



*Learning together to achieve our best*

# WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

### STAFFING UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome Mr Conor O'Donnell back to West Linton Primary school teaching our P5/6 class. Mr O' Donnell was successful at interview to cover Mrs Smith's maternity leave. Mrs Smith finished with us on Friday and we look forward to hearing her news in the coming weeks.

We were sad to say goodbye to Mrs Leitch last week. Mrs Leitch joins the team at Edinburgh City Council in a full time permanent role. We wish her lots of luck in her new job, but will miss her very much here. Mrs Scott, will be working full time with the Primary 1 class, until a replacement is appointed. Interviews will take place this week and once pre employment checks are complete we will let you know about the successful candidate.

We are very pleased to welcome staff from Massage in Schools Programme (MISP) to West Linton Primary this term. The team will be working with our P5 and P2/3 classes initially, but hope to work with other classes to support connection, play and safe touch. The MISP addresses all the key intentions of the Curriculum for Excellence in a fun and engaging way, activating children's inherent abilities of compassion, collaboration and creativity.

### PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES

We respectfully remind all families that children should not be bringing footballs or other outdoor play equipment to school. Each class has its own ball which can be used on their MUGA day.



This ensures pupil safety and equity of experience. When it is not your child's classes MUGA day, there are other playground activities for them to take part in. We thank you for your attention to this.

### CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS & EVENTS

You will find a Christmas arrangements attachment to this newsletter. As you will be aware, there are many events taking place in the next few weeks. In order to support the organisation of these events, we would like you to give your attention to these attached pages.

If you are able to help at any of the events then please fill in the form and return it to school with your child.

For Christmas Parties, we ask for a contribution of £2 per child. This £2 buys a juice and a snack for each child and supports us to buy prizes for party games. We understand the financial pressure families are under this year and ask that if this is too much of a stretch that you speak with Ms Curson in confidence. We will always ensure that all young people experience the fun and magic of Christmas – so please do not hesitate to contact us should cost be a barrier.



### PTA EVENT

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Saturday at our Christmas Fayre between 10am-12pm. It has been five years since we have had an event of this kind and look forward to it. The young people in school have been creating crafts which will be sold on the day. If you are available to help with a stall, then please let us know. The West Linton Market will also be on in the school car park, so it promises to be a great day.

### CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

The Eco Committee are arranging a Christmas Jumper swap shop on 1st December. If you have any jumpers you no longer wear, then please hand them into school. If you do not have a Christmas jumper and would like one then pop along to the swap shop at the end of the school day on Thursday to pick one up. We look forward to seeing you there.

## ROAMERS WOOD

On the 25th of October P5-7s all took part in a day of activities in Roamers Wood up the Loan, as part of Sustainable West Linton's work to create a community woodland which gets as many people involved as possible. The children explored the area and its beautiful autumnal trees, as well as mulching rowan berries, planting horse chestnuts and native tree saplings.

They learned about the underground fungal network (mycorrhizae) and how this helps trees communicate and spread important information and they worked collaboratively to build a bug hotel in time for the incoming winter, as well as a hibernaculum for the lizards and amphibians. On top of all this, they put their building skills to the test, making different sized dens to shelter in - some of them were very cosy!



## WINTER WEATHER AND RESILIENT SCHOOLS

Since 2019, a protocol has been in place for situations when adverse weather impacts on schools. The protocol which sees an end to 'Resilient Schools' in its previous guise, due to fewer staff living in close proximity to school means that decisions about school closures will be taken centrally by senior staff.

When this does happen, we very much appreciate support from parents and community members to help make the school as safe as it can be and ensure that we can re-open in as timely a manner as possible. This is particularly crucial now that Mr Scott also provides janitorial cover at Broughton and Newlands Primary schools.

In the past many of you have helped grit areas, sweep and remove snow and ice from paths in order that the school can open safely. If you are able to help with this, please contact the school. We will then pass your details on to our Resilient Schools Group. Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS TREE

Thank you very much to George Gordon, a member of our community, who has very kindly offered to donate a real Christmas Tree for our school hall. This will be up for the entirety of the Christmas Season and will help the children and staff take full advantage of the Christmas Spirit.

## DIARY DATES

Whilst we know that you have received a calendar for the whole year, we thought it would be useful to highlight a couple of things in the near future that you may be interested in.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – PTA Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – ELC & P1 Nativity (afternoon)

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December – ELC & P1 Nativity (evening)

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December – ELC/ P1 Christmas Party

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – P2/ P3 Christmas Party

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – P4/ P5 Christmas Party

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – P6/ P7 Christmas Party

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Christmas Service (P5 lead)

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December close

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January – All resume

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Scotland Focus Fortnight

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Curriculum Overviews out to Parents

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January – P6&7 Burns Assembly



**CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_



I enclose £2.00 per child for their Christmas Party

**VOLUNTEERS FOR CHURCH SERVICE**

I am able to accompany the children to and from St Andrew's Church on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and will be at school for 9am.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE PRACTICES**

I am available to help walk P5 pupils to and from the church for a Christmas service practice on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December and will come into school at 8.50am

I am available to help walk P5 pupils to and from the church for a Christmas service practice on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December and will come into school at 8.50am

I am available to help walk P5 pupils to and from the church for a Christmas service practice on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December and will come into school at 8.50am