



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you had a wonderful, festive break with your families and have had a positive start to 2026. It was lovely to welcome all children back into school this week, for the start of Term 3. We will be spending the next couple of weeks settling children back into the school routine and focusing our teaching around our school values of Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity and Wellbeing.

We have some lovely activities planned for pupils this term, including our Young Engineer (STEM) project for P2, P4 and P6, our P6-7 Scottish Opera workshop and performance and a number of trips and excursions, including a visit to Bannockburn Heritage Centre for P5 and a visit to Edinburgh Castle for P3, P4/3 and P4.

We have shared all key dates for the term, at the end of this newsletter. Please make a note of these on calendars at home, for your reference.

Have a great month everyone and enjoy reading all of our latest news, below. 😊

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/School Curriculum: P1-7 Social Subjects Focus: Scottish Culture: For the month of January, each class in school will be studying a different Famous Scot as part of their work on Social Subjects. Each class has chosen a Famous Scot who has invited something significant or contributed to society, in a positive way. Please see the list of the different Famous Scots, below, that each class/stage has chosen to study:

P1A and P1B- James Watt (Steam Engine)

P2A and P2B- Kirkpatrick Macmillan (Bicycle) and Eric Liddell (Athlete)

P3, P4/3 and P4- Charles Rennie Macintosh (Artist/Architect), Robert Adam (Architect)

P5A and P5B- Alexander Graham Bell (Telephone) and Alexander Fleming (Penicillin)

P6A and P6B- Sir James Young Simpson (Obstetrician)

P7A and P7B- Robert Burns (Poet/Songwriter)

We look forward to seeing the children's learning around their Famous Scot, coming to life in classrooms over the next few weeks! 😊

Pupil Equity Group: Scottish-themed, Community Blether Café: Thursday 29th January 2026:

Our next Community Blether Café, will take place on Thursday 29th January, in our school hall, from 2pm. The café will have a Scottish theme so please spread the word and come along to enjoy a hot drink and some tasty Scottish baking. A proportion of the proceeds will go back into the running of future cafes, with the rest being donated to this year's chosen charity: River Kids.

We look forward to seeing you all there. 😊

Pupil Achievements: Ski Team: Boyd Anderson Trophy Success: Our Ski Team continue to have an outstanding season with the group, securing the Boyd Anderson Trophy, for a second year. Well done to all pupils involved. We couldn't be more proud of you all! Go team!



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Pupil Achievement: Chief Scout Award: We were thrilled to hear, that Ruaidri in P6, recently gained the Chief Scout Award due to his commitment to achieving a number of badges, in scouts. What a massive honour to receive this prestigious award and an outstanding achievement on Ruaidri's part.

Pupil Achievement: Care for our Community: Daisy in P4, overwhelmed us with her kindness for others, during the Christmas period. With the help of her Dad, Daisy chose to 'parcel up' bundles of her old books, which she donated to children across school, who would benefit. We think that what you did was absolutely wonderful, Daisy! Thank you for thinking of others.

Junior Park Run: Sporting Opportunities for the New Year! We are inviting all interested families to start the new year with a healthy new hobby! Junior parkrun is a free, weekly 2k event where children can run, jog, or walk at their own pace.

Where: Cycle circuit behind the leisure centre

When: Every Sunday at 9:30am (volunteers arrive at 9:00am)

Sign up:

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/?section=form&eventName=westlothiancyclecircuit-juniors&e=westlothiancyclecircuit-juniors>

and bring your child's barcode.

Volunteers make this event possible, and they're always happy to welcome new helpers! Speak to a volunteer on the day if you'd like to get involved. ☺

Health and Wellbeing: Linlithgow Junior Fun Run: Mark your calendars for this exciting event linked to the Linlithgow 10K!

Date: Sunday, 27 September 2026 at 2:35pm

Distance: 1.9K lap through Linlithgow High Street and Peel

Age group: 8–15 years

Extras: Every participant gets a t-shirt, goody bag, and refreshments!

Prizes: Awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd girl and boy, plus 1st boy/girl from Linlithgow.

Sign up: <https://www.entrycentral.com/Linlithgow-Junior-Fun-Run>

before 21 September 2025 (or when spaces fill).

Why not give one—or both—a try? It's a great way to stay active, make friends, and have fun!

50th Anniversary of Linlithgow Deacons Court: Church Service at St Michael's: Miss Baillie and our two heads of Year, Alexis and Zac, were honoured to be invited to attend the incredibly special, service to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Deacons Court of Linlithgow, at St. Michael's Church on 18th December, in the presence of HRH Princess Anne. It was a lovely service and Linlithgow Reed Band put on a wonderful show. A tea-party in Cross House, was a special ending to the afternoon's celebrations. Well done to Alexis and Zac, for representing the school, so beautifully, on the day.



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STEM Room/Maker Spacers Plea: One Person's Trash is Another Person's Treasure! This month, we'd love any donations of buttons, fabric, ribbon and wool that may be lying around houses. We can use these items for many different craft and technologies projects in school. Thank you for any help that you can give us with this.

FAST/Parent Council News: Fundraising Efforts: We were thrilled to be able to buy around 3 pupil laptops for use in classrooms, as a result of the Christmas fundraising by the FAST team and Parent Council. Thank you to all families who took part in the wreath-making workshops and/or entered the raffle to win Christmas hampers.

The next FAST event will be the Family Ceilidh, which is due to take place on **Friday 30th January from 7-9pm**. This is a really lovely, family event with a chance to get up and try some Scottish dancing.

UNCRC/Children's Right of the Month: Article 29: A Child's Right to an Education: Welcome back! This month we're focusing on Article 29 – every child's right to an education that helps them grow, discover their talents, and prepare for life.

At Linlithgow Primary, we want learning to be exciting and meaningful. As the children settle back in, we'll be encouraging creativity through art, music, and drama, and building problem-solving skills with fun STEM challenges. Outdoor learning will continue to play a big part too – exploring nature and working on eco-projects to help children understand the world around them.

Many of our pupils have chosen to join groups like the Culture Connect, Innovation Nation and Performance Paradise groups. These roles give children a real voice in school decisions and help them develop leadership, teamwork, and responsibility. We're proud to see them taking an active role in shaping our school community.

We also offer a variety of clubs for children to explore their interests and talents, from sports and music to creative activities. Our school is actively involved with the wider community, taking part in local events and projects that help children learn about citizenship and the importance of contributing to society.

Our aim is: to create a safe, happy environment where every child feels valued and inspired to reach their full potential. ☺

Partnership Working: River Kids: We are so grateful to the West Lothian Charity, River Kids, who enabled us to help many families over the Christmas period. As well as doing many other great things, River Kids provides Christmas gifts for children, where financial difficulties within families, would prevent this from happening, otherwise. We are thankful that River Kids has supported us to ensure that all of our pupils, could receive gifts and experience a joyful Christmas. To say 'thank you' to River Kids we are planning to donate a percentage of the takings from our Blether Cafes, to the charity in coming weeks.



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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: Supporting Reluctant Readers, Online Presentation: 14th January at 6.30pm: All interested families are invited to come along to an online presentation about how to support 'reluctant readers' on **Wednesday 14th January at 6.30pm**. The presentation will give helpful hints and tips, for how to encourage to read more at home, and to develop a love of books. We will send out a Teams link to enable families to access the presentation, shortly.

Family Learning Event: Open Afternoon in all classrooms: Monday 26th January from 2.15-3.15pm: We are delighted to invite all parents/carers to join us in school for an Open Afternoon on Monday 26th January between 2.15-3.15pm. Please come along and enjoy taking part in the learning experience on offer, within your child's classroom. We hope to see you all then.

February Holiday Dates: Our mid-term break begins on **Friday 6th February at 12.25pm** and pupils return to school on **Tuesday 17th February at 8.50am**. Our nursery will remain open, during the period.

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. 😊

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. 😊

Nursery News: January Learning Contexts: Our nursery children have begun the new year, showing an interest in 'new things'. They have been talking about new toys (Christmas presents!), a new month and a new year. They have also been investigating the changing states of water, into snow and ice, as part of their exploration of the cold weather.



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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.

Reminder: Changing for P.E: For hygiene reasons and to practise the life skill of changing, organising clothes and sorting personal belongings, we encourage all children to change for P.E during each lesson. We would really appreciate the support of all parents/carers to ensure that all children have a gym kit in school for changing into, or that they come to school with their P.E kit on, under their school clothes, ready to change for P.E, on P.E days. Thank you for your support with this, we're so grateful. 😊

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.

Assembly Calendar: Term 3: This term, we will begin our assembly programme with our first assembly, this Friday, 9th January, being focused on our school values and 'new beginnings'. We thought that this was an apt theme as we start a new year, and continue to work on our positive mindsets, as we embrace new opportunities.

Here are all of the planned assemblies for this term:

- Friday 16th January- Leadership Assembly: Pupil Leadership Group assembly- led by representatives from our Pupil Leadership Groups.
- Friday 23rd January- Class Assembly led by P3, parents/carers invited at 9.45am
- Friday 30th January- Class Assembly led by P4, parents/carers invited at 9.45am.
- Friday 6th February-Class Assembly led by P6A, parents/carers invited at 9.45am.
- Friday 20th February-Class Assembly led by P6B, parents/invited at 9.45am.
- Friday 27th February- Pupil Leadership Assembly: LPS Big Blether!
- Friday 6th March- Literacy Assembly/Pupil Leadership: World Book Day
- Friday 13th March- Class Assembly led by P4/3, parents/carers invited at 9.45am
- Friday 20th March- Numeracy and Maths Assembly: World Maths Day!



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Pupil Writing: This month we have a few pieces, of wonderful writing for you. We are featuring the work of a P3 pupils, two P6 pupils and a Primary 7 child. We hope that you enjoy seeing our children's creativity and expression, on paper.

First, here is a fantastic persuasive piece from Daibhidh in P4, about the virtues of shop-bought presents over home-made gifts.

I think that shop-bought presents are better because you can't always make the things that people want.

Firstly, shop- bought presents are better because I can save up all of my money to buy presents.

Secondly, they look better because the materials used are stronger.

Thirdly, there might be things that you can only buy in a shop and cannot make.

For these reasons, shop bought presents are better.

Well done Daibhidh for an amazing fantastic effort!

Next is a piece by Emily in P6 called 'Everly and Grace'. Emily wrote this for her entry to the BBC, 500 Words competition and her entry has taken her through to the next stage! We are thrilled for you Emily and what a talent you have!

Everly & Grace By Emily

Autumn was fading quickly this year. The air was warm with a slight breeze, and the leaves had begun turning from shades of green to gold and rust. Grace stepped carefully, her boots crunching through soft, brittle leaves.

The old garden behind the house had almost disappeared under a pile of leaves. She put on her mittens and stepped outside, the wooden porch creaking beneath her. Grace pushed the leaves away with her boots. Something soft touched her leg. She froze. A fox with the softest, most majestic fur and bright emerald eyes stood before her.

It wore a leather-bound collar with golden embroidery and bold letters that said Everly. Grace followed Everly to an old cottage in the woods. The cottage had barbed wire and a long twisting stone path. Suddenly, a high-pitched noise came from the house. Grace decided to investigate.

Behind a half-collapsed fence tangled in vines was another fox. Its fur was pale white streaked with mud, its tail caught in the mesh. Everly sat tail low ears back circling the trapped fox as Grace carefully untangled the net. The fox wiggled free, sending dirt flying, and darted into the cottage.

Grace stepped towards the crack in the door and looked through the keyhole. The room was dim, a sliver of moonlight slipping through a cracked window. In the middle of the room sat a small box with a key slot. Everly tapped her ankle; a silver key dropped at her feet. She pushed it in. The box opened to reveal a note written in loops and curls,

"Thank you, Grace. We will meet you when the clock strikes twelve in a week's time."



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A week later, Grace sat eagerly at the top of the stairs, staring at the clock. Tap tap! She looked out the frosty window. Six foxes sat in the snow, tails wagging. Everly booped her hand. A tiny white fox proudly wore someone's stolen sock!

They led her to a frozen lake lit by the aurora. A cave that echoed like music. A ridge above the treetops where the sunrise arrived early. Somewhere humans never find. Somewhere she would remember for the rest of her life.

Foxes live in places humans rarely see, wild ancient corners of the earth. "Some things exist beyond normal perception," one fox said gracefully before leaving her as if nothing had happened. Grace never forgot Everly, sometimes she wondered had all been a dream?!

The next piece is also an entry to the BBC 500 Words competition, this time, written by Ruaidri in P6, Again, this entry has taken her through to the next stage. Well done Ruaidri for this incredibly clever story. You are an outstanding writer for your age!

THE FUNNY PARISIAN

Once in France there was a little flat in Paris and a blank canvas. However, it was no ordinary canvas this canvas is magical, it can crack an egg, make lasagna, but in this case, it can teleport you to the deep dark vacuum of space!

Joby is a small Parisian who has big dreams to become an artist, so he moved to France but he's originally from Scotland. He has short brown hair and a t-shirt that is too small for him. So, he bought a flat and it had not been cleaned in years!

Joby enters the flat the dust was everywhere like a horrid infection; however, one specific item got his attention it was the magical canvas. It was late specifically nine o'clock so he went to bed but decided that the next day he would paint a glorious image of space.

When Joby got up, he done the usual brushed his teeth, ate breakfast and got started on the painting. Stars were small white splatters that lit up the dark absence of space, in the darkness a dark green and purple planet was in the bottom left hand corner. Little did Joby know that his own creation the planet was the one he would learn something stupid!

The day before he was at the bakery and he overheard two old men talking about a magical canvas that anything you draw on it becomes a reality. So Joby so stupidly thought that the magical canvas was the same one he had, but...he was right, so now we get to the odd bit.

Joby wondered how to trigger it, he tapped it, he death stared it, he even tried talking to it but just when he was about to give up, it hit him, like a brick he had to jump into it and he clenched his fists plans sweating he narrowed his eyes and suddenly, his feet left the safe ground of his head and the canvas collided and zap!

As if travelling through light speed he landed on oozing, gooey ground it was almost like, like, it was breathing and then he saw it a ten-foot green monster mouth drooling, tail swinging and it looked hungry!

Joby didn't know what to do, adrenaline rushed through his body, fight or flight, his mind was racing, palms were sweating and, and the monster it, it cuddled him! The monster was nice!? Then Joby took a moment to look at his surroundings, towering fungus weird little green hogs



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and huge brown turtles. Then he released that he's being cuddled by a ten-foot monster. Then he is teleported back to the that flat it all began, so after all that Joby went to bed. The moral of this story to never judge a ten-foot drooling monster because it looks scary.

Finally, here is a superb piece of persuasive writing by Erin in P7. Erin wrote a letter to Miss Baillie, to persuade her to plan an exciting leaver's week, for P7. What fantastic work Erin!

Dear Miss Baillie

The amazing P7 leavers week

Do you want the p7s to have the best leavers ever? My point of view is that the P7 leavers week should be the best week. Since we are unfortunately leaving this wonderful establishment, we want our wonderful celebration to be the best time ever.

Having a movie night with food from home would be incredible because it's not only fun but also a good way to unwind from all the hard work we do. Don't you want some peace and quiet from the P7s? Everyone would bring a teddy or pillow or maybe even both. As a result, our teacher would be able to have a break from teaching and the students would not have to learn while watching the film. It would also be great to make the film a PG.

Both P7s would love to go to an outdoor adventure park. Because neither class will want to be stuck in a classroom doing work during the leaver's week. This could be a once in a lifetime chance for some of us. Moreover its a great decision to let both P7s go on a trip to an outdoor adventure park because it will benefit us all to get rid of our energy and we have a lot of energy! Since this is our last year here we should be able to do this because we won't get to do this in S1.

It is a fact that crafts are an adored, fun and creative activity since it is an amazing way to wind down from doing work. Some crafts we could do are making a memory note books, models of our favourite animals and a little make what you want section.

I think we will have a fantastic leaver's week no matter what but please take these ideas and make this the most amazing leaver's week ever. I hope my ideas come into play.

Yours sincerely,

Erin



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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.

Nut Free School: A reminder that we are a 'nut free' school. Children should not be sent to school with nut products for snack, or with lunchboxes containing nuts or nut butters, at any time, due to the risk that this poses to children with nut allergies. This important measure will help us to keep all children safe in school. We appreciate your support with this.



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DATES FOR DIARIES: Term 3 (January-March 2026):

- Friday 9th January- Uniform Swap Shop in foyer- 8.50am-11.30am.
- Tuesday 13th January- Veolia STEM workshops for P5 classes.
- Wednesday 14th January- Family Learning Presentation 'Supporting Reluctant Readers', online at 6.30pm- Teams link to follow.
- Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd January- Police Scotland in school to speak to identified stages.
- Wednesday 21st January- Neurodivergent Learner Parent Support Group at 2pm.
- Thursday 22nd January- P7 Burns Supper- PM
- Friday 23rd January- P3 class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Monday 26th January- Sharing the Learning 'Open Afternoon' from 2.15pm-3.15pm- in all classes.
- Tuesday 27th January- Guide Dog puppy in P1A and P1B- PM.
- Thursday 29th January- Community Blether Café- Scottish theme- 2pm in hall.
- Friday 30th January- P4 class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Friday 30th January- FaST Family Ceilidh in school hall, 7.00-9.00pm.
- Tuesday 3rd February- Family Learning Event- 'Fun Languages' celebration in hall- 6-7pm.
- Thursday 5th February- P7 Rotary Quiz event, school hall- AM.
- Friday 6th February- Uniform Swap Shop in foyer- 8.50am-11.30am.
- Friday 6th February- P6A class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Friday 6th February- February break begins for school staff and pupils from 12.25pm. Nursery will remain open.
- Tuesday 17th February- School pupils return.
- Wednesday 18th February- Xcite Learn to Swim assessments for P5 pupils at Xcite Linlithgow- PM.
- Friday 20th February- P6B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Thursday 26th February- P6-7 Scottish Opera workshop in school all day. Performance in school for parents/carers at 2.15pm.
- Tuesday 3rd March- West Lothian Museums visit for P1 classes.
- Wednesday 4th March- P5A and P5B trip to Bannockburn Heritage Centre, details to follow.
- Thursday 5th March- P3, P4/3 and P4 trip to Edinburgh Castle, details to follow.
- Friday 6th March- World Book Day in School- Dress Up as a character from a favourite book or dress down. 😊
- Friday 6th March- Uniform Swap Shop in foyer from 8.50am-11.30am.
- Friday 13th March- P4/3 class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Tuesday 17th March- Family Learning Event- P1-7 Daffodil Teas in school (all day) for an elderly relative/special person- times and information to follow. 😊
- Wednesday 18th March- 5.30-8.30pm- Parent Consultations in school.
- Thursday 19th March- 4.00-6.00pm- Parent Consultations in school.
- Thursday 19th March- P6 Euroquiz Event for identified children- in school.



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- Tuesday 24th March- Choir at Scottish Primary School Glee Challenge heat, Corn Exchange, Edinburgh.
- Thursday 26th March- P4-7 Easter service at St Ninian's Church, service starts at 1.50pm.
- Friday 27th March- Family Learning Event in school- Easter Bonnet Making in all classes, P1-7
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- Friday 27th March- School staff and pupils break for Easter holidays at 12.25pm.

Staff and pupils return to school on Tuesday 14th April for Term 4.

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