



*Learning together to achieve our best*

# WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME BACK

We welcome all of our pupils and families back to school. We hope you had a relaxing October break, despite the weather and further COVID-19 restrictions.



With the weather being quite autumnal now, we would request that all pupils attend school with clothing appropriate to all weather. West Linton is prone to good and bad weather; often happening in the same day, so we would suggest that all pupils come to school with a waterproof jacket. We would further request that all children have a change of shoes to wear inside school.

We are continuing this term to plan for PE lessons outdoors, so please pack an extra layer in your child's PE bag to help them keep warm.

### PARENT COUNCIL & FUNDING BID

As many of you will be aware, we are continuing to develop our school grounds and last week Ms Curson met with colleagues from Parks and Gardens to support long term planning around cutting hedges and trees back, improving the school entrance area on Deanfoot Road and also discussing further planned gardening work.

As well as this, we, with support from our Parent Council have made a bid to SBC for a polytunnel to be installed in our playground. If successful, the polytunnel will give pupils further opportunity for learning outdoors and to learn valuable skills regarding the journey of our food from 'Farm to Fork.'

### STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs Clifford, our wonderful art teacher left us at the end of term. She had intended on staying until June, but given family circumstances she has decided that it is a more sensible decision to leave us a little early. Whilst we are sad about this, we completely understand her reasons and wish her lots of luck. She has committed to staying on the supply list, so we can't wait to see her back for a few supply days once things settle in the world.



We are delighted to share that Mrs Smith has had another Baby boy. Aiden Smith was born on 1st September weighting 8lb 8.5 oz. Mum and baby are well.

We are very excited to let you know that Mrs Volpe will be returning to school for some keeping in touch days this term. She will be joining us each Wednesday from now until Christmas and plans to return to school in February after her maternity leave. We are very excited to welcome her back.

### ANTI BULLYING WEEK – 16<sup>TH</sup> -20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

For Anti Bullying week this year, we would like to encourage all pupils to wear odd socks on **Odd Sock Day (16<sup>th</sup> November.)** Odd Sock Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

## NUT FREE SCHOOL

We would like to remind all school users that this year we have children and families with severe nut allergies (this includes peanut, cashew and various others.)

In August we asked for no nut products to be in school. We now further ask that all cereal/ fruit bars and snacks be checked before they are sent into school. Many of these snacks contain traces of nuts and unfortunately as a result are considered nut products.

We recently had an incident where a pupil with a nut allergy came into contact with a nut product. The incident was dealt with promptly and effectively, however we are very aware that anaphylaxis can come on suddenly and with grave outcomes. As such we must be very clear that no nut products can be consumed on the premises and thank you for your support with this.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS & PLPS

As you will see from the Parent Calendar received in August, your child's Term 2 Curriculum Overview will be shared on 30<sup>th</sup> October, along with your child's PLP (Personal Learning Plan).

As in previous years, we aim to share with you what your child is learning about in class and their journey towards targets in these areas. Your child's PLP will show some learning from Term 1 with evidence related to their learning targets in numeracy & mathematics, literacy & English; they will also contain evidence of learning across the curriculum. We would ask you to comment on evidenced work and to discuss your child's learning with them. There will be a sheet to fill in with your child, but be aware that this is only a guide for discussion and if you discuss something different then this is just as appropriate.

We would ask you to then return the PLPs to school on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

## COMMUNICATIONS

We are working in partnership with our Parent Council to develop a Communication Strategy. To ensure that all school/ community/ Scottish Borders Council communication reaches you, we have agreed that all general communications will be found on our School Website. This means that the only emails you will receive from school will be important information that affects your child. We will continue to send the school newsletter via email, but this too will be hosted on the school website for your reference.

<https://westlintonprimary.org.uk/>

## PEEBLES YOUTH TRUST HAMPERS

You may already be aware that Peeblesshire Youth Trust (PYT) provides Christmas hampers to families across the Peeblesshire Community with children under the age of 16 who are likely to be struggling in a variety of different ways in the run up to and during the festive period.

Very sadly, the number of nominations PYT receive and hampers they deliver have increased year-on-year. However, with support from schools, local foodbanks, churches, organisations and businesses across the Peeblesshire community they were able to deliver 100+ hampers to families nominated by Social Services, Health Visitors and Schools last year.

This year, as in previous years, West Linton Primary Community are happy to help gather donations. As a result, we ask that this year each class across school and ELC bring in a donation. Please see below for your class' allocated donation:

**ELC & P1 – Adult toothpaste**

**P2 & P3 – Washing up liquid**

**P4 – Drinking chocolate**

**P5 – Tins of custard**

**P6 & 7 – Tins of rice pudding**

The donations will be collected before the St. Andrew's Day holiday, so if you are able to help, then please drop your donation in the boxes at the front office before **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**.

## SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Please find below the link to our school newspaper. This highly impressive work is completed each month by Primary 7 pupils in our school. We are very proud of their efforts.

<https://westlintonweirdly.glitch.me/>

## COVID-19

As we learn more about COVID-19 and how it transmits in our communities across Scotland, we are continually revisiting and amending our Risk Assessment in School. As such there have been some additional changes which will affect your children. These are in line with the Scottish Government FACTS guidelines and we thought it was important that we share what that looks like at West Linton Primary School.

We remind all school users that you should only enter the school playground if you have to and that alternative pick up points should be considered. If in the playground to pick up one of our younger pupils please maintain a 2 metre social distance from any other adult, ensuring you are paying attention to those in front, behind and to each side.

**F – Face Coverings in enclosed spaces:** All staff in school will now wear a face covering (unless exempt) when they are travelling around the school. Teachers will wear a face covering when they are at the Meet and Greet in the morning and again when dismissing the pupils. The teachers may wear their face covering at other points in the day e.g. if they are working in close proximity to a pupil. (Close proximity constitute less than 2 metres.)



**A – Avoid Crowded Places:** Our playground, I'm sure you will agree is a crowded place and as such we will be zoning our playground to reduce the amount of pupils in any area at any time. The Zone Map is attached to this email for your information. The Active Trail and MUGA will have their own daily timetable to ensure that across the term all children are afforded an equitable, but safe experience.

**C – Clean hands and surfaces regularly:** The children here are now very used to washing hands on entrance into and exit from the school building. We will continue to do this and as such have added further sanitation points in the school building. We are fortunate to already have sinks in each classroom, but we have also installed a hand sanitation point at the end of the main corridor and at the exit from the dining hall into the playground.

**T – Test if you have symptoms:** All staff are aware of their obligation to arrange a test if they have any of the COVID-19 symptoms e.g. A loss/ change in taste or smell, a new persistent cough or a raised temperature. We would ask you to continue to be vigilant and keep your child off school and arrange a test if they have any of these. Where one member of a household is displaying symptoms and awaiting a test/test result everyone in the household must self-isolate. We appreciate that we are moving into the cold and flu period and that there will be an increase in coughs and sneezes, however we ask you to consider whether you can be sure that the cough is cold related, if you cannot, we would appreciate you arranging a test.

**S – Self isolate if you have a positive test or you are asked to via Test and Protect:** If you or any of your children receive a positive COVID-19 test, we would ask you to contact the school at your earliest convenience. This is in order that we can ensure the virus does not spread in our school. All members of the household must self-isolate. If you are contacted by the NHS Test and Protect team please follow their instructions on self-isolating/testing.

We have already discussed these measures with pupils during our weekly assembly, however appreciate your support in reiterating that the reason for these measures is to keep all children and adults in our school safe. Thank you.