

Primary One Presentation

June 2020

Slide 1 - Welcome to West Linton Primary School. My name is Jenni Curson and I am the Head Teacher here. This presentation is for parents of pupils who will beginning with us in August 2020.

Slide 2 - We are very proud of our school here in West Linton. The school is fairly new, built in 2013 and offering bright, airy and welcoming spaces for learning. Our Primary One class area is in our Primary One – Four corridor this year, but we also have a Primary Five – Seven corridor. Both corridors are copies of each other and while the Primary Ones will spend most of the time in the younger corridor they will also spend some time with their buddies in the upper corridor as well. Our Primary One curriculum like all age group curriculum is based on Curriculum for Excellence which has eight curriculum areas. Our main drivers for the curriculum are Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. In Primary One, the majority of our learning is through play and because Primary One is still part of Early Level, the Primary One pupils when they attend here will also have time to play and learn with their friends in ELC. We at West Linton have an open door policy and we welcome parents to help us either in class or in the playground or in our Masterclasses which we hold on a Thursday afternoon. This is when parents can come and share something that they are interested in which our pupils may benefit from. In terms of Housekeeping, we will ask you at the very beginning of the school year to fill in a Data Check. The Data Check will have information like emergency contact phone numbers, address, doctor and any other information that you feel would be relevant for us to know. If your child has a particular medical need that we must know about, please contact us or put it in the Data Check for us to have a chat about before your child begins.

Slide 3 - At our school, as I have said I am the Head Teacher. We also a Depute Head Teacher, Miss Ferguson who you will hear from later. Our Principal Teacher, Mrs Motley also works with Support for Learning and in our Primary Two class and we have visiting specialist teachers in Music, PE and Art. Our Music Teacher is called Mrs Inglis, our PE teacher Mr Davidson and our Art teacher is Mrs Clifford. Our Support for Learning provision is for pupils who may need support or challenge in their learning and small groups may be taught in a different way either out of the classroom or within the classroom. In session 2020 -21, West Linton will have nine classes and a full day ELC session.

Slide 4- At West Linton Primary School we believe in a warm, welcoming school. We think it is incredibly important that our school offers an open door experience. This is for our pupils, our community and our families. We urge you to engage with us regularly. If you have any questions or queries, please let us know. We care about your opinions and we value your partnership. We are also incredibly privileged to learn in a beautiful, light open building with excellent grounds. We are always supported by our Parent Council and PTA

and this year we have developed our ground to have an Active Trail for the young people to use. We are also looking at further ways to develop our outside space with gardening opportunities supported by our Parent Council.

Slide 5 - At West Linton Primary School, we believe in pupil voice. We think that the children should take ownership of their learning. Much of this is through their Personal Learning Plans but they also have opportunities to lead through our Eco Committee, our Pupil Voice Groups as well as our Ministers For – Groups when the children are in Primary Seven. The Personal Learning Plans are away of reporting to you on what the children are learning about but are also something where children can place work that they are proud of. We have Café Conversations twice a year where you are invited to have a look at your child's learning but we also share PLPs four times across the school year. The PLPs will highlight appropriate progress and will also identify next steps in learning.

Slide 6 - Our vision at West Linton Primary School has been created in collaboration with all our shareholders in West Linton. This includes our parents, our community and our pupils. Our vision that we have created together is 'Learning together to achieve our best' and we know and we value at West Linton Primary that 'our best' looks different for each individual.

Slide 7 - Our values at West Linton Primary School are kindness, respect and honesty and these underpin everything that we do and everything that we are about here at West Linton. All of our interactions with our children are focussed on kindness, respect and honesty.

Slide 8- Our induction at West Linton Primary School will look a little bit different this year but we will ensure that we have our ELC and Primary One teacher liaison, where we will share information about the children entering both ELC and Primary One classes to ensure that there is a detailed handover of information. Our PLPs, as mentioned previously are a keyway of reporting information from our assessments and these are shared with you regularly throughout the year. Early days in August will look different this year due to present circumstances and this will look more like a blended approach to education with some days learning in school and some days learning remotely at home. Our Primary One areas are set up to encourage and engage children in learning through play. There are a variety of play opportunities for children to explore and to develop their skills including through listening centres, funky finger fine motor activities, block play, sand and a variety of other opportunities. Settling into Primary One this year will again look a little bit different but we will be working very closely with all our partners and with our parents to ensure that children feel safe and secure when entering Primary One. In our playground we have a variety of play opportunities available and children are free to play in any area of the playground they wish. Most often, during the first few weeks of Primary One children will opt to play with their Primary Seven buddy however they have access to a variety of different areas including the Nature Trail, Trim Trail and Muga which is timetabled to ensure

fairness and equality for all classes to access. The children will be supported in the playground by adult supervisors including Ms Curson and myself.

Slide 9 - In Primary One this year we will have 30 Primary One children in the year group. They will be sharing one class but will have two teachers. These teachers will be Mrs MacLennan (our current Primary One teacher) and a new member of staff, Mrs Maxfield.

Slide 10 - The Primary One curriculum, as already said, follows Curriculum for Excellence. We have a variety of different approaches to addressing the experiences and outcomes in Curriculum for Excellence. Some of that will be through Structured Play and Active Learning however we are very keen that the children work in social and mixed ability groups. We think it's incredibly important that the children learn at their own level and at their own pace. That may mean that they require some support but it also means that they can be challenged sufficiently.

Slide 11- This very busy slide shows our Curriculum Rationale at West Linton Primary and ELC. Again, similar to our Vision and Values this is part of an ongoing collaboration with our stakeholders to understand and address what makes us unique, what our learners will use to support their learning and what our main drivers for the curriculum are. You will notice in the middle box that all children will use 'Learning Powers'. We think that these are incredibly important to ensure that our children develop a Growth Mindset. It encourages the children not to give up and they also encourage the children to be cooperative and creative in their learning. We believe that as a rural community, that we have lots of different opportunities in our natural environment to learn outdoors. We are also very lucky to be so close to Scotland's capital city meaning that many of our trips and outdoor experiences may include visits to Edinburgh or to other outdoor learning centres. We also believe that our curriculum has roots in other Borders traditions for example, the Whipman is very important here at West Linton Primary School and we engage fully with that. Our main drivers for the curriculum though, are Emotion Health and Wellbeing. At West Linton Primary School we use the 'Building Resilience Programme' and we ask the children to consider what makes them resilient; what are the tools that they would use in their toolkit to keep going. We also believe in high attainment and high expectations in Literacy and Numeracy through a skills based curriculum. All of our children are supported in their learning but also challenged in their learning to go that extra mile. We are also very lucky at West Linton Primary School to have excellent links with our community partners. These include community businesses but they also include outdoor learning opportunities through Broomlee Outdoor Education Centre and they also include partnership working with some of our smaller independent local businesses like Pyet Deli. We are very pleased to have so many of you supporting our Curriculum Rationale and again, we ask you as the school community to think of us as an inclusive school that is friendly, welcoming and encourages professional love.

Slide 12 - In Primary One we have been working on developing an approach to Literacy which is known as Emerging Literacy. This approach focusses on developing, for our youngsters, the foundational skills that they require to enable fluency in reading and writing. These are split into four key components, the first being 'Concepts of Print' in which children must become familiar with the key features of books and of literacy around them, so this could be looking at signs and recognising letters or knowing from looking at a book about the front cover, back cover, blurb and the key parts of a book that make up their literacy experience. We also explore Phonological Awareness which is about children's letter knowledge and knowledge of sounds that build up words. Oral Language is about children's talking and listening skills and their ability to comprehend information by listening and recognising sounds such as rhyme. Fine Motor Skills are about children's ability to have strong Fine Motor and Gross Motor skills which fall under this category, which would enable them to have good balance but also enable them to be able to hold a pencil, have hand-eye coordination which are critical components in developing literacy fluency.

Slide 13 - At West Linton Primary School, although school uniform is not mandatory most of our children do choose to wear it and we feel that those children who do choose to wear it feel a sense of belonging to their school community. For boys, most boys opt to wear shorts but trousers are also completely acceptable. Girls can wear a variety of different outfits; dresses, pinafores, skirts, shorts or trousers. There is a range of different school uniform available and this information is available on twitter for you to order and you can also find this information sent to you in your Primary One pack.

Slide 14 - Gym Kits are essential for children as they will be taking part in two hours of PE a week. We would ask that you provide your child with a pair of shorts, a t-shirt and a pair of gym shoes. Most often in good weather, children will be going outside to play sports in the Muga so to ensure that they have this change of clothes is imperative.

Slide 15 - What should the children bring to school with them? We ask that you provide your child with a school bag, that's not too small for them to bring to school. A reading bag, we will provide for them to take home their reading books and their reading records in. A gym bag as already mentioned will stay in school all week for children to access during their PE session. A pencil case with pencils, coloured pencils, rubber and sharpener. A snack each day – healthy would be preferable to keep your child motivated and full of energy for their learning and a drink bottle – if it is reusable, we have water fountains available in the school that they can refill as they require.

Slide 16 - So as Miss Ferguson has already said during this presentation, starting school is going to look slightly different this year. Now during week one, there will be government guidance issued about the return to school. As it stands at the moment, Scottish Borders Council will be contacting all parents with overarching guidance. After this overarching guidance has been shared, I will contact you directly with what the first week is going to look like for your child. As Miss Ferguson has already said, there will be a blended

curriculum with some time spent in school and some time learning at home. To ensure that there is social distancing, we may also ask you to start school at a different time to other children in your class. This is to ensure that we all return to school safely and make sure that we are adhering to the two metre distancing that the government has suggested.

Slide 17 - All children in Primary One are entitled to a Free School Meal. In fact, all pupils from Primary One to Three are. Therefore if your child would like to stay for lunch, they are entitled to do so. However to ensure that we have all of the lunches prepared and ready for the right amount of children, we would ask that you still order lunches on Parent Pay. Parent Pay is an online service where we ask you to pay for all lunches and school trips. This is to ensure that the children are not coming to school with money which can obviously become lost or it just means that we don't have cash on the premises. You will receive a ParentPay logon in your information packs which will be sent out. Children who are staying for lunch will be taken to the school dinnerhall by an adult and they will be supported in the dininghall by members of the Senior Leadership Team. Once they have finished their lunch they will in the first few weeks, be outside playing with their Primary Seven Buddies and the classmates that they will be in school with on those days.

Slide 18 - And finally, we are very lucky at West Linton Primary School to have a very active Parent Council and PTA. Our Parent Council meet across the school year and at those meetings we discuss ways to improve our provision. We also discuss policy and any other issues that parents may want to discuss as a council. Our PTA are more interested in fundraising opportunities or ways to welcome new pupils and families to our school community, for example our Welcome to School Day. We are always looking for ways to work together with our wider parent body and we encourage you to take the time to get to know us as a school and also let us know if you have any suggestions for us to improve our provision. As well as this we ask that if you have any questions or queries, that you pop in to school once we are open again or contact us directly.

Slide 19 - Our contact information is found here on this final slide but is also available on our school website. We are still answering our school phone albeit remotely so please do not hesitate to ring if you have any questions about your child beginning school in August. If you prefer to email, then the school email address and parent council email address are here on this slide. We would ask you also, to follow us on Twitter @WestLintonPS. Even during this period, where children are learning at home, we are posting their work, their interesting learning and also we are keeping parents up to date with SBC and West Linton Primary news. So please follow us if you are on Twitter. Thank you so much for listening to our presentation today. Miss Ferguson and I look forward to welcoming you and your child to West Linton Primary School in August.