

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

Newsletter January 2018

A happy new year to you all! Where did that Christmas break go? I hope you all had a restful holiday.

Staffing Update

We would like to welcome Mrs Natalie McCartney to Low Port as our Acting Principal Teacher. I know some of you will have met her through Parent Council meetings and Enterprise Night. We are looking forward to working with her.

Mrs Cleland, our Support for Learning teacher has accepted a post as Principal Teacher of Additional Support Needs within another authority. We are delighted for her as this is a wonderful opportunity, but she will be sorely missed. We will update you in due course regarding staffing this post. Pupils will continue to be supported by our Pupil Support Worker Team in the interim period until the post is taken up.

Pupil Equity Funding

Pupil Equity Funding is currently allocated based on pupils registered for free school meals. The government is currently using a health living survey to calculate funding, including data on families in receipt of free school meals. There is web page detailing who qualifies for free school meals and the registration process on the WLC pages address below:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/3787/Free-School-Meals>

Regional Improvement Collaboratives

As part of the Governance Review and 'Education Governance: Next Steps Empowering Our Teachers, Parents And Communities To Deliver Excellence And Equity For Our Children', there are new processes being put in place within education. One of these is the introduction of Regional Improvement Collaboratives. These are partnerships between local authorities to support school improvement. West Lothian partnership includes Falkirk, Clackmannan and Stirling. You may hear about these in the media and further information can be found at -

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00521038.pdf>

In Service Day School Improvement Update

At our January In Service day, we worked in our literacy and numeracy/maths improvement groups to share and agree the work we undertook last term. Our planning and assessment for both areas of the curriculum is now aligned to the benchmarks for each level.

We also began to look at Technologies in more depth. We had Coding training from Barefoot Coding which was extremely helpful. We also spent the afternoon working in two groups on profiling. P1-3 moderated feedback within the Online Learning Journals and explored new parts of the system where pupil views can be entered. P4-7 set up e-

portfolios for profiling within Glow. By the February weekend, all pupils within P4-7 will be logging into these and beginning to personalise and populate their own profile. Look out for these coming your way! I am also working with Parent Council to produce an information leaflet on Reporting and Profiling that will be issued shortly to explain both processes and what we are doing at Low Port.

Celebrating our Learning Event

You are invited to come along and see Literacy Across Learning in action on the afternoon of Tuesday 30th January from 2.15pm. Feel free to visit any class to see pupil learning in this context.

School Show

Our school show plans have started for P5 and P6! I'm sure you will soon be hearing the songs at home! Show dates are 27th and 28th February, both evening performances from 6.30pm. Further information regarding tickets will follow.

Competition News!

The Linlithgow Grange Rotary Club organise a writing competition for all P7s in the cluster each year. This year's theme was to compose a short essay based on the theme 'Making a difference'.

Our school has the overall winner - Cara B in P7! As the overall winner, Cara wins a book token to the value of £50; the Jim Clark Shield (held for one year) and a prize of £100 to the school. Cara's essay will now be entered into our District Competition. We are extremely proud of Cara! Look out for photos in the Gazette, Rotary Club magazine and on our plasma.

Health Reminder

- A gentle reminder to regularly check your children's hair for any head lice.
- May we please remind all parents and carers that pupils should be kept at home until 48 hours from the last bout of sickness and/or upset stomach. There are NHS guidelines that all schools are asked to adhere to.
- For the safety of your children, please do not park or walk through the top staff car park for drop off or pickups as this is a very busy area with staff, buses and taxis.

Enterprise Night

What a huge success the Enterprise Evening was! With the proceeds, pupils decided to buy a couple of bigger items - a bin for the rear playground and a possible update to some of our sound equipment - as well as a sum of money per class to decide themselves. There were two charity stalls on the night. Erin and her friends in P6 raised a great £65.50 when selling the Barbie clothes, which was sent to the Bethany Christian Trust with a covering letter from Erin. Bethany Trust work with the homeless in Edinburgh. Erin liked that they co-ordinate a place to sleep and evening meals right through the winter, and a care van that goes round Edinburgh with hot food and drinks

and chat. Patrick and Freya in P7 ran a charity stall for The Mandala Trust, who help Syrian refugees, and raised £89.75. A cheque has been sent to the charity.

Parent Body News

The PTA and ETF have donated funds that have enabled us to install interactive panels on the P7 classroom and zone areas. These panels enhance learning and teaching, and the zone one means that better use of this area can be made. Please feel free to visit these areas to see them in action at our open event for Literacy Across Learning.

The next Parent Council meeting is Wednesday 31 January 7pm in the school GP room. All are welcome to come along. If you are visiting the school office, please take a moment to look at their information board opposite the office area to see the work they are taking forward.

Diary Dates

We have included key dates for the term for planning ahead at home.

Monday 15 January	After school football tournament
Tuesday 16 January	P5H rugby for 4 weeks
Friday 19 January	Minister assembly VLG 5
Tuesday 23 January	P4 Linlithgow Link Burns Event
Wednesday 24 th January	P7 Risk Factory P5 Handball festival.
Friday 26 January	P3 assembly with parents welcome
Monday 29 January	P5 swimming
Tuesday 30 January	Literacy Across Learning whole school event from 2.15pm all welcome
Wednesday 31 January	Parent Council meeting 7pm all welcome
Thursday 1 February	P6 Parliament visit in school
Wednesday 7 February	P7 Academy Tour
Friday 9 February	VLG 6 Minister assembly
Monday and Tuesday 12 and 13 February	HOLIDAY
Friday 16 February	P4 assembly with parents
Friday 23 February	PTA Sparkle Night
Tuesday and Wednesday 27 and 28 February	School show P5 and P6
Friday 2 March	World Book Day event VLG 7
Wednesday 7 March	P6 and P7 Bridges visit
Wednesday 14 - Friday 16 March	P6 camp
Thursday 15 March	P4 racket sports cluster event

Tuesday and Wednesday 20 and 21 March	Parents' Night
Wednesday 21 March	Easter Service
Thursday 22 March	P6 shared finish
Friday 23 March	VLG 8 P7 assembly end of term and return on Monday 9 April