



Learning together to achieve our best

WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Louise Gilmour to our school as of Monday 30th January. Mrs Gilmour joins us in a permanent capacity, this year teaching on Monday and Tuesday in Primary 1 and on Fridays in Primary 6. We also welcome Mr Stuart Howley-Milne to our Primary 3 class next week as a Student Teacher. We are looking forward to welcoming them to the West Linton family next week!

Toy Swap Shop

A thank you again to our Eco-Group for another wonderful Sustainability Event – this time a Toy Swap Shop. This was well attended and a great way to share the reuse-recycle message, preventing waste and working together to make our community a more eco-friendly place.



P6 and P7 Burns Assemblies

A big well done to our Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils who put on quite the show at our Burns Supper Assemblies. Parents were entertained with recitations, singing, dancing and musical performances – it was a real showcase of talent from our wonderful Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils. There was a delicious Burns Supper with haggis, neeps and tatties finished off with some irn-bru and shortbread in true Scottish style. A big thank you goes to our wonderful ladies in the kitchen who went above and beyond to make this possible. A big thank you also to all the parents who came along and were so willing to get involved, joining in with the ceilidh dancing.



Masterclasses

After the February Holiday, we will be beginning our Masterclasses again. This is a Goldentime alternative in which children opt into different 'Masterclasses' run by teachers, ANAs, parents and community members. In the past we have had offers such as Foot Health, Gardening, Dance, Robotics, Cycling, Baking, Yoga, Mindfulness, Languages and Music to name a few. If you would like to get involved to support running a group or feel you have a particular skill to share, please get in touch with Miss Ferguson at Louise.Ferguson@scotborders.gov.uk.



Sportshall Athletics

Congratulations to our Primary 7 pupils who took part in a Tweeddale Sportshall Athletics competition this week. They have demonstrated the Learning Powers 'have a go', 'don't give up' and 'keep improving' having shown real determination and commitment to the training for this event over the past few months.

A big thank you to Mrs Motley and Mr Davidson for their support in preparing our young people to take part.

PTA Update

The PTA have been working in consultation with us to support funding in our school. Some of the things they are planning to support us with so far include:

- Hardship fund – to support families with the cost of school trips and provide the school with spare gym rubbers, gloves etc
- Playground equipment – to support the replenishment of toys for the playground shed
- Grounds and gardening – support with ongoing costs for gardening and further development of our school grounds

World Book Day

World Book Day this year is 2nd March 2023 and on this day, we invite children into school dressed as their favourite book character. Throughout the day there will be a suite of different activities for children to take part in. More information will follow regarding opportunities for parents and families to get involved.



Assemblies

Our assemblies this term have focussed on the Building Resilience tool of Talk Things Over, including a focus on supporting pupils to report anything that makes them unhappy to an adult and the difference between being a bystander and an upstander. This follows close analysis of our Glasgow Wellbeing and Motivation Profile survey which was completed with all pupils at the beginning of the year, which highlighted that 75% of children would complain if they felt picked on in school. As a result, we will continue to work with pupils to support them in this to ensure they know their trusted adults and back up crew, and different ways to ask for help.



Attendance

We appreciate that after the strict measures put in place during the Covid 19 pandemic, parents and carers may still experience some trepidation around sending their child to school with a cough or cold. However, since our return to school in August, our Attendance Monitoring has highlighted very low attendance rates across the school.

We would like to reassure you that it is perfectly acceptable for you to send your child to school with a slight cough or cold now. We understand that Covid 19 is still present in communities but if you deem your child to be well enough, we are happy for them to attend school.

The Big Dig 2

We would like to invite parents and families along with interested community members to a Big Dig 2 Event on Sunday 26th of February. This event will be similar to last year – clearing planters for spring, building new raised beds and composting bays and generally setting up our polytunnel to be ready for a new season of planting and growing.

Last year we had a very successful and productive growing season and this year we have plans to develop this even further. Your help to get us started again after the winter would be much appreciated!



Café Conversations

We will be holding a Café Conversation Open Morning on Thursday 2nd February. This is an opportunity for you to come into school to sit in a comfortable space with a cup of tea to look with your child through their PLP (Personal Learning Plan). This is organised in Houses – the slots are long enough for you to see multiple children if you have more than one child in the school. If you have children in Mendick or Westwater, please come between 9:30 and 10:30am and if you have children in Castlelaw and Lyne please come between 10:50 and 11:50am. We look forward to welcoming you or any other family member who can make it!

DIARY DATES

Monday 30th January – Industrial Action Day
Thursday 2nd February – Café Conversations (am)
Tuesday 7th February – P3 Year Group Assembly
Monday 13th February – Tweeddale Holiday
Tuesday 14th February – February Holiday
Tuesday 21st February – Children Return to School
Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day

