

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

Newsletter November 2017

Staffing Update

You will all now have received a Groupcall message with the exciting news that Mrs Ramsay has accepted an Acting Depute post at Mid Calder Primary School. Although we will be sad to see Mrs Ramsay move on, we are all very excited for her as this is an excellent opportunity. This means that Low Port Primary will be recruiting an Acting Principal Teacher. I will keep you posted with timescales and details as appropriate.

School Improvement Update

We continue to work as a staff team developing numeracy and literacy in line with benchmarks. Our pupil support staff team are also undertaking training in numeracy in November and literacy in January in order to best support our pupils. During the October In-Service day, within school we reviewed Getting It Right For Every Child procedures and how best to meet learners needs. In the afternoon, we worked with cluster colleagues and West Lothian Council Numeracy Development Team on how best to support learners in numeracy using concrete materials, moving on to pictorial and then abstract mathematical concepts. We will be using a range of concrete, pictorial and abstract strategies and resources to support children at all stages across the school. A synopsis of the rationale behind this is below –

The concrete-pictorial-abstract approach builds mathematical fluency and conceptual understanding without the need for rote learning or following of procedures from nursery to S6. These stages should not be rushed and teachers at all levels should be aware that they may need to work between the phases or return to the phases as pupils are extending their knowledge and understanding. A CPA approach to learning in maths will reduce misconceptions and support deep understanding as pupils' mathematical thinking progresses.

Sharing Our Learning Events

P1 Learning Through Play Numeracy

In line with developing numeracy understanding and raising attainment, we would like to invite all P1 families to see how we learn numeracy in class on Friday 10th November. At 11.15am we will start with a brief session in the hall about how we are taught numeracy and the resources we may talk about and use in school as well as some ideas about supporting our learning at home. After this, we would like you to come into our classroom and let us show you how we learn numeracy through play. You can stay with us until around 12.10pm so that we can then get ready for home time.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Primary 1, Miss Smith, Mrs Cleland and Mrs Livingston

Enterprise Evening

On the evening of Thursday 7 December we would like to invite all families and friends of Low Port to our enterprise evening. Every class will have been working on an enterprise

project using a £30 donation from the PTA and will share (or sell!) to you on the evening. There may be Christmas gifts for you to buy as well as teas and coffees. Teachers will be looking for pupils to run the stalls – look out for further information nearer the time about how each class has decided to make their money grow! We look forward to seeing you there!

Cycle Friendly Schools Award

Fantastic news! We have been awarded Cycle Friendly Schools Award! Thanks to the efforts of our pupils, parents and staff I can inform you that Low Port Primary School have been successful in receiving the Cycle Friendly School Award.

We will receive a certificate, a weatherproof banner for the school railings and some goodies for pupils. To acknowledge this achievement, we plan to hold a dedicated school assembly inviting the local press along to let the wider community know about our award.

Silver Sports Scotland Award

For the second year in a row, we have gained this award for our ongoing commitment to sport and physical activity, and in recognition of the ongoing effort to increase opportunities and engagement in physical education, school sport and leadership. The certificate is displayed outside the school hall.

Wild About Scotland

On Tuesday 31 October the Wild About Scotland bus will be visiting our school with a special whole school assembly as well as individual class visits for some stages. Please be aware of coned off areas in the car park to allow the visit to go ahead.

Parent Body News

The next PTA meeting is on Thursday 2 November 7-9pm in the school. All are welcome.

Parent Council would like to thank all parents for their helpful comments and feedback on parents' night. This will inform our discussions on school travel safety and school reporting at our next meeting on Wednesday 29th November, 7-9pm. It would be great to see some new faces, and we would like to involve parents from every year group if possible. Keep the feedback coming, you can contact us via pc-chair@lowport.org.uk and look out for our new notice board coming soon in the foyer.

Alice and Judith

Co-Chairs PC

Wider Achievements

We currently have after school clubs running as follows –

- Mondays – choir at lunch time for P4-7
- Tuesdays – chess at lunch time for all stages
- Wednesdays – football after school P5-7

- Thursdays – tennis after school for all stages

Some of these clubs are for specific ages. Please contact the office should you wish further information. Should your child wish to attend an extra-curricular club and secure a place, please let us know if they will be absent at any times. For security reasons, we keep a register. In some cases there are waiting lists and places could be reallocated should your child change their mind.

Skiing Success!

Earlier this month a group of pupils, all ages (Johnny P2, Sophie C and Lexi P5P, David and Hamish P5H, Nuala P6 and Georgia and Freya P7) competed in an annual ski race at Polmont Ski Centre. They all raced their hardest and competed against many schools. The B team came an amazing 3rd out of 7 and the A team came 2nd out of 4! This meant that the A team (Hamish, Lexi, Freya and Nuala, with Georgia as Sub) went to Snow Factor in Braehead to the Scottish Final. They were competing against many outstanding teams and a tough, icy course. In the end they tried their hardest but didn't get a medal. Although they didn't win they had a great time and had fun.

Cross Country Regional Competition

Congratulations to Ted in P7 who qualified for this regional event and came in the top 15.

Well done Ted!

Shoe Collection

Prior to the summer break, we helped towards Sal's Shoes charity who pass on shoes donated to those in need. A message from the parent coordinator is below:-

A huge thank you to families of Low Port and Springfield Primary Schools who collected 194 pairs of shoes, £90 in cash and one set square! That equated to 12 black bin bags of shoes!!! Well done everyone. The shoes have arrived at the distribution centre ready to be sent off to children who need them. THANK YOU.

Joanne Brown (P1 & P2 parent)

Mary's Meals

We received a certificate acknowledging the generous contribution that we have made as a school from Mary's Meals in gifting backpacks to children in need in other countries. This charity collection was organised and coordinated by pupils. A special thank you everyone for supporting this charity, and the pupils who lead this.

Diary Dates

We thought that it would be helpful to include December diary dates as this is such a busy time of year!

Tuesday 31 October	Wild About Scotland visit to school
Thursday 2 November	PTA meeting 7-9pm All welcome
Friday 3 November	VLG 2
Wednesday 8 November	P7 Athletics Cluster Event P1 prospective meeting for new intake 2018.
Friday 10 November	P1 learning through play (numeracy) event from 11.15am

	PTA Disco
Sunday 12 November	Remembrance Service at St Michael's Church 10.50am
Friday 24 November	VLG 3
Wednesday 29 November	P3 benchball festival Parent Council Meeting 7-9pm All welcome.
Friday 1 December	Glitterball
Thursday 7 December	Enterprise Evening 6.30-7.30pm
Monday 11 December	Nativity rehearsal – school only
Wednesday 13 December	Nativity St Michael's Church 1.45pm All Welcome
Thursday 14 December	Christmas Lunch – wear a Christmas jumper if you wish!
Friday 15 December	VLG 4
Monday 18 December	P6 and P7 Party PM
Tuesday 19 December	P5 Party PM
Wednesday 20 December	P3 and P4 Party PM
Thursday 21 December	Parent Helper Mince Pies and Coffee Morning 10.30am P1 and P2 Party PM
Friday 22 December	ALL BREAK FOR HOLIDAYS