

Low Port Primary School: Where you are given opportunities and leave with happy memories.

Newsletter October 2016

Staffing News

Mrs Logan has now begun her maternity leave. We all wish her a restful few weeks before Baby Logan arrives.

Education Quality Assurance Committee (EQAC) Update

As follow up to our HMI visit, the Head Teacher and Chair of Parent Council are invited to attend an EQAC meeting to discuss the finding of the report. I am delighted to inform you all that this was a very positive meeting where the hard work and commitment of the staff team and the journey the school has been on were recognised by our elected members. Thank you to Mr Fuller, Chair of the Parent Council, for his support on the day.

In Service Day / School Improvement Plan Update

We had a busy September In Service day with colleagues from all the Cluster schools and Linlithgow Academy. The day was spent with Professor Barry Hymer, renowned nationally and internationally for his work on Growth Mindsets. He has given us lots to discuss and think about!

Staff from P1-3 also attended training around the use of the Online Learning Journey. This is a form of online profile that we will be piloting this session as part of our School Improvement Plan. The infant department plan to 'go live' with parents after Christmas. There will be a family learning event to support this.

On our most recent CAT session (Collegiate Activity Time) we reflected on professional reading about a Lesson Study approach and how this could support learning and teaching at Low Port. Staff are working in trios to focus on quality learning in maths. Your children may mention other teachers being in their classroom during the terms ahead. This is part of the development work we are undertaking.

Playground Update

Unfortunately vandalism has meant that our garden area has required some major adult intervention for children to be allowed anywhere near it. As part of the Make a Difference programme with the Bank of Scotland, we had a volunteer spend a whole day clearing up the debris, glass, the remains of what was a bench and to cut back and weed the area. This garden is an area the P7 house captains may access as part of their privileges which they can now enjoy. We would like to thank Mr Livingston and the Bank of Scotland for their support with this.

The bottle greenhouse has also been damaged. The Eco committee will be looking at ways to enhance the garden area and considering the best use of the bottle greenhouse.

Should you see any evening or weekend visitors whose behaviour gives you cause for concern, please call the Police on 101. Thank you for your support in this.

May we please ask that any dogs brought to school be tethered to the fence before entering the playground. Dogs should not be brought into the school grounds at any time.

Meet the Teacher

I would like to thank you all for your support at the Meet the Teacher event. It is always wonderful to see so many families supporting the school. I hope you found the evening informative and helpful.

Family Learning - P1 literacy workshop

We had a very successful and well attended event where parents and carers were invited to see how we are teaching literacy to our Primary 1 pupils. A copy of the power point used for this session is on our school website. Thank you to Mr McRae and Mrs Cleland for leading this.

PTA, Parent Council and Education Trust Fund AGM

We had a well-attended meeting last week with a number of posts being filled within each of the parent groups. We always welcome new faces so please feel free to come along to any meeting. Minutes of meetings are available on the website and from the office.

New System for Parents' Night Appointments

This October we are trialling a new online system for booking parents' evening consultation times. A covering letter and 'how to' guide have been sent home electronically to explain how families may book times themselves from home. Appointments are booked on a first come, first served basis. Booking will open at 6pm on Monday 26 September. Your thoughts and comments on this trial will be welcomed at the consultation evenings themselves.

Learning Conversations

As part of our Quality Improvement cycle, Mrs Ramsay and I met with two children from each class for juice, biscuits and a chat about learning. Our first learning conversation was around settling into new classes, having enough resources and initial impressions. Our next session in October will be to gather views on Interdisciplinary Learning. Should your child be selected for this, they will be given an invitation to come along and a follow up thank you letter to share at home. We collate the feedback from children to give us a picture of their views and share this with staff.

SAVE THE DATES - Family Learning Afternoon and Evening

Last session we held a successful learning event across the school focusing on IDL. This session we would like to invite all parents and family to visit any class they wish on Tuesday 22 November from 2.15-3pm. This year's focus will be Maths/Numeracy, in line with development work linked to our School Improvement Plan.

There will be 2 evening family learning events that week. One will take place on Tuesday 22 and one on 23 November 6.30-7.30pm. The focus for these is Health and Wellbeing /anti-bullying supported by Rookie Rockstars. Children will only be expected to attend one session in the evening and families will be split alphabetically so that we can accommodate a whole school event over both nights. Further details about the alphabetical split will follow. This is an exciting project that all children will be working towards in the weeks running up to the event. Please save the date in your calendars!

Website Items

A number of documents have been updated on our school website. These include:-
School Improvement Plan; Standards and Quality Report and P1 literacy workshop power point.
Should anyone require any paper copies please contact the school office.

WOW Jotters

This week all pupils will complete their learning activities in their WOW jotter – their Week Of Work. At key times in the year, they will use this jotter for all their work for one week. This jotter will follow the pupils through school and show progress over a period of time. Parents/carers may see WOW jotters at parent consultation events.

Opportunities for Wider Achievement

Netball has started for the session for senior pupils.

Our school choir runs on Monday lunchtimes and is open to pupils from P5-7.

Chess club runs on Tuesday lunchtimes and is open to all ages.

P4 will be having rugby taster sessions shortly.

We have a number of P7s taking part in the WL X Country championships in October – Rebecca, Kristina, Ella, Laura, Anna S, Anna B, Madeline, Ruth. We wish you well girls!

Skiing – we have a number of pupils participating in a ski-off for an upcoming competition. We will keep you posted on this. Thank you to Mrs Maxwell for leading this.

Charities for the Session

This session the charities selected for our support are Children In Need in November and Child Bereavement UK. Further details of how we plan to support these charities will follow from the pupils leading the events.

Allergies

We have a few children with severe allergies in school so it would be much appreciated if snacks containing nuts could be avoided at playtime or in packed lunches. It would also be helpful if you could remind your children at home, as we do in school, to avoid sharing snacks and lunch items due to allergies. Thank you for your help in keeping all of our children safe and healthy.

Head Lice

May we please remind families to regularly check for head lice. Unfortunately these unwanted visitors often pass around easily in classes and regular checks are required.

Bike Security

May we please remind children NOT to leave their bikes or scooters overnight as we often have evening and weekend visitors who may not treat these with due care.

Office Update

School Office staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for attempting to keep up with all the administrative tasks of late.

- **Camps**

We are in the process of finalising the costings for both P6 & P7 camps. When this is done you will be asked to pay a non-refundable deposit of £50 via Ipayimpact which will confirm your

child's place. Once the deposits are in, we will then open an account for you to either pay in the full amount or put money in at any time to save, until the final payment due date.

- Ipay

As you will be aware, we are now a cashless school office, and I have to say I am so impressed with the commitment to use the new Ipay software by parents.

If you have not managed to register your child's account or have mislaid your child's unique pin password, please contact the school office as we can resend it to you.

Reminder!

Please ensure your child's Ipay account has been reconciled by Friday 14th October, the plan is to have all accounts at zero for the end of term.

We have been informed that the new menu Oct - April 2017, starts on the first day of school, Tuesday 25th October. The new menu gives the usual options for tray 1 & 2 but tray 3 (sandwiches) there will only be 2 fillings offered Monday to Thursday and 3 fillings offered on a Friday.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

- Parent's Evening

We are trialling the new software for booking your child/children Parent Evening appointments. Appointments can be made from Monday 26th September at 18.00 hours and will close on 3rd October at 9.00am. Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office.

- Milk Ordering

If you wish your child to have milk from October 2016 to March 2017 please pay the amount of £19.38 via Ipay by the closing date, which is 3rd October.

- Tempest Photographs

The Tempest photographs should be returned by this Friday 30th September 2016, as due for collection.

Flu Immunisation

Our flu immunisation date allocated to us is Thursday 27 October 2016.

Vertical Learning Groups

Vertical Learning Groups will begin on Friday 14 October. All pupils have been allocated to one of their choices. We look forward to these groups starting for the session.

Shakespeare Event

P5-7 were visited by outstanding storyteller, Andy Cannon.

Yesterday a storyteller called Andy Cannon came into school and he told and acted out the story of Macbeth. It was very interesting and fun! He told us all about the three witches (he was all 3!) and how Macbeth killed the King of Scotland. He used lots of props but no scenery so we had to use our imaginations. It really made us think differently about Shakespeare and how he wrote.

Molly T, P7

Diary Dates

Friday 30 September	P7 Assembly 9am Families Welcome
Monday 3 October	Bikeability P5
Thursday 6 October	P1 Photo
Friday 7 October	P5 Assembly (school only)
Saturday 8 October	PTA Photoshoot Day

Tuesday 11 October	Enjoy-a-ball Party for P1 Parents' Night 4.30-7.30pm
Wednesday 12 October	Benchball Cluster Festival P3 Parents' Night 4.30-7.30pm
Friday 13 October	ALL BREAK FOR HOLIDAYS
Monday 24 October	In Service Day – staff only
Tuesday 25 October	Pupils return to school SEAL session for parents of P1 and P2 3.20pm – 4pm
Thursday 27 October	Flu immunisations
Friday 28 October	P2 assembly (school only)
Wednesday 2 November	Parent Council Meeting 7pm
Friday	P1 assembly (school only)

Further dates confirmed for your parent calendar issued in August

Christmas parties dates (all parties will be in the afternoon)

21st December P1 and P2

20th December - P3 and P5

19th December - P4H and P4T

15th December - P6 and P7

P7 Graduation date - Wednesday 28 June 2017.