

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

## **Newsletter December 2017**

### **Staff Update**

We would like to wish Mrs Ramsay all the best in her new secondment as Acting DHT. Later this month, Mrs Natalie McCartney will be joining the staff team as Acting PT. She will be attending our Enterprise evening and has met with our next Parent Council to have a flavour of our school. I'm sure you will join us in welcoming her to our Low Port family!

Mrs Clapton, our PE specialist, had a little boy, Charlie. We would like to wish her and her family well.

### **Improvement Plan Update**

We have completed the work around planning and assessing in literacy and numeracy in line with the benchmarks. After Christmas we are looking at digital learning, including using this for profiling for upper school, coding, the introduction of Anytime Anywhere Learning (AAL) and reviewing our IT provision. We are in the process of drafting a leaflet with information on Reporting and Profiling with Parent Council support to sit alongside this work. We continue to work with cluster colleagues on a professional enquiry project of individual choice.

### **Sharing Our Learning Events**

#### **P1 Learning Through Play Numeracy, P2 and P3 Read, Write Count Shared Events**

Thank you to the many family and friends who came to share the learning in the infant classes this month. The children loved showing you all their skills and how they learn in the classroom. Thank you for your support.

#### **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 has been very busy working on an enterprise project using a £30 donation from the PTA. There will be Christmas gifts for you to buy as well as teas and coffees provided with the support of the PTA. Teachers will be looking for pupils to run the stalls – look out for the slip coming home for helpers! We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **Whole School Literacy Across Learning Event**

On the afternoon of Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January all parents and families are welcome to visit any class in the school to see literacy across learning in each classroom. This is part of the school improvement work we have been undertaking for raising attainment in literacy. There will be a display of writing from Early level to Third level to show how progression develops across a level. Mrs Cleland will be sharing some of the work we have developed around Dyslexia Friendly Schools approaches and you will be able to see how this is supported in classrooms. Further details will follow.

### Cycle friendly school award

We have recently won this award. To achieve this we had to provide bike parking space, bike friendly exits and entrances and we had to complete various Bikeability courses. We are so pleased with this award and we hope this will encourage more pupils to cycle to school thus saving the environment! Look out for news of this in the Gazette!

Alyssa, Freya and Patrick (JRSOs)

### Parent Body News

#### PTA and ETF

At the last PTA/ETF Annual General Meeting it was agreed to go ahead with setting up a new charity, Friends of Low Port, as an amalgamation of the activities of both fundraising groups. We're pleased to announce that the application to register Friends of Low Port Primary SCIO as a charity have been approved! Work is underway to move operations of both ETF and PTA into Friends of Low Port, this will take several months to complete. If you would like to be involved in any way please contact [pta@lppspeople.org.uk](mailto:pta@lppspeople.org.uk).

#### Parent Council Update

Thanks to those who emailed, helping us respond to the Transforming Your Council consultation. We await information on how these cuts will affect our school and children. We have used your sticky notes responses to work with Mrs Livingston and staff on a parent leaflet on assessment and reporting which will be distributed in due course. We are progressing our enquiries on the school car park, with support from Cllr Tom Conn.

Regarding a replacement Crossing Lollipop Person at Tesco, this job is vacant and advertised - spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested.

Finally, Scottish Government are consulting on a new Education Bill. PC will be at Enterprise Night with a short summary of this large document, please take some time to share your thoughts with us so we can respond on your behalf. We encourage you to also use the link below to read and respond personally.

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/>

Judith and Alice

Co-chairs PC

Parent Council Update

### Christmas Arrangements

As the party season fast approaches, we thought a wee reminder about Christmas arrangements may be useful.

- All class parties will be in the afternoon. Children may have a chance to change into party clothes at lunch time. All children will be able to choose a drink, crisps and a sweet courtesy of the PTA and there may be party prizes up for grabs!
- At the Christmas lunch on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>, children may wear a Christmas jumper or a Christmassy hat if they wish.
- Our Christmas service in St Michael's Church, which includes our P1 Nativity, starts at 1.45pm. Everyone is welcome to join us! As well as the P1 performance, brass, strings and choir will be performing. After the service, all children will return to

school for the end of the school day and can be collected at 3.20pm as usual. There will be a retiring collection for the PJ Foundation, supporting a local charity within the town.

- We have a parent helper coffee morning arranged at 10.30am on Thursday 21 December. Please feel free to join us for a mince pie and cuppa.

### Wider Achievements

#### Swimming Success

Lisa (P4), Billy (P5H), Suzie (P6) and Ryan (P7) formed the Low Port Swim Team for the West Lothian Schools Championships on 5th November at Deans High School. Aply supported by the only (homemade) school banner and Leroy the Low Port Lion in his swimming goggles, the team swam against stiff competition and a good time was had by all. Swimming in the 12 & under category most of the medals went to P7 pupils, but there were many top 10 places and Ryan secured a bronze medal in 50m butterfly. Well done all!

#### Sportshall athletics festival - P7

*Recently P7 competed in a sportshall festival with all the other cluster schools. Low Port came a very close 2nd, beaten by only 1 point. We all really enjoyed taking part in events such as javelin and relay races. We were all impressed by the effort of all the competitors but slightly disappointed we didn't win!*

by Rosie, Molly, Oli and Kirsten

#### Fencing

Nathan (P6) has worked extremely hard over the last year at Fencing. He is a regular member of Wallace Fencing Academy, and has recently gained his Grade Two badge and is progressing well towards Grade Three. Fantastic news Nathan!

#### PJ Foundation logo competition

We were delighted to find out that Abby Letham in P7 had won this local competition. Her logo was chosen from hundreds of entries and PJ's family loved the simplicity and creativity in her design. Abby was really surprised that she won although the rest of her class weren't because they know how arty and creative Abby is! Abby's logo is getting copied by a graphic designer and it will appear on all PJ foundation related communications and merchandise, including teddy bears! Well done Abby!

### Diary Dates

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

|                       |                                                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 1 December     | Glitterball                                               |
| Thursday 7 December   | Enterprise Evening 6.30-7.30pm<br>All welcome!            |
| Monday 11 December    | Nativity rehearsal – school only                          |
| Wednesday 13 December | Nativity St Michael's Church 1.45pm<br>All Welcome        |
| Thursday 14 December  | Christmas Lunch – wear a Christmas jumper<br>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<br>Morning 10.30am<br>P1 and P2 Party PM |
| Friday 22 December    | ALL BREAK FOR HOLIDAYS                                                       |

All staff would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and happy  
New Year!

*Merry Christmas*

