



Learning together to achieve our best

WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK 2022-23

We wish you all a very warm welcome back after a lovely long summer break and hope you have all had time to enjoy our first summer largely free from covid restrictions.



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. We urge you if you have a question, comment or any feedback for school improvement that you contact our Acting Head Teacher, Miss Ferguson directly via email or call the school office: louise.ferguson@scotborders.gov.uk/01721 723600.

You will receive diary dates for the year alongside this newsletter. 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 AND MEDICATION

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.



Please also be sure to update our school office of any changes to your child's medical needs. Remember all medication throughout the year should be given to Mrs Hunwick, not class teachers so that a medical form can be completed.

STAFFING UPDATES

We see many familiar faces returning to our staffing team this year. Mrs Mair continues with us in Primary 4 this year, covering Mrs MacLennon's maternity leave. I'm delighted to inform you that Mrs MacLennon has had a healthy baby boy and both are doing well. Mrs Butler returns after maternity leave Monday – Thursdays teaching Primary 6, with Mrs Scott teaching Primary 6 on Fridays.

We are also glad to welcome back our ANAs Mr McCarroll, Mrs McMenemy, Mrs Harper, Mrs Welsh and Mrs Wingate this year – again, all familiar faces for our young people. Our ELC is also pleased to welcome a Modern Apprentice, Angela Grant who will be working as part of our fabulous ELC team this year.

Mrs Motley continues in her role as our wonderful Support for Learning teacher and also as a teacher in P1/2, but will no longer be continuing her role as Principle Teacher. This is due to changes in management structures across SBC which have resulted in West Linton no longer having a Principle Teacher role within the school.

Mrs Dixon continues with us in her role as Acting Depute Head Teacher until the October Holidays, when Ms Curson will return as Head Teacher and Miss Ferguson will resume her role as Depute Head Teacher.

READING BOOKS AND TOYS IN SCHOOL

Can we please ask that any school reading books that were not returned before the summer holidays are returned? 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 be taking place on Monday the 5th of September. This is a chance for parents to come along to meet their child's teacher who will present some information about our school vision and values, classroom routines and the curriculum. You are welcome to bring your child along as well.

Each class will run two sessions– 6 – 6.30pm and 6.45 – 7.15pm to enable you to attend more than one Meet the Teacher event if you have multiple children in the school.

Miss Ferguson and Mrs Dixon will also be running a School Improvement Session during the second session (6.45-7.15pm) for any parents who wish to attend. This will focus on sharing our School Improvement Plan for this session and highlighting any opportunities for parents to support and work in partnership with us this coming year.



MICROSOFT TEAMS, SHOWBIE & HOME LEARNING

This year, as part of the SBC Inspire Learning Initiative all classes will begin using Showbie as a learning tool to assign, collect and provide feedback on learning. We will also continue to use Microsoft Teams for some aspects (such as sharing videos or having online meetings) and our pupil and staff Digital Leadership Teams will be working this term to decide a clear role for each of these apps. This will be communicated by the Digital Leadership teams in due course to ensure clarity of purpose for each.

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 (for now) through their class Microsoft Team page, or bring it into school where efforts will be shared and celebrated. Our Meet the Teacher event will share our Home Learning strategy and give clear details about what to expect this coming year.



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 Hunwick 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 6th September. We will likely 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.

DIARY DATES

Meet the Teacher –	5 th September
Parent Council AGM –	6 th September
Tweeddale Local Holiday-	7 th October
October Holiday –	10 th October
Inservice Day -	17 th October
Return to school	18 th October
Novel Study Focus Fortnight	18 th October