

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

Newsletter June 2017

School Improvement Plan Update

On the May In Service day, all teachers were involved in the self-evaluation process of reviewing the work undertaken this session and the impact on learners. Staff also began to discuss priorities for next session leading on from this. Cluster colleagues from Bridgend and Linlithgow Bridge Primaries joined our staff team for physiotherapy training using the Fizzy resource that can be used to develop fine and gross motor skills in the classroom/PE setting.

At our most recent Friday afternoon staff development sessions, we finalised the work of developing a Bereavement Policy and supporting toolkit. This will be posted on our website following parental consultation. Should you wish to be part of this consultation, please contact the office. Staff also had time to begin preparations for the passing on of transition information for next session. We also hosted a training event for cluster representative colleagues and all teachers at Low Port with Autism Outreach delivering a session about classroom strategies to support the autistic child. Some of the strategies may also benefit our visual learners.

In self-evaluating our progress and looking at ideas for school improvement, Pupil Council led a survey of all children in the school. This was shared at an assembly. These ideas are in line with staff views for self-evaluation and ideas for priorities moving forwards. Some of the ideas from both staff and pupils include -

- Anytime Anywhere Learning, technologies, more resources, improved planning for IT
- Reviewing current curriculum pathways to ensure Developing Young Workforce guidance linked to skills for lifelong learning and work features.
- Moderation of learning in line with Scottish Government benchmarks.
- Partnerships and family learning continuing as a focus.
- STEM work (Science Technology Engineering and Maths)
- Embedding maths approaches and resources in planning, learning, teaching and assessment, including numicon resource, Number Talks approach and using our SEAL champion to support classes.
- Health and Well Being - mental health and wellbeing and focus on Inclusion, Citizenship and Equality.
- Develop profiling of learning in upper school.

The Parent Council were asked for their views on these ideas.

Next steps are for the school to formally gather these views and ideas to form the School Self-Evaluation Summary (SSES) which is a formal Council document; the School Improvement Plan (SIP) in line with the Cluster Improvement Plan (CIP); produce and share a parent-friendly Standards and Quality Report.

Class structure and Staffing Update

At the time of writing the newsletter, it is likely that there will be 8 straight classes for next session. We have allocated the P1 teacher for next session so that the transition process can start with nursery schools. All other staffing will be allocated in June once this is confirmed fully. It is likely that there will be changes to staffing next session. There will be a move on day, planned for the week of the Marches, when the pupils meet the new teacher and a slip will be sent home with P1-3 as last session.

Icelandic Visitors

Our cluster was chosen to host a visit from teachers from Iceland who are interested in Curriculum for Excellence and the Scottish Education System. Low Port Primary welcomed five teachers. They saw a range of learning taking place including numeracy, active learning in maths, science, outdoor learning and expressive arts. The visitors also had an opportunity to talk to pupils about our Vertical Learning Groups and their impact as well as talking to the Dyslexia is Awesome Team.

Family Learning

We continue to seek ways to report to parents through family learning events. Family learning events this term include -

- Outdoor learning morning on Friday 2 June 9-10.30am for whole school - all welcome to see how we use our outdoor space to support learning.
- Grandparent/special person day for P1 Thursday 22 June
- Elephant tea party
- Sports day
- Graduation where the P7s share their talents and skills, and plan the event themselves.

Celebrating Our Success!

Euroquiz

Freya, Kate, Alasdair and Ted were a credit to the school throughout the day of the Euroquiz event. We met children from across Scotland, including those who had flown from the Western Isles at 6.45am that morning to participate in the event! Waverley

Station looked like Platform 93/4 with all the children pulling luggage! Although we didn't win, our team performed very well and had a great time. Congratulations to Comely Park in Falkirk who won this year. An action point from the day is to decide on a school mascot for all the events we have been attending recently!

Young Writer Prize Winner

We have a very talented writer who has been awarded a prize through the West Lothian Young Writer Competition. Ella in P7 and her family have been invited to the award ceremony to be held at Howden Park Centre on the evening of Thursday 22 June. Fantastic news, Ella!

Scottish Mathematics Challenge

This year some pupils from P6 entered the Scottish Maths Challenge and we have two children that have won a Bronze Award! Their certificates will be presented in due course. Well done to Ted and Alasdair in P6!

Art Competition

Maya in P4H won the drawing competition in this month's Primary Times magazine. Congratulations Maya!

Elephant Tea Party

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us at this event to fundraise for Child Bereavement UK and promote awareness. Bereavement has impacted on a huge number of our families and children and we continue to consider how best to offer support where required. A grand total of £744.10 was raised. We cannot thank you enough for your support to Molly and Sam who organised this event with the help of Mrs Cleland. A special thanks to the PTA for offering planning advice and hands-on support on the day.

SSPCA visit

The SSPCA visited a number of classes.

We really enjoyed the SSPCA visit because we learned about the centres and about the wildlife. We did a quiz and it was girls vs. boys and the girls won - Yay!

We also learned about where the centres are and there is one wildlife centre where they give medicine. We also learned about the deer whose mum died in a car accident and grew up in the SSPCA and then got released out in the wild.

By Maya, Millie and Rosie in P4H

Comments from P4T

Flora:

"I liked the games that we played with Lee and the videos we watched about the baby deer and mummy deer. The game I liked best was the trivia one. Lee called up a boy and a girl then we had to guess the answer as fast as possible in 2 minutes"

Alex:

"I liked playing the games with Lee. The boy vs. girls game was fun. Hamish won the first round and Elodie won the second round. I think Lee was very interesting when she was talking about the animals. I found it interesting that pigs can play computer games and baby foxes are black until they are a few weeks old"

Amelie:

"Lee was a nice, friendly person who made the games very fun. The videos were cool and she was very funny"

Callum:

"Lee showed us some videos of her work and told us about it. We done a quiz afterwards. She was very funny because she kept acting out funny things. It was nice to have a visit from Lee"

An extract from Lana's (P7) reflections:

We all enjoyed learning about the poor animals that get into trouble sometimes. Thanks to Lee from the SSPCA for coming - she was so enthusiastic and we were all engrossed by her talk and games. We used our listening and teamwork skills and I'm sure we'll all enjoyed the session.

and Molly T's (P7)

We had a visit this week from Lee from the SSPCA and it was great! She was so enthusiastic and passionate about what she was talking about. We learned lots about what to do if an animal is hurt or in danger. We also had a fun little game to test our knowledge of different animals.

SSPCA

Earlier in the school session, a number of classes worked with Jenny, My name is Jenny, the Education Programme Coordinator for the Scottish SPCA. We assisted her with educational research she was conducting. As a thank you, and as a token gesture she has offered the school to sponsor a space for one year. Three P6 pupils chose to sponsor a seal space. We have received a certificate to mark this and our school name will be displayed at the centre.

Diary Dates

Friday 2 June	9-10.30am outdoor learning event for whole school. Families welcome to drop in at any time to see how we use outdoor learning to enhance learning and teaching. School disco
Monday 5 June	P7 camp all week Bikeability for P6
Friday 9 June	P7 camp return Crying of the Marches
Monday 12 June	Bikeability for P6
Tuesday 13 June	Marches Day - school closed
Wednesday 14 June	P7 Academy visit

Thursday 15 June	P7 Academy visit New intake visit for granted applications for P1 and shared lunch
Friday 16 June	P7 Academy visit
Saturday 17 June	Gala Day
Thursday 22 June	Grandparents/Special Person afternoon from 1.30pm Young Writer Award Ceremony
Friday 23 June	10.30am Parent Helper coffee morning - all helpers welcome! VLG assembly
Monday 26 June	P7 reward event part 1 PM
Wednesday 28 June	Graduation 6.30pm
Thursday 29 June	P7 reward event part 2 PM
Friday 30 June	End of term 12.25pm

Have a wonderful summer break everyone!

