



Learning together to achieve our best

WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK 2021-22

We wish you all a very warm welcome back after a lovely long summer break. We hope that you were able to have some time together with fewer Covid-19 restrictions and that those times were relaxing and enjoyable.



We welcome many new families to West Linton Primary School this session in our ELC, P1 and across the school community. We pride ourselves in being an 'Open Door' school with a welcoming ethos and culture. I know that this may not be your experience at the moment, due to Covid-19 restrictions, but please be assured that these measures are only in place to safeguard you, your children, the staff in school and the wider community. We urge you if you have a question, comment or any feedback for school improvement that you contact our Head Teacher, Ms Curson directly via email or call the school office: jenni.curson@scotborders.gov.uk / 01721 723600.

You will have received diary dates for the year last week. There will be other dates, which will be added through the course of the school year, but we will always do our best to give you lots of notice if these dates do involve your children.

ALLERGIES

At this point in the school year, we like to remind all families that we are a nut free School and ELC. This is largely due to severe allergies of pupils and their families. Please can we ask that no nuts or nut-based products (including nut based chocolate spreads or products with the advisory '**may contain nuts**' warning) are consumed in the school premises or grounds? Thank you.

STAFFING UPDATES

Ms Curson thanks all who have congratulated her on her pregnancy. The vacancy for her maternity leave closed 29th August, so we hope to be able to give you news of who will be covering her position in due course. In the meantime, Ms Curson remains at school.

We welcome Mr O'Donnell to school as our Newly Qualified Teacher this year. Mrs Volpe will cover Mr O'Donnell's day out of class. Both are already enjoying working with Primary 4.

Ms Leitch joins us on a permanent basis and we are delighted to welcome her to P4/5 and our school. Ms Leitch has previously worked in Edinburgh as a Principal Teacher and we are delighted to welcome her to West Linton.

Mrs Mair, Mrs Smith, Mr McCarroll and Mrs Laydon rejoin us at West Linton. Mrs Smith returns after maternity leave Monday - Wednesday, with Mrs Laydon teaching Thursday and Friday. This arrangement will continue until Christmas, after which Mrs Smith will return to full time teaching in Primary 5. Mrs Mair returns to West Linton to cover Mrs Butler's maternity leave, which will run until late May/ Early June.

READING BOOKS

Before lockdown, we sent resource packs home, which included reading books. Can we please ask that these are now returned to school in order that they can be ready for re-use?



An inventory of our reading books has shown large gaps in our resources. It would incur a large cost to the school to replace these and therefore we hope that you will check your children's books at home and return any that belong to the school as soon as possible.

MEET THE TEACHER

This year our scheduled 'Meet the Teacher' event will not be able to take place in the usual way. With the Covid-19 guidelines for schools staying largely the same as prior to the summer holidays, we are limited to the visitors we can have in the school building. Instead, the teachers are working hard to create a detailed Curriculum Overview, which will be sent to you next week. This overview will show what your children will be learning about this term.



On 6th September in place of the Meet the Teacher event, there will also be a video posted on your child's Class Team, along with an information booklet about the class. This booklet will include important information, for example P.E. days, and will help you to support your child to be organised for the week ahead. After you have watched the video and read the information document, we encourage you to ask any questions you may have via your child's Team. The class teachers will be happy to answer any questions you have.

As well as this, there will be a Live Microsoft Teams Meet, led by Miss Ferguson and Ms Curson, where they will share the progress of school developments over the period of Covid-19, as well as giving an overview of what you can expect the school to be continuing to improve this session. This Live Session will take place on 6th September at 6:30pm. Details of how to join this meet will follow in due course. We look forward to seeing you there.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We will communicate with you monthly by Newsletter. The newsletters are sent to all parents via email; however if you would prefer a printed copy then please let Mrs Walker know.

We have a school Website, which can be accessed here: <https://westlintonprimary.org.uk/>
Alternatively, you can follow us on our official Twitter Account - @WestLintonPS

We will Tweet photographs of learning or achievements throughout the school week, whereas our website is for information purposes only. (You can also access our Tweets via the website though, if you do not have a Twitter account.)

We would usually also share your email address contact details with our Parent Council, in order that they keep you up to date with meetings and developments; however due to GDPR Legislation we must now gain permission to do this. **Can you please let us know if you would prefer us not to share your email address with our Parent Council?**

PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council AGM will take place on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 7th September. We have many members of Parent Council (PC) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) stepping down this year due to their children moving on to High School.

New parents are always welcome on these committees and we would particularly be keen to have some new ELC and P1 parents represented. Our relationship with parents is very strong at West Linton Primary School and we are very proud to work in successful partnership with you.

MICROSOFT TEAMS & HOME LEARNING

All classes will use a Class Team to communicate messages from school to you at home. The Team will also be used for sharing home learning each week.

Home Learning is a crucial part of our home-school partnership and gives you an indication of what the young people are learning about in school. We do encourage all learners to complete home learning each week and either submit it through their Class Team, or bring it into school where efforts will be shared and celebrated. Each week your child will be given spelling home learning to complete which will be due on the Friday of the same week. At the beginning of each term, a Home Learning Task Map will also be shared. Your child will be set one task per week from the Task Map and this can be handed in on the Monday of the following week. We continue to follow the **Building Resilience** programme and there will be Tasks to be completed at home, which support this area of the Health and Wellbeing Curriculum.

COVID-19 UPDATES AND GUIDANCE

We welcome the updated Covid-19 guidance - particularly in the case of classes being able to mix now in school. This has led to very positive outcomes already, with Primary 7 being able to work with their Primary 1 Buddies, and year groups being able to work together on certain projects.

However, some restrictions remain, and we ask you all to consider the schools guidance, which is different from the community guidance.

Large Groups

Hot school lunches will be served across two halls, in order that there are fewer young people in one area at any one time. Children having a packed lunch from home or a school packed lunch will eat their lunch in their classrooms or on fair days, in the playground.

Assemblies and any other whole school/ large group event will continue to take place on Microsoft Teams.

We ask you to only enter the school estate if it is crucial. We would prefer that young people who are confident to do so, walk to school/ home or meet parents/ carers at a safe distance away from the school playground, to ensure that we are not inadvertently creating a 'mass gathering'. There is sufficient supervision at the beginning and end of the school day to ensure the safety of our pupils whilst they are in the playground at pick up and drop off time.

Physical distance will still be required between adults and between children and adults. Where teachers, parents, visitors to the school estate cannot guarantee a social distance from pupils, they should wear a face covering. As a result, we encourage parents entering our school grounds to continue to wear a face covering (unless exempt.) We further request that only one parent attends the school estate at any one time.

Face coverings

Face coverings should continue to be worn by adults wherever they cannot guarantee a two metre distance from other adults or pupils (unless exempt): -

This includes:

- All adults in communal areas of school and ELC
- Parents and other visitors to school estate including at parent drop off and pick up
- Allied medical partners supporting pupils with additional needs.

Self-Isolation

Should you, or anyone in your household develop symptoms of Covid-19 (regardless of vaccinations) you should isolate and arrange a PCR test. All in your household should isolate until the results of the PCR are returned. Symptoms include a new cough and/ or a raised temperature and/ or a loss/ change in taste or smell. Whilst there have been some changes to who should isolate in the case of a positive test, you will be advised about this by Test and Protect.

If you or anyone in your household is contacted by Test and Protect as a 'close contact' then please follow their instructions. The school is unable to advise on specific cases and are instead lead by the advice of Test and Protect and Public Health Scotland.

Toys and games from home

We continue to ask that no toys or balls for playing at recreation time be brought to school. There are many resources that the children can play with during these periods that belong to the school, which we can guarantee are cleaned appropriately in order that they are safe to use. We understand that some young people may require an article from home to support their transition – We would like to reassure you that where this is the case, we would have an individual discussion with you as the child's parent, to plan the best way to support your child to feel secure. Thank you.