



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

August 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope that you all enjoyed a happy and restful summer holiday and are returning to school, ready for the exciting year ahead. It has been wonderful to see our children coming back through the school gates, full of enthusiasm, energy and with many stories of a happy summer, to share. As we begin another busy and rewarding year together, we look forward to celebrating many achievements and working in partnership with you, to ensure that every child feels valued, supported and inspired to learn. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Please read on to find out our latest news and to get advanced notice of key dates for the term. The first newsletter of the school year is always a slightly shorter one, but please bear with us as we will be back at the start of September, with all of our usual features, including sharing pupil work and achievements.



Learning, Teaching and Assessment/School Curriculum: Values Fortnight: Over the next couple of weeks, all children will be learning about our School Values as part of their work in Health and Wellbeing. Our School Values are: Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunities and Wellbeing. Children will use the values to explore what it means to be part of a successful classroom and inclusive school community, thinking about the way that we should treat each other and how to be the best learner that we can be. In classrooms, children will use the values to inspire pieces of art work, drama and writing. We look forward to seeing our School Values, come to life across all aspects of our school. At this time, we will also be reminding all children of our school anti-bullying policy and the need to be kind to others.

Staffing for Session 26-27: Update: We are delighted to welcome Miss Isla Sinclair to our teaching staff team, this session. Miss Sinclair will be teaching in P3B and we know that she is going to bring lots of new ideas to our school.

Mrs Rowlings is going to be leaving us to start her maternity leave, after the September holiday. We will bring news of her safe arrival, when we have it.

We are very sorry to announce that Mrs Orskov has recently left our teaching staff to move on to new ventures, out with education. Mrs Orskov has been a much-loved and dedicated teacher at Linlithgow Primary school, for many years, and we are incredibly grateful to her for all that she's contributed over her time with us, including running our popular Chess Club. We wish Mrs Orskov all of the best for her new career.

Classes and Teachers: 2026-27: As a reminder, we have 13 classes this year and the following, teaching staff in place:

P1A- Mrs Menmuir (Miss Farooq on Wed)
P1B- Mrs Paton
P2A- Mrs Buchanan/Mrs McGaw
P2B- Miss McGann
P3A- Ms Quigley
P3B- Miss Sinclair
P4- Miss Hunter

P5/4- Mrs Bryce/Mrs Ward
P5- Mrs Rowlings/Miss Ferguson
P6A- Mrs Bell/Mrs Chisholm
P6B- Mrs Marshall
P7A- Ms Daniels
P7B- Miss Noble (Mrs Ward on Thurs)



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Miss Farooq/Mrs Rowlings/Mrs Bryce will also teach different aspects of the Curriculum across school including: P.E, Health and Wellbeing, R.M.E, French.

Mrs Meikle will continue to be our Support for Learning Teacher as well as teaching in P3B, for one day each week.

Mrs Robertson and Miss Ferris are currently on maternity leave and they will both return to us, around Easter-time or thereafter.

Safeguarding/Pupil Wellbeing: Start of Term 1: The safety and wellbeing of our children, is always paramount to us, in school. At the start of the new term, we'd like to remind all parents/carers of how to report a concern about a child. Any concerns about a child who attends our school, can be reported to Miss Baillie, Mrs Gordon or Mrs Cringean and Mrs Murdugh, in our nursery. Concerns about a child in the wider community can be reported to West Lothian Council Children and Families (Social Work), (01506 282252) or via the NSPCC, by phoning (0808 800 500) or by email at help@nspcc.org.uk. Thank you for your support with this important matter.

Education Benefits: School Clothing Grants and Free School Meals: Applications are now open for School Clothing Grants and Free School Meals, for session 26-27. If you'd like to apply for this support, for your child and think that your family would be eligible, please click on the link below, for more information: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/mealsandclothing>

School Achievement: Rights Respecting Schools/UNCRC Gold Award! During the summer holidays, we were absolutely delighted to hear the news that our school has been awarded the prestigious Gold Award for our work in respecting the rights of all children. The award has been around 4-years in the making and culminated in a submission of evidence as well as a day's assessment, by an external assessor. The assessor detailed the following strengths of our school:

- Children who can confidently discuss a range of rights and explain why they are important/relevant to their lives.

- Rights learning that is embedded across the curriculum, including in the early years and for children with additional needs, using a wide range of age-appropriate, creative resources.

- A nurturing, family atmosphere featuring strong relationships with parents and carers who also value and engage with the school's Rights Respecting approach.

- An ethos that places positive relationships at the heart of school life, where the values of dignity and respect are lived and valued by the whole school community.

- Children who understand the concept of equity and fairness in relation to learning needs, showing an understanding of respect for those who need different educational support.

- Pupil participation that is valued highly with a range of pupil participation groups, giving opportunities for all children to put their ideas and suggestions forward, and for those to be acted upon.

We could not have achieved the award without the hard work of Miss Hunter and her Pupil Leadership Committee, assisted by Miss McGann. The award reflects the commitment, by all members of our school community, (staff, children and parents/carers), to ensure that all children feel valued, included, respected and supported to achieve their best, in our school. Well done to everyone! We couldn't be more proud! 😊



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Meet the Teacher Event: Wednesday 2nd September: We will hold our annual 'Meet the Teacher' event on **Wednesday 2nd September from 5-6pm**. All parents/career are invited into school, during this time, to meet class teachers and to learn more about the year ahead. Information given will include, support for homework and home learning, details of the curriculum at that stage and timetabling information including, information on 'P.E days' etc.

Class Teachers will run a short presentation for parents/carers at the following times:

-5pm-5.30pm

-5.30pm-6pm

By running their presentations, twice, teachers will enable families who have more than one child, to attend more than one presentation. We hope that this is helpful for everyone. We'll also send an electronic copy of all presentations delivered, home, after the event, so that information can be re-visited or viewed for the first time, for anyone who is unable to attend.

P1-7 Parent Consultations (Parents' Evenings): 7th and 8th of October: We will be running our Term 1 parent consultations on **Wednesday 7th October from 5.30-8.30pm** and on **Thursday 8th October from 4.00-6.00pm**. Nearer to the time, you will be sent a link to sign up to our online booking system and then you will be able to book your parents' night appointment at a time that suits you best. Parents' nights give all parents/carers a chance to speak to class teachers and to find out about their child's learning and progress, over the first few weeks of the new school year. Our second set of parents' nights will take place at the end of Term 3, and in March 2027.

P7 House Captains and Heads of Year 2026-27: Well done to the following children who, took part in a 'recruitment' process have secured the following roles, in P7 for this year:

Heads Of Year

Maisie

Amy

Emily

Stuart

House Captain – Julen

Vice-Captain - Felix

Wallace

House Captain – Rupert

Vice-Captain – Ted

Bruce

House Captain – Isabelle

Vice-Captain – Brodie

Douglas

House Captain – Ruaidri

Vice-Captain - Katie

All of our Primary 7 will be given a leadership role, this session, so no-matter whether they are a House Captain or Head of Year, nobody will miss out on the chance to shine. 😊

Homework/Home Learning: From Monday 24th August Onwards: Our homework and home learning programme will begin from **Monday 24th August**, onwards, for all pupils. Home learning helps children to consolidate knowledge and to practise skills taught in school. We encourage all families to try their best to engage in home learning, as much and as consistently as possible. We understand that lives at home are busy and if there are periods where home learning is not going to be possible for your family/child, please let class teachers know. Home learning will continue to take the form of the following:



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P1-7: Spelling/phonics and reading- given on a weekly basis. A termly 'learning grid' will also be given, containing a range of activities, from across the curriculum, including Numeracy and Maths, to support the learning being taught in class.

P7- In addition to spelling and reading and the termly 'learning grid'. P7 pupils will also be encouraged to engage in a piece of Numeracy/Maths work each week, to prepare them for the homework expectations of S1.

Each child will be given a homework jotter to record any home learning in. This should be returned to school, regularly, so that teachers can celebrate children's successes at home.

The following online platforms will be used to support the delivery of homework/home learning:

P1-3 Seesaw

P4-7 Microsoft Teams

P1-3 class teachers will support all parents/carers to access Seesaw, before home learning begins.

P4-7 children will be supported by class teachers, to be able to access Microsoft Teams independently, before home learning begins.

After/School Club and Extra-Curriculum Programme: October onwards: Our highly successful, extra-curriculum programme will begin again, this session after the October break. We run clubs, normally, over the winter months, to provide safe, fun, indoor activities for children, within the community, when the nights are dark and the weather is poor. We run a range of clubs including sports clubs, craft clubs, dance etc. Our clubs are often based on children's views, wants and desires and we try our best to ensure that the majority of our clubs, are free of charge for families.

Pupil Leadership Groups: September onwards: As most of you will be aware, every child in our school gets a chance to take part in a Pupil Leadership group to further develop an aspect of our school or curriculum. Children are given a choice as to which group they'd like to sign up to and over the year, we share information on the work of the different groups, in this newsletter. Our Pupil Leadership groups have helped us to secure many awards for our school, over the past few years and have made a real difference to our overall ethos. We are excited to bring news of the work of the groups, this session.

Sharing Skills in School: A Plea! As we begin to plan our learning programmes for this session, we'd love to bring any parents/carers or grandparents into school who may be interested in sharing their skills and supporting staff and pupils with the following:

-Baking/cooking -Sewing and weaving -Crafts -Gardening -Woodwork
-Music

If you are interested in volunteering/sharing your skills in school, then please contact our school office on 01506 280093, to start the PVG (Police Check) process. All volunteers who come into school need to be part of the PVG scheme, however this is normally a very straightforward process.

Pupil Achievement: Fundraising for School Funds and Guide Dogs: A massive 'well done' to Emily H in P5/4 for making and selling bracelets over a number of months, to raise money for our school funds and also, for Guide Dogs UK. Emily is going to help Miss Baillie to choose new playground toys for school, with the money that she raised. Guide Dogs UK were delighted to receive her donation and representatives from the charity met Emily, along with some Guide Dog puppies, to thank her for her efforts. We are so proud of you Emily and are extremely grateful for your contributions.



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Parent Equity Group Volunteers: A Plea! Mrs Gordon and her highly successful Pupil Equity Group are looking for a couple of parent volunteers, who may be willing to assist with the school's equity work, over the course of the session. Our work in equity makes such a massive difference to our families and through our Blether Café, to the wider community. If you are interested in helping us with this and would like to be involved, then please contact our school office, on 01506 2800093 to begin the PVG process.

STEM Room/Maker Spacers Plea: Art and Craft Materials: At this time of year, and as we begin to re-stock classrooms for August, we'd love any donations of the following items which may be lying around at home, and which can be used for arts/crafts in school:

-Plastic, milk bottle tops -String -Wool -Ribbon -Corks -Egg boxes
-Cereal boxes

Forthcoming Holiday Dates: September Holiday: Monday 21st September: School will be closed to staff and pupils on Monday 21st September, for the September break. Nursery will remain open, on this day.

Uniform Swap Shop: Friday 4th September: Our first Uniform Swap Shop of the session will take place on **Friday 4th September 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. Thank you to all of our parent volunteers who have support our Swap Shop, this session. We are always looking for additional pairs of hands to help, so if you can spare a few hours, once per month, to help with this initiative, please let our office staff know.

Assembly Calendar: Class Assembly Dates 2026-27: Here are a list of the class assembly dates for the session. Parents/carers are invited into school at 9.45am, on the date of their child's assembly, to watch the performance. All assemblies will continue to take place on Friday mornings.

Friday 11 th September	P7B	Friday 12 th March	P2A
Friday 18 th September	P7A	Friday 23 rd April	P3A
Friday 4 th December	P6B	Friday 14 th May	P5
Friday 22 nd January	P3B	Friday 28 th May	P6A
Friday 29 th January	P5/4	Friday 4 th June	P1A and P1B
Friday 19 th February	P2B	Friday 12 th June	P4

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.



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REMINDERS:

Parking and Stopping around School: Please drive and park safely on Preston Road for the safety of all children. Please also, avoid using our school car park or the turning circle for parking or stopping at any time. The car park is for staff use only, unless you are a Blue Badge holder, and the turning circle is for buses and coaches only.

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 reunite 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 as 'nut free' a school, as we possibly can be. 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 1 (August-October 2026)

- Monday 24th August onwards- Homework and home learning for Term 1 to begin.
- Monday 24th August-Wednesday 26th August- P6 Outdoor Days with Xcite.
- Monday 31st August- Young Leaders of Learning to Inveralmond Community High School with Miss Noble.
- Tuesday 1st September- Wednesday 2nd September- American Football taster sessions for P5-7.
- Wednesday 2nd September- Meet the Teacher Event, 5-6pm.
- Friday 4th September- 8.50am-11.30am, school uniform Swap Shop in entrance foyer.
- Friday 11th September- P7B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Wednesday 16th September- P5-7 Author Visit in school hall- Maz Evans.
- Friday 18th September- P7A class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Monday 21st September- School closed for staff/pupils for September holiday.
- Saturday 26th September- European Day of Languages.
- Monday 28th September- Friday 9th October- Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Thursday 1st October- Tempest school photographs, more information to follow.
- Friday 2nd October- 8.50am-11.30am, school uniform Swap Shop in entrance foyer.
- Monday 5th October-Friday 9th October- Outdoor Learning/Science Week plus Challenge Poverty Week.
- Wednesday 7th October- 5.30pm-8.30pm- P1-7 Parent Consultations in school.
- Thursday 8th October- 4.00pm-6.00pm- P1-7 Parent Consultations in school.
- Tuesday 13th October- NHS Lothian delivering flu vaccinations in school, more information to follow.
- Friday 16th October- Harvest Assembly for pupils in school- donations for West Lothian Food Bank.
- Friday 16th October- School staff and pupils break up for October Holiday at 12.25pm.

Return to school for Term 2: Tuesday 27th October 2026.

Nursery will remain open during the October break. 😊

CONTACT US:

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