a safe and supportive environment, through class discussions, assemblies, and circle time.

Our Jigsaw resource continues to help us promote positive relationships and a sense of belonging for everyone in our school community. By learning about different beliefs and values, we ensure every child feels respected and included.

We wish all our families a joyful festive season and look forward to continuing our journey of learning and celebrating diversity together, in school. 😊

Partnership Working: St Michael's Parish Church: Festival of Christmas Trees: We are delighted to be working in conjunction with St. Michael's Parish Church again, this year, as part of their



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highly successfully, Festival of Christmas Trees. We will be displaying two trees this year, decorated on behalf of our school and nursery. The theme of the event this year is 'Christmas Through The Ages' and our pupils from nursery to P7 have been busy, making decorations to hang on our trees. There is an entry fee for this event, all proceeds from which, go to St. Michael's Church. The event is being held at the Church from **Friday 6th-Sunday 7th December**. Please head along to the Church over this weekend, if you would like to see our Christmas trees. 😊

Neurodivergent Learner: Parent Support Group: Feedback and Next Meeting Date: A little reminder that our next, Neurodivergent Learner, Parent Support Group 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. 😊

Family Learning Event: Library Open Afternoon: Feedback: Thank you to the families who attended our online presentation in the middle of November, on our approaches to Positive Relationships, in school. We also talked about our 'trauma informed' approaches, during this session as well as how we support children to regulate their emotions in school. We do hope that the session was informative and helpful to those families who attended.

Christmas Holiday Dates: 2025-2026: As a reminder, 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, has been published and we'd advise all families, to keep this close to hand, and review it regularly, to make sure that no-one misses out on any of our festive events, at this fast-paced time of year.

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: This month, we'd like to feature the work of Daisy in P7, who has written a persuasive text about why she thinks that Christmas time is the best holiday. What a fantastic effort Daisy!

Why is Christmas the best holiday? Well, I'm going to tell you! Christmas is way better than Easter, Halloween or even birthdays. Christmas is a cozy, traditional and festive holiday. Certainly, Halloween is fun but surely Christmas is the best holiday!

Furthermore, Christmas has family traditions. Some family traditions are pulling crackers, getting ready for Santa to come and roast dinners. All of these things take you down memory lane,



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especially sitting by the fireplace listening to Christmas songs and getting into the Christmas spirit. Besides music, what about baking cookies!

Everyone is sure that Christmas food is the best food on earth with mince pies that make our tummies full, warm milk on cold nights and we can't forget pigs in blankets, which make us joyful inside. Yes, I know that you get a lot of food and treats at Halloween, but Christmas food is the best. Any gift could have sweets in it, gummies, chocolate and lollypops, but Christmas food, we can eat with the family, pets or even friends. We all know that Christmas food makes us joyful inside, warm and happy.

Christmas decorations are the best! All of the lights, Christmas trees and we can't forget wreaths. All of the sparkly lights on people's houses and in the gardens makes everyone happy. Are you decorating your house this year? Well, you should if you're not. One of the best things about Christmas is decorating your house, garden or Christmas tree. The BEST thing of all is putting the star on top of the Christmas tree and especially arguing with your siblings, about who will put the star on top. Don't we all love decorating!

Now the BEST thing about Christmas is the presents!!! We all love going down the stairs and seeing Santa's footsteps, the carrot eaten by reindeers and of course, the sparkly and colourful presents. I'm sure that you love going downstairs and seeing all of your beautiful presents. We all love presents but most people love being grateful, more.

Having looked at all the evidence, all we know undeniably, is that the best holiday is Christmas so you better put your tree up soon and warm up with some hot chocolate!

Uniform Swap Shop: Our next Uniform Swap Shop will take place in the new year, on Friday 9th January from 8.50am-11.30am, in our school foyer. Everyone is welcome to come along on that morning to either donate, 'pre-loved' school clothing or to pick up items, to take home. 😊

Christmas Jumper Days 2025: P1-7 Pupils: We will be inviting all pupils to wear Christmas jumpers, alongside their usual school uniform, to school on **Thursday 11th December** and again, on **Friday 19th December**, as part of our Christmas festivities.

Nursery News: Enterprise Activities for the Nursery Christmas Fayre: Friday 4th December: School Hall: 10.30am onwards: The nursery children have been busy making a range of festive arts and crafts to sell at the nursery Christmas Fayre which will be held on **Friday 4th December from 10.30am** onwards, in the school hall. The children are gearing up to sing lots of Christmas songs at the Fayre and hopefully, a very special visitor will be coming along to join in with the merry-making. We hope to see all nursery parents/carers and family and friends at the Fayre, if they are able to come along.

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



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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: In recent weeks, children have taken part in an 'anti-bullying' and kindness day assembly led by Mrs Menmuir. They have also used their voice, to provide their views on our Positive Relationships policy, as part of our School Improvement 'Big Blether' assembly, led by Miss Baillie. Our most recent assembly on 'Winter Safety' reminded everyone how to stay safe on roads in winter time as well as the dangers of ice and frozen, bodies of water. The remaining assemblies for Term 2, are as follows:

-Friday 5th December: Class Assembly, led by P7B

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 and the choir 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.

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. 😊



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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.

Winter Illness Guidance: NHS guidance is that children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should remain absent from school until they have been symptom free for 48 hours. Please encourage thorough hand washing as is the simplest and most important infection control measure. Washing hands thoroughly using soap and water will help prevent the spread of common infections such as colds, flu, covid19 and stomach bugs. We thank you for your support 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):

- 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)
- 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.**



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