



Learning together to achieve our best

WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

STAFFING UPDATE

As you know, from now on and throughout Ms Curson's maternity leave, there will be a new leadership structure in school. Miss Ferguson has been appointed to the West Linton Primary Headship to ensure consistent, strong leadership. We are also delighted to announce that Mrs Emily Dixon will join us on 6th December as our Depute Head Teacher. Mrs Dixon is a highly experienced and skilled Depute Head, who has worked in both mainstream and specialist schools in strategic leadership. I know you will join me in welcoming her to our school.

Mrs Smith will return to school after the Christmas break to teach full time in Primary 5. Mrs Laydon will also continue in school, however will be supporting groups of pupils and with Teacher Non Class Contact cover. She will also teach Primary 3 on Thursday afternoons to allow Mrs Maclennan her supporter time with our NQT Mr O'Donnell.

Mr Cursiter will no longer be working with us this term, since he has secured regular and long-term work at Kingsland Primary School. We feel very lucky to have supported Mr Cursiter through his NQT year and in the next step of his career, but wish him luck in his onwards journey as a class teacher in Scottish Borders Council.

Mrs Walker, who we all adore, will be hanging up her many administrative talents at the end of this term in favour of Granny duties. She has decided to finish her contract with SBC at Christmas time and support with childcare for her gorgeous new grandson. Mrs Walker will be a real miss at West Linton Primary School, where her calm and steady demeanour as well as her naturally nurturing approach has meant that young people, staff and families alike have felt welcome, supported and loved for a number of years. Whilst it is with a heavy heart that I share this news, we support Mrs Walker's decision and wish her all the very best in the future.

PYT - CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

You may already be aware that Peeblesshire Youth Trust (PYT) provides Christmas hampers to families across the Peeblesshire Community with children under the age of 16, who would benefit from support in the run up to and during the festive period.

With the support of schools, foodbanks and small businesses, PYT have been able to ensure that nominated families receive the support they need at a difficult financial time.



This year, as in previous years, West Linton Primary Community would like to help with donations. As a result, we request that this year each class across school and ELC bring in a donation. Please see below for your class' allocated donation:

- ELC & P1 – Jam**
- P2 & P3 – Washing up liquid**
- P4 – Stock Cubes**
- P5 – Tins of custard**
- P6 – Tins of rice pudding**
- P7 – Adult Toothpaste**

The donations will be collected in early December, so if you are able to donate then we would ask you to add your donation to the boxes at the front school office by **Wednesday 1st December** please. Thank you.

PEEBLESSHIRE YOUTH TRUST

After a break in delivery, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are very happy to share that *Achieve Your Potential*, a group organised by Peeblesshire Youth Trust to support pupils' transition to PHS has begun again.

This year, a small group of Primary 6 and 7 pupils will be working with pupils of the same age from Newlands Primary on a Friday afternoon to develop transferable skills and friendships ahead of their move to secondary school. These sessions are incredibly useful for our young people and are taking place, this year, at Broomlee Centre.

PARENT-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

We thank you all for attending our Parent Consultations via telephone this month. The consultations proved very successful again. Whilst we were disappointed that the meetings could not take place in person again, we are ever hopeful that guidance will change to allow us to have visitors to the school once again.

To support our Parent-School Partnership we hope to have an Open Afternoon on January 27th. If we are still unable to have visitors to school that day, then there will be a 'Virtual Offer'; please watch this space for more details.

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.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Whilst we are unable to have large gatherings, we are undeterred and continue to plan for Christmas fun for our youngsters. Our Panto and Nativity Plays will be recorded and uploaded to the ELC & Primary 1 and Primary 6 & 7 Microsoft Teams. This year, we are delighted that we will be able to sing for these productions and we hope that you enjoy watching them with your child.

This year, we will be able to have our Christmas Parties in year group bubbles and are very excited about these. During the Christmas Parties, we serve food and fruit juice drinks to the pupils. In order to do this, we do ask for a small donation of £2 for each child. The £2 covers the food and any party game prizes we buy for the events. Please can we ask you to pay £2 via the payment item that has been set up on Parent Pay, which will be live from Monday?

This year, our Primary 5 pupils will be leading our Christmas Service. This Christmas Assembly, usually held at St Andrew's Church, will be held in school this year over Microsoft Teams. The Primary 5 pupils will be rehearsing and recording their service and we thank you for your assistance in supporting the learning of lines and songs for the performance.

The dates for all of these events are detailed below.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29th November – St Andrew's Day Holiday

2nd December – Primary 4 Assembly

9th December – ELC & P1 Panto

9th December – Christmas Lunch

15th December – P6 & 7 Christmas Party (in year group bubbles)

16th December – Primary 6 & 7 Panto

16th December – P4 & 5 Christmas Party (in year group bubbles)

20th December – P2 & 3 Christmas Party (in year group bubbles)

21st December – ELC/ P1 Christmas Party

23rd December – Christmas Assembly (P5)

23rd December – School Closure

Pupils return to school January 10th

