



*Learning together to achieve our best*

# WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME "BACK"

Welcome back to school from all of us at West Linton.



As you all know, it is not the start we had hoped for with only a small number of pupils attending the school building and everyone else learning at Home. We would like to firstly thank staff for their continued commitment to making learning engaging and motivating, even in these challenging circumstances. As well as this, we would like to thank all of you at home, for your support of our school community and for supporting your children with their learning at home.

### PTA & PARENT COUNCIL

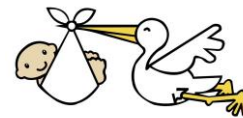
During this time, the West Linton Parent Council and School are working very closely together to address your concerns and questions. Last week we shared the first Frequently Asked Questions communication, which we hope answered and clarified the questions you may have had. You can find the document and other COVID-19 related updates here on our website:

<https://westlintonprimary.org.uk/covid-19-updates/>

If you do have questions, feedback or comments about our Home Learning provision, please either contact the West Linton Primary School Mailbox [WestLintonPS@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:WestLintonPS@scotborders.gov.uk) or the Parent Council Mailbox: [westlintonparents@gmail.co.uk](mailto:westlintonparents@gmail.co.uk).

### STAFFING UPDATE

Congratulations to Mrs Butler who is expecting a baby. Mrs Butler was due finish at West Linton Primary School building on 21<sup>st</sup> January (in line with COVID-19 guidelines on pregnant members of staff). Since we are not in the school building at the moment, Mrs Butler continues to support pupils remotely on Teams. We have now appointed Mrs Lesley Leydon to the vacant role and she will work with the P4 class on our return to the school building in mid-February (COVID-19 restrictions allowing).



Mrs Leydon will begin shadowing Mrs Butler from 8<sup>th</sup> February when she will begin to get to know the class remotely and receive transition information from Mrs Butler, prior to taking sole teaching responsibility for P4 until the end of the school year.

Mrs Alex Volpe will return to West Linton on a part time basis, week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> February and will work on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She will work with classes across the school on a Wednesday, with P7 on Thursday and Friday mornings, and in Primary 5 on Thursday afternoons. We are delighted to be welcoming Mrs Volpe back to school.

Mrs Vicky Smith returns to school for her second placement in the Primary 3 class, week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> February. She will continue to be supported by Miss Skinner and will initially have her class experience online via Teams. I am sure the boys and girls will be delighted to see her again.

## ONLINE/ REMOTE LEARNING

We would like to remind all of our school community that the learning created by class teachers during this period of online/ remote learning is 'new learning' and therefore we would expect pupils to be engaging with Microsoft Teams and submitting their learning to their teachers. This planned work will support teachers to continually assess pupil progress, even during these challenging times.



If you are experiencing difficulties with using the technology or if you do not have devices at home that support Microsoft Teams there is support available. Please contact the school and we will do our best to help. [WestLintonPS@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:WestLintonPS@scotborders.gov.uk)

Whilst we work towards supporting young people's continued progress in their learning, it is not the intention or neither would it be possible to replicate the school day online. As a result, we have considered our provision very carefully to include literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and interdisciplinary learning for the young people to take part in, both via live interactions and self-directed tasks.



When they are finished the planned learning, there are extra or additional activities in their class Teams. However, we also advise that our young people have time to develop other skills and interests. The poster above gives some ideas for other activities that count as learning that can be completed at home.

## ASSEMBLY SPOTLIGHT

Since returning to online learning, we have continued to have our weekly Virtual Assemblies. This half term, our focus has been health and wellbeing, particularly 'Expect the unexpected.' We have followed our Building Resilience Toolkit to support young people to look after their emotions at times of change. We even had a very positive message from, friend of the school, KT Tunstall; check it out on Twitter @WestLintonPS.

As well as this we would like to give special thanks to Mrs Mair, Mr Cursiter and all of the Primary 7 pupils who produced a wonderful Burns' Assembly – A superb show of our senior pupils' talent. On Burns Day itself, we had a recital and poetry showcase, with pupils from each class; we also enjoyed a 'Folkey-Oke' with Mrs Motley. Great fun! Remember to tune in each Thursday at 11am.

## SCHOOL ABSENCE

During this period of remote/ online learning, we would ask you to still contact the school office if your child is unwell and unable to complete learning. This enables us to contact the class teacher and ask them not to expect learning from your child that day. It also ensures that we can keep our attendance information up to date.

Thank you.