



*Learning together to achieve our best*

# WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We hope you had a lovely break and that you feel refreshed and ready to begin a new year.

This term has some very exciting events coming up and challenging learning for the pupils – please continue to look out for newsletters and to follow us on Twitter @WestLintonPS.



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new families to our school community and to remind everyone that despite Covid-19 regulations, we have an open door policy at West Linton Primary School, so if you would like to discuss anything relating to your child's learning or general wellbeing, please let us know via email or telephone and we can arrange a meeting on Microsoft Teams.

### STAFFING UPDATE

With much sadness we waved our wonderful Mrs Walker off into retirement at the end of the holidays. However, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Catherine Hunwick to West Linton Primary School as our new Admin Assistant. Mrs Hunwick is a familiar face for our pupils having previously been a part of our kitchen staff team and I know the children will be happy to welcome her back to our school in her new role. She assumes her post on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2022.

We also continue to have Mrs Leydon and Mrs McMenemy as part of our school team, delivering targeted support to pupils and Mrs Leydon will also teach in P3 on Thursday afternoons. Mrs Smith will now be in the P5 class on a full time basis.

### CHRISTMAS UPDATE

We had a wonderful time prior to the holidays getting in the Christmas spirit. Each class had great fun at their Christmas Party with games, dances and snacks. ELC and Primary 1 even had a special visitor who also popped round all the classroom doors outside to give everyone a wave.



We would like to extend our thanks to George Gordon who again this year donated a beautiful Christmas tree to us for our hall.

Our ELC and Primary 1's produced a beautiful Nativity performance with some lovely singing, Primary 7's starred in a fantastic pantomime again this year with great music and an important message and many thanks goes to all of our Primary 5 pupils as well for their excellent Church Service. All of these performances are available on your child's Microsoft Teams page for you to watch.

### PARKING

We would like to remind families at pick up or drop off time to please make use of the parking bays on Deanfoot Road (SBC Safer Routes to School would encourage you to reverse in so that you have a full view of the road ahead when you leave). Alternatively, please park on School Brae (once the works are complete there) or Alice Hamilton Way. This will help to reduce congestion and ensure the ongoing safety of pedestrians.



## SCHOOL LUNCHES



All children from P1 – P5 are now automatically entitled to receive a free school meal during term time. These meals can be ordered on Parent Pay.

We would like to remind you that if you meet the income criteria on the SBC website and have a child in P1-P5 you should still apply for free school meals. The Scottish Government provide additional funding to schools based on pupils who are entitled to free school meals. You would also be considered for any further support available during school holidays.

In some cases, children do not like the hot meal option ordered for them on Parent Pay and if they are not eating, we will offer them a sandwich instead. In these instances, we will send a slip home to inform you of this. We would also encourage you to discuss the menu options with your child when choosing their lunch to reduce food waste and additional work for the kitchen staff. Thank you in advance.

## PEEBLESHIRE YOUTH TRUST HAMPERS

Thank you for all your support of the Peeblesshire Youth Trust Christmas hampers this year.

A total of 107 hampers were delivered to support families in the Peeblesshire area who may be struggling for a variety of reasons over this festive period.



## BOOKFAIR

Thank you also for your support of the Scholastic Book Fair which raised £700 for our school. We have used this money to purchase a range of resources including non-fiction reading books to support our learners in their enjoyment and development of literacy skills.



## SCOTTISH FOCUS FORTNIGHT



For the first two weeks of term we have a whole school focus on all things Scottish, to conclude with a Burns Celebration on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January. As well as Scots language and poetry, classes will learn about Scottish Geography and Maps, Scottish history and innovations. As we are still unable to invite our parents and families into the school building, our Primary 7's Burns Supper for parents will not be able to go ahead. However we will share a recorded performance online via Teams on Burns Night- the 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> all classes will be given the chance to share their Scots poetry learning with the rest of the school at our Burns Assembly. Can we ask that if the children would like to, that they wear something tartan or blue on the 20<sup>th</sup> January?

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Whole School Burns Assembly
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January – P7 Burns Performance (virtual offer)
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Curriculum Overviews shared
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January – P7 Broomlee Day visit
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Café Conversations (virtual offer)
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February – P6 Assembly
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Tweeddale Local Holiday
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February – February Break
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Staff Inservice Day (no pupils)
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Return to school

## MASTERCLASSES

This term we will be running Masterclasses as part of our Golden Time offer. We are looking for some **fully vaccinated** parents who would be able to offer an **outdoor**, playground based Masterclass session for pupils on a Thursday afternoon for a period of **6 weeks**. This would be supported by a member of school staff.

If you would like to volunteer or require further information please contact Mrs Dixon at [emily.dixon@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:emily.dixon@scotborders.gov.uk)