

Low Port Primary School: Where you are given opportunities and leave with happy memories.

Newsletter October 2018

Staffing

Mrs Clapton, our PE specialist, will be returning from her maternity leave after the October week. We extend her a warm welcome back to Low Port Primary School.

In Service Days and School Improvement Update

I hope that you all received an electronic copy of our School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality report last week. Paper copies can be requested at the office. These are both also on display in the foyer and will shortly be posted on the school website.

At our In Service day, we worked with our cluster colleagues on aspects of Health and Wellbeing. We watched the Resilience film and had discussion about Adverse Childhood Experiences, their impact on the children we work with and ideas to offer support. Low Port staff then spent time looking at the training programme for Do Be Mindful, an approach we plan to introduce after Christmas in term 3 at all stages.

Friday afternoon training sessions have been spent working together on revised West Lothian wide tracking and monitoring processes, looking closely at the benchmarks for expected attainment across Curriculum for Excellence levels and moderating planning and assessment. This development work will take several sessions.

Meet the Teacher

I would like to thank you all for your support at the Meet the Teacher event. It is always wonderful to see so many families supporting the school. I hope you found the evening informative and helpful. We look forward to meeting with you individually at parent consultations on Monday 8th October and Tuesday 9th October to discuss your child's progress.

Family Learning - P1 literacy workshop

Despite the extremely windy weather, we had a very successful event where parents and carers were invited to see how we are teaching literacy and numeracy through play to our Primary 1 pupils. Thank you to Miss Smith, Mrs Henderson and Miss Davies for leading this. We are looking to arrange a stay and play session next term to see the learning in action. The date for this will be Thursday 15 November 2.30-3.10pm.

Parent Body News

Parent Council are looking forward to supporting the ongoing development of a school travel plan by Mrs McCartney and the P7 Junior Road Safety Officers starting with a site survey looking at safe arrival and use of the school paths for pupils. You may notice new speed reminder signs for cars entering the grounds. This links in with us looking at ways families can support the school grounds maintenance alongside the Gardening and Eco VLGs. Look out for our notice board opposite the office and our sticky notes board at parents night - we are likely to be looking for your thoughts and ideas!

Health and Safety

Car Park Safety

You may have noticed the new speed limit signage painted on the tarmac as you enter the driveway into school. Further signage will appear shortly. Both Low Port Centre and Low Port Primary School wish to ensure the safety of all users for both facilities and appreciate the adherence to the speed limit. For the safety of your children, we would ask that you do NOT allow children in any of the staff car parks. The safest route for children coming into school is by using the path from the Rose Garden, or in front of Low Port Centre, bearing in mind crossing at the bottom of the road.

Vertical Learning Groups

Vertical Learning Groups will begin on Friday 26 October. All pupils have been allocated to one of their choices. We look forward to these groups starting for the session. Groups include:-

- Gardening
- Rotakids
- Eco
- An inclusive world (citizenship)
- Health and Wellbeing
- Pupil Council
- Fair trade
- STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths)

Should you wish to volunteer at any of these sessions, or as a parent helper in any of our classes, please contact the office – we love to have parents and carers helping us in school!

WOW Jotters

Last week all pupils completed their learning activities in their WOW jotter – their Week Of Work. At key times in the year, they will use this jotter for all their work for one week. This jotter will follow the pupils through school and show progress over a period of time. Parents/carers may see WOW jotters at parent consultation events.

Learning Updates!

Already it has been an extremely busy term with a number of classes enjoying either learning outwith the school or with visitors coming in. Here are a few snapshots from our classes.

***P3/2** Thoroughly enjoyed their guided tour of Linlithgow High Street. Two P7 girls from Linlithgow Bridge PS lead the tour, starting at the Cross explaining all about its history. They went on to explain the about the Green Man statue, The Victoria Halls, The Linlithgow motto which is "Be kinde to strangers", various features on our buildings and the crest on the well to name but a few. It was son interesting and we learned lots of facts that would fascinate tourists visiting Linlithgow!*

***P7** enjoyed a Ranger Session last week where we learned all about habitats as part of our science work. We observed birds around the loch, did some pond dipping/kick sampling in the burn, used a very complicated key to identify the trees in the Peel and then investigated different animals native*

to the local environment using only 'print' clues. It was a lot of fun, especially the kick sampling - we found leeches!

Primary 1 *have been having great fun in the Secret Garden. We go every Wednesday for some Outdoor Learning time. So far we have built dens, cooked in the mud kitchen, listened to the birds and had great fun exploring in the trees and pond. No matter what the weather, we get to go outside because we have great suits that keep us dry and cozy!*

A message from our JRSO

Hello, we are the new Junior Road Safety Officers for this session. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead and being able to create some fun activities that will encourage the children at Low Port to be safer when crossing the road. We are looking forward to carrying out competitions and organising assemblies.

We will be working with Mrs McCartney and Mrs Buckley on our School Travel Plan. This is a document which encourages more people to become safer and active travelling to school.

We have conducted the 2018 Hands Up Survey and collated the results for our school.

We will keep you updates throughout the session about how we are getting on.

By, Orla, Archie and Alice

Wider Achievements

Chess Club

Our chess club continues for P4 and P5 just now run by a small group of P7 pupils keen to continue this club and passionate about the game. The P7s are working closely with us on the planning of the sessions and we hope to offer these to other classes over the course of the school year. A huge thank you to Sam, Archie, Calvin and Stuart for working so hard to keep the club going!

Ski Group

Low Port Primary had three teams entered in the regional qualifier at Polmonthill of the SSSA Autumn Dual Slalom on Tuesday 25th September. Team A (P5-7) Nuala, Lexi, Hamish and David.

Team B (P5-7) Lewis, Alice, Finlay T and Grace P. Team C (P1-4) Johnny, Ben and Archie.

Team A gave a fantastic performance and won overall so they are heading to the finals in Braehead on the 31st October. This however can take nothing away from the team B – some of whom have been skiing for only one year and are already zooming down a slalom race course – and judging by the smiles absolutely loving it!! In the P1-4 category team C put in an amazing performance and won a silver medal so they also have the opportunity to go to Braehead.

Each and every member of the ski team gave their all and skied fantastically well. They really were great ambassadors for the school.

In addition to this at the British Artificial Skislope championships Lexi Maxwell won a silver medal in the Giant Slalom race in the under 10 category.

The next races will be the Autumn Dual Slalom final on October 31st, the ski cross races 28th November (advanced only) and the Boyd Anderson Trophy on 10th December (novice and advanced).

Diary Dates

You will already have received separately an annual calendar with key dates for the whole school session identified for longer term planning at home. Please note that some dates may be added in as the session progresses so keep checking the newsletter, class update through Twitter feeds and Sharing the Big Picture and website calendar for updates!

- Friday 5 October
- Monday 8 October
- Tuesday 9 October
- Friday 12 October
- Monday 23 October
- Tuesday 24 October

P7 assembly – P7 parents welcome
Parent Consultations 4.30pm -7.30pm
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END OF TERM
In Service Day – staff only
Pupils return