



LINLITHGOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Together we learn, together we grow!

Growth Mindset, Relationships, Opportunity, Wellbeing

October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our October newsletter! As we near the end of Term 1, it is hard to believe how quickly the weeks have passed. Our Primary 1 children are now firmly, settled into the daily routine of school and our Primary 7 pupils, have been embracing their leadership roles and getting out and about, within the Linlithgow Community, display their skills as 'effective contributors'. The changing colours of the trees, cooler mornings and shorter days remind us that autumn is now well and truly with us. It has been a busy and extremely positive start to the school year and we are grateful to all pupils, staff and families for their enthusiasm, support and sense of community that has been shown, throughout the term, including welcoming our new children and families, into the fold. We hope that everyone enjoys a well-deserved October break, when it comes, and returns to school on Tuesday 27th October, refreshed and ready for all that Term 2, will bring. Please read on, to find out our latest news and well as to find out key dates, for the next few weeks.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment/School Curriculum: Outdoor Learning: This month, each class will begin their block of outdoor learning for the session, focusing on an aspect of Science, that can be learned in the outdoors. Here are the areas of learning that the children will study:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| P1 Hedgehogs and hedgehog habitats | P5/4 Feed the Birds! |
| P2 Patterns in nature | P5 Feed the Birds! |
| P3 Plants as producers | P6 Pond Life |
| P4 Make a garden grow | P7 Water filtration and environmental art |

Staffing for Session 26-27: Update: We are delighted to be welcoming Mrs Keira Crighton, as Acting Headteacher to our school, in coming weeks. Mrs Crighton is currently Headteacher at Pumpherston and Uphall Community Station Primary School and she is very much looking forward to joining the Linlithgow Primary School community and to leading the school.

In coming weeks, Mrs Dunlop, Pupil Support Worker, will cease her Friday hours in school but will continue to work in nursery, from Monday-Thursday. Miss Malone will take over Mrs Dunlop duties in school, on a Friday morning, for the foreseeable future. We'd like to thank Mrs Dunlop for all that she has done for our P1-3 pupils, over the past couple of years, in school.

Student Teachers: We pride ourselves on being a 'learning school' and as a result, we welcome a variety of students into our school to learn about childcare, early years and primary school education. In coming weeks and months, we will be welcoming students from Linlithgow Academy for work experience as well as a variety of teaching students, who will work across different stages of the school. Our student teachers bring new ideas into our school and this is always highly beneficial for both staff and pupils.

STEM News: Imogen P6: You may all remember that Imogen in P6, won a 'Young Engineer' award, last session, for her work to design an invention to help others. Imogen chose to design a drone to help society to deal with wildfires, something that is becoming highly problematic for communities across the globe, as a result of climate change. We are delighted to report that Imogen's design has been put forward for a further STEM award, and she will take part in award's ceremony, in London, within the next month or so. We are so proud of your Imogen and we can't wait to hear how you get on, at the London awards ceremony.



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Pupil Leadership Groups News: P4-7 Novel Navigators Group, P4-7 Wellbeing Wanderers and P2-3 Culture Connect: Our first meeting for our Pupil Leadership Groups, for all pupils in P1-7, took place at the end of September. Each month, from now on, we will feature some news from the work of each group. This month, we've chosen to feature the work of the following clubs; P4-7 Novel Navigators group, P4-7 Wellness Wanderers and P2-3 Culture Connect. Please see below, for more information.

P4-7 Novel Navigators: Facilitated by Mrs Bryce: The new, Novel Navigators pupil leadership group collaborated to plan a range of exciting activities that they would like to do throughout our meetings this school session, including creating our own books/comics, arranging opportunities to meet with authors and writing articles for the local, community magazine. They also started to design a mascot for our group. Congratulations to our group Chair, Leo (P4) and Vice Chair, Daisy (P7) who were voted into these roles by the group members.

P4-7 Wellness Wanderers: Facilitated by Miss Ferguson: In the first Wellness Wanderers meeting, we discussed what we would like to achieve within the year and the importance of both our physical and mental health. As a team, we began to create some ideas around a 'zones of regulation toolkit', to be used within classes around the school.

P2-3 Culture Connect: Facilitated by Mrs Buchanan: Culture Connect (P2-3) group made an action plan of what we would like to explore in our group this year. We were all keen to learn more French, Italian and Scots Gaelic, and want to find out more about different cultures, music, art and food across the globe. We would love to work alongside our school's Language Ambassadors to promote languages across our school.

Pupil Equity Group: September, Community Blether Café Success: Macmillan Fundraising: A huge 'well done' to our P6 Pupil Equity Committee, as well to Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Gordon and all parent volunteers who helped us to raise an incredible £580 for Macmillan during the first Blether Café, of the session. At the event, we were delighted to host a member of the Social Enterprise Academy, Scotland, who was highly impressed with the running of our café and the turn out from the local community. She also praised the young people, who were running the café, for their passion around equity, inclusion and enterprise. Congratulations to you all. You should be very proud of your efforts!

Dyslexia Awareness Week: Monday 28th September- Friday 2nd October 2026: Mrs Meikle, and her wonderful, pupil Dyslexia Ambassadors have been busy raising the awareness of Dyslexia, across school, over the past week. They have given informative presentations to all classes and have handed out 'blue ribbons' to be worn by school staff. The blue ribbons remind people to find out about the challenges that people with Dyslexia face, but also to recognise and to celebrate the gifts and many talents that they bring to society. Well done to you all for your efforts!

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. 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, in March 2027.



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Rights Respecting Schools/UNCRC: Article(s) of the Month: Articles 31 and 29. The right to play and the right to an education: As a proud Gold Rights Respecting School, we ensure that children's rights are at the heart of everything we do. Our Articles of the Month are Article 31 and Article 29 of the UNCRC. Article 31 states that every child has the right to play, rest and take part in recreational activities, while Article 29 highlights that education should help children develop their talents, abilities, confidence and respect for the natural environment.

This month, we are placing a special focus on outdoor learning. We recognise that spending time outdoors provides valuable opportunities for children to learn, explore, play and develop important life skills. Through outdoor learning experiences, children are encouraged to be curious, solve problems, work collaboratively and develop a deeper appreciation of the world around them.

We are committed to ensuring that all children can enjoy their right to play. Our Playground Pals group helps make break and lunch times fun, engaging and inclusive by organising games and activities that encourage participation, friendship and teamwork. Alongside our friendship bench, Playground Pals support children in building positive relationships and ensuring everyone feels included in play.

By working together, we continue to create a welcoming, inclusive and nurturing environment where children can learn, play, explore and develop to their full potential. Through our focus on outdoor learning, we actively promote the rights outlined in Articles 29 and 31 every day.

Forthcoming Holiday Dates: October Holiday: Monday 19th October- Tuesday 27th October. School will be closed to staff and pupils from Monday 19th October until Tuesday 27th October, for the October break. School will re-open for staff and pupils on Tuesday 27th October. Nursery will remain open, throughout the holiday period.

Assembly Calendar: Term 1: Well done to our two P7 classes who both led wonderful assemblies around the theme of Science. P7A taught us all about climate zones and climate change, whilst P7B focused their presentation on gravity and forces. What a great effort from both classes and their teachers too! 😊

Our forthcoming assemblies for the remainder of this term are as follows:

-Friday 2nd October: Pupil Voice/'Big Blether' assembly focused on school improvement.

-Friday 9th October: Wellbeing Assembly: 'I have choices'.

-Friday 16th October: Global Citizenship/RME Assembly: Harvest assembly with donations for West Lothian Food Bank.

Nursery News: Into the Woods... Children in nursery have been exploring their interests around woodlands. They have been learning how to recall a story (Gruffalo Gramny) and finding about how to measure (size of trees). They have also continued to learn the nursery routines and rhythm of the day, as they settle into the setting. Well done to all of our nursery pupils for being curious, motivated and independent learners. 😊



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Pupil Writing: P7 and P2- Information Report and Recounts: This month, we'd like to share the work of one of our P7 pupils, Amy, who has written an information report about Climate Change. We'd also like to share the work of two of our P2 children, Georgia and Estelle, who have both written a recount of a favourite story/text. Well done to all of these children, for their excellent work and efforts.

Here is Amy's (P7A), Information Report on Temperate Climate Zones:

Temperate Climate Zones There are several climate zones in the world. One of them is Temperate. Temperate Climate zones feature across Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, China and the UK. This climate zone is not too hot or cold during the year, but when it comes to winter, it does tend to get fairly chilly! This is because temperate climate zones sit between hot tropical countries and freezing polar regions. This is also because the temperate zones sit back from the equator a little. This report explains summers, the wildlife and the plantlife of temperate climate zones.

Summers Summer is known for it not being too hot. It stays warm or hot, but not extremely boiling. It features moderate weather, without extreme blasting heat. Summer is the warmest season of the year. Days are much longer because the tilt of Earth points the hemisphere towards the sun, with the Summer Solstice, the longest day, happening in June.

Wildlife Wildlife in temperate climate zones relies on unique survival strategies to handle the four distinct seasons. For example, black bears retreat to dens during winter, when their temperature drops to survive. Red foxes' fur grows to help them survive in the cold. They say they grow 'blankets'! Also, grey squirrels hid their nut underground. They do this to save food for themselves when food is short. They have good memories!

Plantlife Lots of trees and flowers live in temperate forests. Some include: Beech - long, thin, Ash - expressive, hearty, Oak - branchy, big, Elm - bushy, old

These trees lose their leaves during the autumn, ready for winter.

Some flowers include: Tulips - spring, colourful, Snapdragons - leafy, joyful, Daffodils - bold, happy

Overall, temperate zones are really varied. We need to protect them so that people and animals can enjoy them in the future.

P2B Writing: Recount of a Story: Well done to Georgia and Estelle, in P2B for writing fantastic recounts of well-known stories. Georgia has written about the story of Tiddler, and Estelle has written about Paddington.

Tiddler by Georgia (P2B) First Tiddler told his stories and Tiddler's first story was when he got trapped in a treasure chest then a mermaid let him out. Next Tiddler didn't see the net but Tiddler's story led him home again.

Georgia also, drew and coloured the most beautiful picture of 'Tiddler', to illustrate her story.

Paddington by Estelle (P2B) First the Browns were at Paddington Station to meet Lucy. They couldn't find Lucy. They found a bear and his name was Paddington then they found Lucy. Hurray! They went home. Paddington went in the bath. "Help!, Help!", he said. He told the family about himself and then he fell asleep.

Estelle also, drew a lovely picture of Paddington to illustrate her work.



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Uniform Swap Shop/ 'Wear and Share' Shop: Friday 2nd October and Friday 6th November: The next date of the Uniform Swap Shop/Wear and Share Shop, will be Friday 2nd October from 8.50am-11.30am, in our school foyer. Please feel free to come along to donate any 'pre-loved' school clothing or to pick up any items of clothing that you may need. Following this date, a further 'Swap Shop' will be held on Friday 6th November. Thank you to all of our parent volunteers, who help us, each month, with the set up and running of the Swap Shop. We couldn't provide this service, without your support and we continue to be so grateful for your help. 😊

Pupil Achievement: P4 Burgh Beautiful/Rotary Competition Winners: A massive congratulations to Leo in P4, who was awarded a prize in a recent competition, run by Burgh Beautiful and the Rotary Club, to grow some seedlings at home and take photos of the results. Leo worked with his Grandad to grow and care for the seedlings, nurturing them into beautiful flowers, over the summer holiday period. He managed to grow three different types of flowers too, which was just fantastic! Well done to Leo and a special mention also, to Seren, Beth P and Struan who also managed to grow flowers and sent photos of these in to Burgh Beautiful. Well done everyone for having 'green fingers' and for making our gardens, pretty places to be in. 😊



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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 (October 2026)

- Thursday 1st October- School and Nursery photo day for all classes. Photographer in school for individual and family photos.
- Friday 2nd October- 8.50am-11.30am, school uniform Swap Shop in entrance foyer.
- Saturday 3rd October- 10am-12pm, 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.
- Tuesday 6th October- P7B Palace Guide performance at Linlithgow Palace, P6B watching dress rehearsal.
- Wednesday 7th October- P7A Palace Guide performance at Linlithgow Palace, P6A watching dress rehearsal.
- Wednesday 7th October- 5.30pm-8.30pm- P1-7 Parent Consultations in school.
- Thursday 8th October- P7 teams at West Lothian Cross Country Championships, Xcite Bathgate.
- 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- 2pm, Neurodivergent Learner Parent Support Group.
- Wednesday 14th October- 6-8pm, information evening at Linlithgow Academy for P7 parents/carers.
- 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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