

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

Newsletter October 2017

Staffing

Mrs Clapton, our PE specialist, will be commencing her maternity leave from the October week. We would like to wish her well. I will keep you posted on the new arrival. PE will be delivered by class teachers during this time.

In Service Days and School Improvement Update

We will shortly be publishing our formal School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality report to all families. I will let you know when this is on our website and both will be on display in the foyer of the school.

As part of our Cluster Improvement Plan, all teaching staff across our cluster schools are taking forward a practitioner enquiry or action research project of their own choice linked to numeracy, literacy or health and wellbeing. At our In Service day in September, we worked with West Lothian Education Educational Psychology Service (EPS) to support staff in starting this process. Teachers left the session with a research question and plan of action. We will continue to work as a cluster at 4 further sessions throughout the year supported by the EPS.

During our Friday afternoon collegiate learning sessions, we have been looking closely at the benchmarks for expected attainment across Curriculum for Excellence levels and moderating planning, assessment and pupils learning. This development work will take several sessions. Other training has included Number Talks approaches and further Numicon training, both of which have proven impact on numeracy.

Staff have also all been trained in the new Scottish National Standardised Assessments. West Lothian Council will no longer be using CEM or PIPS standardised assessment at all stages. We are following Government requirements to use standardised assessment at P1, P4 and P7 only. Further parent information will follow regarding the implementation of this in due course.

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. We look forward to meeting with you individually at parent consultations on Tuesday 10th October and Wednesday 11th October to discuss your child's progress.

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 Miss Smith and Mrs Cleland for leading this. We are looking to arrange a session on numeracy linked to SEAL (Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning) approaches and Numicon later in the session.

Parent Body News

A message from the new Parent Council Chairs...

As Parent Council chairs we, Alice and Judith, are looking forward to the first PC meeting of the year on 3rd October 7pm and would love to see some new parents there to help us plan the coming year. Please come along if you are interested in learning about our role in the school. Watch out for our updates in the monthly newsletter, we are hoping you will get involved for a few hours in some of our work that interests you throughout the year!

Charity Focus for the Session

Each session we try to have one national and one local charity. I was approached by 2 P7 pupils about our national charity focus this session.

Health and Safety

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.

Flu Immunisation

Our flu immunisation date allocated to us is Thursday 26 October 2017. Please ensure that your forms are completed and returned to school as soon as possible.

Car Park Safety

For the safety of your children, we would ask that you do NOT allow children in any of the staff car parks. The safest route for children coming into school is by using the path from the Rose Garden, or in front of Low Port Centre, bearing in mind crossing at the bottom of the road.

Health Care Plans and Medication In Schools

Our office team have been working extremely hard to ensure that the medication and permissions to administer this is in place for your children. We would ask that you complete the paperwork ON THE DAY as we are unable to give any medication without written consent. We would also ask that parents respond to the request to collect all medications at the end of the school session, i.e. June, as we are not permitted to store any medicines over the summer break. The office regularly checks expiry dates and will let families know where an expiry date is looming. We are unable to store 'just in case' medication for periods of time and this kind of medication should only be for the duration of a particular illness. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

WOW Jotters

Last week all pupils completed 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.

Learning Updates!

Already it has been an extremely busy term with a number of classes enjoying either learning outwith the school or with visitors coming in. Here are a few snapshots from our classes.

P6 Church Visit

We went along to St Michael's Church on Tuesday 12th with Miss Tully. We found out lots of interesting facts, some which we knew from our research in class and some were new facts! We split into 3 groups and explored around the church. We learned that students from Edinburgh university came to St Michael's Church in Linlithgow to study because of the plague! We managed to find Gregor's name in the book of children who had their baptism in St Michael's Church.

We learned that in 1301, Edward I of England and his army sharpened their swords on the wall of the church. The markings can still be seen! There also used to be rooms on the top of the church and Edward's army used to sleep there.

Another interesting fact that we found was the names of the 3 bells inside the church. The names were: Michael, Mary and Jane.

We really enjoyed our trip to St Michael's Church.

From Archie, Carolyn and Ronin.

A bit about our trip to Annet House

On the 14th of September we went on a trip to Linlithgow High Street and made a visit to Annet House. The first thing we did was discuss how old Low Port Primary School is. We couldn't believe that it was built over 117 years ago! We then discussed the different writing that was engraved in the building. It was very interesting paying so much attention to the detail of the building.

On our walk across the high street we looked for different plaques on the buildings. It was fascinating to see how many buildings had St Michael's plaque on it. When we reached the museum we discovered what Old Linlithgow used to look like and what happened in Old Linlithgow. We were shocked to hear how many things were produced in Linlithgow, such as glue, medicine and even bombs! We had a great time and we would like to say a huge thank you to the helpers and staff who helped organise the trip.

Primary 4

NSPCC Visit

SHARE AWARE

A resource for parents aimed at keeping children safe on social networks – information here <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>

You can speak to an advisor for further advice or request a hard-copy guide for parents and carers by phoning the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000. You can also visit www.nspcc.org.uk/parents for other advice on keeping your child safe.

Everyone enjoyed when Margaret and Joe came from the NSPCC. They talked to us about keeping safe and feeling safe.

P3 said:

"I liked how they put videos in." "I liked how they said how to be safe." "It was really good because they were telling us to be nice to other children." "I liked that they were pretending Buddy was real, Buddy doesn't like people getting left out."

P6 said:

We think it was very child friendly in the way they spoke and presented themselves. The information was easy to understand and everyone in our class understood the key messages behind it. We have had further discussion in class around this during Health and Wellbeing and all of the children really liked the two people who came along. They said they were "funny" and "friendly".

P5H said:

*It was good to hear about Childline.
All the animations were fun and informative.
The presenters were friendly and made everything easy to understand.
It was good to try and get us to remember the number.*

Diary Dates

Tuesday 3 October	Parent Council Meeting 7pm – 9pm All welcome!
Wednesday 4 October	PTA face painting session 7-9pm
Friday 6 October	P5H Assembly – Parents Welcome
Monday 9 October	P4 and P5H planting with Burgh Beautiful
Tuesday 10 October	Parents' Night 4.30-7.30pm
Wednesday 11 October	Parents' Night 4.30-7.30pm
Friday 13 October	VLG session 1 ALL BREAK FOR HOLIDAYS
Monday 23 October	In Service Day – staff only
Tuesday 24 October	Pupils return to school
Thursday 26 October	Flu immunisations
Friday 27 October	PTA Quiz Night
Friday 3 November	VLG session 2
Saturday 4 November	PTA Photoshoot

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 P4

19th December – P5

18th December - P6 and P7