



Learning together to achieve our best

WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

STAFFING UPDATES

We are delighted to welcome Mrs McMenemy to our school staff this term. Nathalie joins our committed group of Additional Needs Assistants in school. She will be working with young people across stages to provide support and challenge in the classrooms she works in, led by the class teachers. I know that you will join me in welcoming her to our staff team.



Ms Curson is now working from home, but continuing as our Head Teacher. Miss Ferguson was successful in her application for the maternity leave cover, however will not begin this role until a new Depute Head Teacher is appointed. The Depute Head Teacher role is being advertised now on myjobscotland.

It has been lovely to see Mr Cursiter back in the school building; he is working on a Thursday to support in Primary 3 in the afternoon and to give some teachers their non-class contact time in the morning.

Mr Cursiter is committed to West Linton Primary School and it is great to have him back with us.

Mrs Harper has also been back in school one afternoon a week. She is enjoying her role at Peebles High School, but is keen to keep her skills in Primary Education as well. We are delighted to welcome her back to West Linton as one of our Additional Needs Assistants.

PARENT COUNCIL/ PTA

The Parent Council had their AGM on 7th September. It was great to see some new parents in attendance and we were also sad to see some parents step down from their Parent Council roles. This year, we have a new set of office bearers for both Parent Council and Parent Teacher Association, who are as follows:

Parent Council

Louise Fraser – Chairperson
Scott McGarva – Secretary
Julie Naysmith – Treasurer

PTA

Erika Rindali – Chairperson
Jess Dolan - Secretary
Karen Milne - Treasurer

Louise Fraser will be continuing as chair for a short period only, since she is keen to train a new chairperson. Louise has been the chair of our Parent Council for two years and was treasurer before that. She has committed to supporting someone new to take on the reins. We will share details of that in due course.



Our partnership with parents is very important to us here at West Linton Primary School and so we look forward to another successful year of working with you. As always, should you have any questions or queries then we would ask you to contact school directly here: WestLintonPS@scotborders.gov.uk or by contacting Parent Council here: westlintonparents@gmail.com. Or if you would like to get involved in fundraising or supporting PTA events then we would be delighted to hear from you: WestLintonPTA@gmail.com

DOGS IN THE PLAYGROUND

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in people bringing their dogs into our school grounds for walks and play. As a Scottish Borders Council school, there should be no dogs in the vicinity of the school building or on school grounds (except guide dogs).



Whilst we all love our four legged friends; dog's dirt can be very dangerous to young pupils, not to mention very difficult to get off shoes and clothes should they come into contact with it. Therefore, we ask that all dogs are secured at the front entrance at 'pick up' and 'drop off' if you must bring them to school. The same applies at the weekends and when school is not in session.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

POLYTUNNEL

We are delighted to announce that our polytunnel has arrived. The polytunnel was bought using a central budget to support outdoor learning post Covid-19.

This session we have an outdoor learning working party, who among other things will be planning for the use of the polytunnel. Our hope is that this polytunnel will become a community resource and that other groups and clubs may also use it.

If you are a keen gardener, then please do get in touch – we have a small group of parents who support our Gardening in school, but we are always looking for more volunteers.

IPADS AND IPAD REPAIRS

Over the last few weeks, we have had some losses and accidental damage of SBC Inspire iPads reported to us at school. We are very understanding that accidents do happen, however any loss of Inspire Ipads or damage does come at a cost. The cost of a new iPad, should it be lost, is £260 and a new screen can cost up to £80. We understand the pressures this can place on families financially and therefore would always try to support the first incidence of accidental damage; however, loss of Ipads would be chargeable in full to families. To support, here are a couple of suggestions we can make - Firstly iPads can be kept in school to ensure that they are not carried around in school bags and into after school activities. Secondly, screen protectors can be purchased from the school at a cost of £11 each, please call the office if you would like to buy one.

COVID-19 UPDATE

By now, you will have received a 'Warn and Inform' letter from school. This letter details that there are multiple positive cases of Covid-19 in our school community.

Whilst we appreciate that this may come with some concern, we would like to reassure all of our school users that we continue to follow a rigorous risk assessment in school. The Risk Assessment includes adults wearing face coverings, enhanced cleaning of busy areas and regular handwashing is scheduled for all young people and adults as they enter or exit the school or move into a different area in school.

We also only have fifty young people in the dining hall at any one time and continue to have young people who have brought lunches from home eating in their classroom. This is to ensure that pupil contact with others is minimised.

To keep our young people and staff safe, we continue to ask that **no toys or games** are brought in from home. This includes footballs, Pokémon cards and cuddly toys. Whilst we understand that restrictions are less strict in other clubs and community organisations, school guidelines remain largely unchanged.

We also continue to ask that **only one parent** come to the school playground at 'pick up' and 'drop off', if your attendance is crucial. If it is not, then please meet your child in a safe place off-campus. This is to reduce numbers in our school playground. Continue to maintain a two-metre distance from any other adult or child from outwith your household and we urge all adults attending the playground to wear a face covering, unless exempt. If you forget your face covering, there are spares in the school foyer. Thank you.