



Learning together to achieve our best

WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

STAFFING UPDATE

This term we have welcomed a new Additional Needs Assistant to our ELC. Mrs Rowena Robbie joins us on a part time basis and we are very pleased to have her join our staff team.

Mrs Alison Saxon, our Depute Head Teacher continues her secondment at the Early Years Team after the Christmas break. The secondment has been extended until June 2021 and as such she will re-join the staff team here in August 2021. We are pleased to report that Miss Louise Ferguson is keen to continue her secondment here at West Linton Primary.

Mrs Alex Volpe is enjoying her keep in touch days in school on a Wednesday and we are enjoying having her back in school. Mrs Volpe will return to a part time contract week commencing 1st February 2021 and will work on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

In our newsletter last month we reminded our school community about nut products in school. After the communication we had some questions from parents and pupils about which products were safe to come to school and which were not.

For clarity and due to the severe nature of the allergies we have in school, no nut products can come to school or ELC at all. This includes any snack that has the voluntary '**may contain (traces of) nuts**' notice.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Thank you very much to George Gordon, a member of our community, who has very kindly offered to donate a real Christmas Tree for our school hall. This will be up for the entirety of the Christmas Season and will help the children and staff take full advantage of the Christmas Spirit.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

As we approach December, we are aware that many of you will be wondering what Christmas will look like during this uncertain time. At West Linton Primary, we along with all schools in Scotland will be unable to have any of our large community events due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure. We are undeterred by this, and have started our planning for what we can offer to our young people so that they are able to 'get into the Christmas Spirit' but also remain safe in school.



Parties will take place in class bubbles; but we are sure that the pupils will have great fun with their classmates. On the dates shared, we would suggest that pupils attend school wearing their party clothes to reduce the need for changing during the school day.

At this time of year we would usually have an ELC/ P1 Nativity and a P7 Panto. This year, we will be taking this offer on to Microsoft Teams and the pupils have already auditioned for parts and are learning lines for a recorded version of these Christmas events. Watch out on your child's Team for details.

Our Christmas lunch this year will take place across two days (9th and 10th December). On these days the pupils can wear a Christmas jumper/ festive article of clothing. Christmas lunches must be ordered on ParentPay by 30th November, so that we can plan for the usual increase in pupils having a school lunch that day. You should have already received a letter regarding this. If you have already chosen a lunch for that day, it will be cancelled and will have to be reordered with the Christmas menu.

INDOOR PE

Since we are a school in a Tier 2 local authority, we are now able to bring our PE indoors. As a result, the pupils will require indoor shoes for gym from now on.



Although we appreciate that this may change depending on COVID-19 cases; we are pleased that the children can be indoors since it is becoming colder outside.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

St Andrew's Church are collecting gifts of toys and games for those young people in our communities who are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of COVID-19. The distribution of the gifts is undertaken by the Salvation Army who advise that they have already received 180 referrals for gifts within the Scottish Borders area. The referrals range from baby stage to eighteen year olds. If you think that you could make a donation then please take the toys/game; new and unwrapped to St Andrew's Church on 4th, 5th and 6th December between 10.00 to 12.00 and 13.30 to 15.30. Stewards will be present to ensure that social distancing and sanitisation rules are observed.

Thank you for your generosity.

PTA & PARENT COUNCIL

The PTA are running a virtual balloon race to raise funds to provide Christmas activities for the children. The balloon which travels the furthest during the race will win a cash prize of £25!

The race will set off at 12pm on Friday 11th December and finish at 12pm Thursday 17th in time to announce a winner before the end of term.

Balloons can be purchased

- directly via the race link - www.balloonrace.com/WLPS
- by emailing our PTA chair at emmadownie7513@gmail.com and making a BACS transfer direct to PTA
- in person after school (dates to be confirmed) we can accept card and cash!
- at the WL Market on the 5th December.

We now have a communication strategy group in order to ensure the right information gets to the right people in a timely manner. The communication group consists of Ms Curson and a small group of Parent Council Members. This term we have focused on updating our website to include all general information so that only information pertinent to you and your child(ren) is sent via Groupcall/ Email. We will also continue to use the school Twitter feed to share news and learning. Follow us [@WestLintonPS](https://twitter.com/WestLintonPS)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30.11.2020 – St Andrews Day Holiday
30.11.2020 – Please have Christmas Lunch ordered by today.
08.12.2020 – ELC/ P1 Nativity posted on Microsoft Teams
09.12.2020 – ELC, P1, P3, P5 & P6 Christmas Lunch
10.12.2020 – P2, P3/4, P4, P6/7 & P7 Christmas Lunch
10.12.2020 – P7 Panto posted on Microsoft Teams
14.12.2020 – ELC Christmas Party & P1 Christmas Party
15.12.2020 – P2 Christmas Party (am) Primary 3 Christmas Party (pm)
16.12.2020 – P3/4 Party (am), P4 Party (am) P5 Christmas Party (pm)
17.12.2020 – P6 Party (am), P6/7 Party (am), P7 Christmas Party (pm)
18.12.2020 – P5 Christmas Service posted on Microsoft Teams

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS

We are aware that at this time of year, we usually have a Christmas post box in school for young people to exchange cards. Unfortunately this year, because of the risk of virus exposure we ask pupils not to bring these. Please also be aware that whilst we appreciate your gifts at Christmas for school staff, this year we cannot accept them for the same reason.