



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's amazing to think that we are now into the fourth week of the first term and the days have been flying past in school, with staff and pupils making the most of the good weather and enjoying many learning opportunities, outdoors. Our new primary 1 classes, have spent some lovely afternoons, getting to know their P6 buddies, by playing games together, in our infant playground. Our P6 pupils also enjoyed an outdoor day, supported by Xcite Linlithgow, where they undertook Canoeing and Team-building activities. Our upper school classes have also enjoyed learning the core skills in American football, outside, on our school pitch.

As we move into September, the routines of school are beginning to settle and become familiar to all children and we look forward to the many, different opportunities that the season of Autumn will bring. For our children, this means continuing to form relationships with their new teachers, building on existing friendships and making new ones and embracing the many learning experiences, in classrooms and around school. Our focus remains on creating a nurturing, inclusive and inspiring environment for all pupils where every child feels valued, supported and encouraged to achieve of their best. We look forward to a happy and productive month ahead. Please read on, to find out our latest news.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/School Curriculum: Social Subjects and Inter-Disciplinary Learning: Geography Focus: This term, each class in school will undertake a block of learning around a Geography context, chosen by the interests of the pupils and to meet the required curriculum goals.

Here is the learning focus in each class:

P1A and P1B-Into the woods...

P2A and P2B- Paddington Bear explores the world!

P3A and P3B- Under the Sea

P4- Linlithgow Tourism and Farm to Fork/Global Citizenship

P5/4-Linlithgow Tourism and Farm to Fork/Global Citizenship

P5- Linlithgow Tourism and Farm to Fork/Global Citizenship

P6A and P6B- Live Scotland!

Primary 7A and Primary 7B will be doing a special block of learning, this term, around the cluster schools, STEM racing project.

Staffing for Session 26-27: Update: As you will now all be aware, Miss Baillie is going to be leaving us in coming weeks to take up the Acting, Quality Improvement Officer post (Primary/ELC), within West Lothian Council. The Authority are actively recruiting for an Acting Headteacher, who will lead the school, alongside our existing leadership team, in Miss Baillie's absence. For parents/carers who are new to our school, our Senior Leadership Team consists of: Miss Baillie (Headteacher), Mrs Gordon (Acting Depute Headteacher), Mrs Menmuir (Principal Teacher) and Miss Noble (Principal Teacher). Mrs Cringean and Mrs Murdoch, our Early Years officers, will continue to lead our nursery.

We will bring news of Miss Baillie's leaving date and the start date for the new, acting Headteacher as soon as we have this.



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STEM News: P4-6, 'Sci-Seedlings' project: At Linlithgow Primary School, we have 4 key aspects of learning that underpin our Curriculum. These are called our 'Curriculum Drivers' and they consist of the following: STEM, Sport, Creativity and Community. We hope that over the course of the academic session, you will be able to see evidence of your child being given inspiring learning opportunities, across these different areas.

This term, we are delighted to be able to provide a special, STEM project for our P4, P5 and P6 stages. The project is being provided by 'Sci-Seedlings' and will enable all pupils to undertake a variety of science experiments to learn more about plant biology and climate change. Each class, is going to be presented with a box of 'goodies' containing all of the resources, equipment and instructions needed, to conduct the different experiments.

Health and Wellbeing Update: P5-7, Screen Smart Workshops: Our upper-school classes, have recently benefited, or will benefit, from taking part in a Screen Smart workshop to learn more about online safety. The workshop was delivered by one of our parents. Renee Le Blanc, who is a former teacher and now, expert in delivering these types of workshops, to audiences of children and young people. Renee has also kindly offered to run a workshop for parents/carers, on one of the October parents' nights, with more information to follow. We know that the online world, and managing children's screen use, can both be both daunting and difficult for parents and we hope that Renee's workshop, will be supportive and informative for everyone who chooses to attend.

Safe Parking and Stopping Around School: We know that mornings can be rushed and school drop-off and pick-up times, are busy periods of the day for families, however, please can we remind all families of the following safety messages, to keep all members of our school community, and most importantly, our children, safe:

- There should be no vehicle parking or stopping on the turning circle- at any time.
- Vehicles should not park or stop in our school car park, at any time, unless the driver is a blue badge holder, and the disabled space is being used.
- Vehicles should not stop or park in a way, that obstructs the view of the road for pedestrians. There should be no parking on pavements or on the corner of access roads.

We know that it can be difficult to find suitable parking spaces, around our school community and we'd continue to advise as many of our children and families to walk or cycle to school. as much as possible. Thank you for your continued support with this important matter.

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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Rights Respecting Schools/UNCRC: Article of the Month: Article 19: Children have the right to be protected from harm: As a proud Gold Rights Respecting School, we make sure that children's rights are at the heart of everything we do. Our article of the month is Article 19 of the UNCRC, which says that children have the right to be safe and protected from harm.

Children's wellbeing is very important to us. Through regular HWB Check-ins, we make sure every child has a trusted adult they can talk to if they need help or support. We also have a friendship bench in the playground for children who need someone to play with, and our Playground Buddies help Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils make friends and feel included. Throughout the day, children take part in Calm Time and have opportunities to talk about their feelings and emotions. This helps them feel safe, settled and ready to learn. Our Positive Relationships Policy helps children understand how to be kind, respectful and supportive towards others. We also have a clear Anti-Bullying Policy so that children know how bullying concerns are dealt with and where they can get help. As a Rights Respecting School, we listen to our pupils and give them opportunities to share their views through our pupil voice groups. By working together, we continue to create a safe, welcoming and caring school where every child feels valued, supported and able to do their best.

Meet the Teacher Event: Wednesday 2nd September: Feedback: It was lovely to see so many parents/carers join us in school on Wednesday 2nd September, for our annual, 'Meet the Teacher' event. Thank you to our teaching staff who provided informative presentations, on classroom timetabling, routines, procedures and expectations as well as key highlights of the curriculum and year ahead. A link will be emailed home, providing digital access to all presentations so that the information can be re-visited by families, or viewed for the first time, if you didn't manage to attend on the evening.

P1-7 Parent Consultations (Parents' Evenings): 7th and 8th of October: A reminder that 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.

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/ 'Wear and Share' 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.



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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.

Pupil Writing: Recount Genre: Term 1: We are pleased to share the work of Luna, a P4 pupil who has just joined our school, this month. Luna has written a lovely recount of the Disney short-film, 'The Birds'. Well done Luna for your excellent writing and for being featured in our school newsletter!

"First the small birds were fighting on the power line. Next a big bird flew over and landed on the power line. Then the little birds were being unkind and started to peck him.

Finally the big bird fell on his head and the little birds fell and when they landed on the ground they had lost all of their feathers and were naked.

I think that the film was good because I liked it when the little birds lost their feathers and were naked. It was funny! 😊"

We are also delighted to share the work of Conor in P6B, who has written a wonderful recount of the chapter 'Bruce and the Cake' from the book, Matilda, by Roald Dahl. Well done to you Conor!

"As everyone was packing up, they were all called to the assembly hall. As everyone sat down, Miss Trunchbull entered and everyone was silent. Miss Trunchbull said that Bruce should come to the front. Bruce got to the stage and Miss Trunchbull said that he should eat the chocolate cake. Bruce said that he would not eat it but then he remembered that he was talking to Miss Trunchbull and so he ate it. He said that it was yummy and then the chef brought out the biggest cake in the world and he was worried. When I was reading the chapter, I thought that Bruce would explode or that he would be sick for weeks, maybe even years. Bruce ate the chocolate cake, piece by piece and he finished it. Miss Trunchbull was angry but the crowd was cheering."

Parent Council/FaST meeting, Monday 7th September: From Beth, Comms Rep, Parent Council: Our first Parent Council/Fundraising Meeting of the year will be on Monday 7th September at 7:30pm. We are doing this over Zoom, details are below.

If you have any questions, things you would like to raise please let us know either by email at linlithgowprimaryparentcouncil@gmail.com or contact reps in What's App chats.

Zoom details:

Topic: Parent Council/FaST meeting. Time: Sep 7, 2026 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84224388647?pwd=GbL71YeVFxTMJ2RtEntGk5NDRpNAaP.1>

Registered Charity: Linlithgow Primary School Parent Council Charity Number: SC050713



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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 (September-October 2026)

- Wednesday 2nd September- Meet the Teacher Event, 5-6pm.
- Friday 4th September- Miss Baillie and P7 Heads of Year at Battle 500 memorial service.
- Friday 4th September- 8.50am-11.30am, school uniform Swap Shop in entrance foyer.
- Monday 7th September – 7pm, Parent Council meeting (online)
- Tuesday 8th September- 2pm, Neurodivergent Learner Parent Support Group.
- Wednesday 9th September- two P7 teams at Primary School Cross-Country Festival, Xcite Winchburgh.
- Friday 11th September- P7B class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Wednesday 16th September- P5-7 Author Visit in school hall- Maz Evans.
- Thursday 17th September – P4, P5/4 and P5 visit to Craigies Farm.
- Friday 18th September- P7A class assembly, parents/carers welcome at 9.45am.
- Monday 21st September- School closed for staff/pupils for September holiday.
- Thursday 24th September- 2pm, Community Blether Café in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, school Hall, everyone welcome!
- 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.
- Saturday 3rd October- FaST Coffee Morning and Bake Sale at Cross House.
- Monday 5th October-Friday 9th October- Outdoor Learning/Science Week plus Challenge Poverty Week.
- Wednesday 7th October- group of P6 and P7 pupils at Scottish Schools Road Race Championships, Dunfermline.
- Wednesday 7th October- P7A Palace Guide performance at Linlithgow Palace, more information to follow. P6A watching dress rehearsal.
- Wednesday 7th October- 5.30pm-8.30pm- P1-7 Parent Consultations in school.
- Thursday 8th October- P7B Palace Guide performance at Linlithgow Palace, more information to follow. P6B watching dress rehearsal.
- Thursday 8th October- 4.00pm-6.00pm- P1-7 Parent Consultations in school.
- Tuesday 13th October- NHS Lothian delivering flu vaccinations in school.
- Wednesday 14th October- 6-8pm, information evening at Linlithgow Academy for P7 parents/carers, 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. 😊



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