

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

Newsletter December 2018

School Improvement Update

The focus group of pupils that are reviewing our curriculum rationale has been using How Good Is Our School to investigate what we are doing well, how do we know and what could we make even better. Learning conversations for November with other children across all classes also focused on the same themes to ensure that we have a range of views represented. All of this self-evaluation will inform the revised curriculum rationale. Further updates will follow in due course.

Our Friday afternoon training sessions have been very busy this term. Along with cluster schools from Winchburgh and Linlithgow Bridge Primaries, all Low Port teachers took part in professional learning around higher order comprehension strategies for reading led by our colleagues in the Literacy Base in West Lothian. Our next steps are to use the ideas in the training next term to plan, assess and moderate a series of reading lessons together across levels with a focus on critical literacy. All staff have also renewed their Emergency First Aid training with a practical session together last week. Let's hope we don't need to apply these skills in the near future!

This Friday we continue cluster partnership working looking at progression in numeracy, planning learning in a context together for moderation across the cluster.

Sharing Our Learning Events

Enterprise Evening

We are all very busy preparing for Enterprise Night on Thursday 6 December 6.30pm-7.30pm. As part of their learning, all classes are planning a class enterprise using £25 gifted from FLPPS to make their money grow! Classes will be sharing their learning on Enterprise Night, running stalls they have developed themselves as a class. There will be a wide range of stalls, gifts, games and competitions for you to choose from! These include:-

- guess the birthday for a prize
- guess the teacher baby photo quiz
- bird feeders
- home baking, decorated apples and gingerbread biscuits
- candy cane reindeer
- star garlands
- Christmas baubles
- bottle lucky dip
- baby real Christmas trees
- hot chocolate cones
- candle snowmen
- Jenga, reindeer ring toss and reindeer pong games
- Bracelets

FLPPS and Parent Council will also be supporting this event with drinks available and information about their work, including a pupil demo of the interactive panels we are fundraising for in the zone. P3/2 would welcome any bottle bags and bottles of any kind (from ketchup to wine!) and P7 would welcome any home baking (this can be handed in any time on the 6th December). This is always a very popular event on our school calendar and we look forward to seeing you on the night.

Shared Starts, Finishes and Whole School Sharing Learning Events

As part of our family learning/parental engagement planning, we offer parents an opportunity to come into school to see learning in action through a shared start or finish or possibly a whole school sharing learning event. This happens twice a year for each class. This year we plan a whole school event later in the session – details will follow. Look out for information on your child's class shared start/finish coming from the class teacher.

Infant Classes Identification

We appreciate that it may not always be clear what is happening on Twitter and groupcall between classes and stages in school. By class, we mean the actual class with their teacher and in order to make this clear, we will use P1C (for Class), P2/1 and P3/2.

By stage, we mean a whole year group together. Where we are communicating year group events or learning, we will use P1YG (for P1 year group) P2YG and P3YG. Hopefully this will make things a little clearer!

Building Resilience Programme

A Building Resilience Event was held last Friday. It was wonderful to see so many of you coming out on a miserable day to find out more, see the resources, have small groups of pupils share aspects of their learning and ask questions. Based on feedback from the day, we will be sending out copies of the programme outline in more depth, upload the powerpoint used onto the website and send out the parent leaflet. What a turnout! We had in excess of 70 parents and carers join us. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Charity Focus for this Session

Pupils decided that our national charity this year would be Children in Need. Thank you for your support with this. Several VLG groups are looking into more local charities as part of their work, particularly linked to children's mental health, which ties in with the health and well-being development work within school this year. We will update you when the children have finalised their research.

Parent Body News

Parent Council

In Parent Council we have lots going on. We will be at enterprise night, please come and chat over a cup of tea from FLPPS and hear about both groups.

We have been chatting to pupils in assembly, asking P7 about the interactive panels FLPPS are fundraising for and are meeting pupil council to hear about plastic reduction in school.

We have had two parent grounds maintenance events. Some time back, grounds were developed by parents and we are talking to WLC about long term maintenance but in the meantime supporting the school with some hands on grafting!! Join us in spring!

[Our next PC meeting is 16th January 2019 7pm.](#) We will be helping Mrs Livingston complete

a WLC checklist on parental engagement. Pop it in your diary now!!

Judith and Alice

FLPPS update

Huge thanks to everyone who participated in and helped out on the Family Photoshoot, Bingo Night and the Disco! And for all the tea towel orders! We've raised a fantastic amount from each, all towards our target of interactive panels for each class. Thank you also for your patience in moving to the new online booking/payments platform, it's been a huge success and will significantly reduce the amount of administrative time it takes for us to do what we do.

Coming up we will be serving tea/coffee and minced pies at Enterprise night on the 6th December, then we'll be taking a well-earned break over Christmas and New Year. [Our next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 23rd January at the school.](#) As always, all are welcome!

Christmas Arrangements

As the party season fast approaches, we thought a wee reminder about Christmas arrangements may be useful.

- All class parties will be in the afternoon. Children may have a chance to change into party clothes at lunch time. All children will be able to choose crisps and a sweet courtesy of FLPPS and there may be party prizes up for grabs! Please bring a water bottle with you!
- At the Christmas lunch on Wednesday 14th, children may wear a Christmas jumper or a Christmassy hat if they wish.
- Our Christmas service in St Michael's Church, which includes our P1 Nativity, starts at 1.45pm. Everyone is welcome to join us! As well as the P1 performance, brass, strings and choir will be performing. After the service, all children will return to school for the end of the school day and can be collected at 3.20pm as usual. There will be a retiring collection for the Cyrenians OPAL (Older People, Active Lives), who work in the local area supporting older people to stay independent, active, connected and increase well-being.
- We have a parent helper coffee morning arranged 10.30 – 11am on Thursday 21 December. Please feel free to join us for a mince pie and cuppa.

Wider Achievements

Swimming

Leroy the Lion had his annual outing to the West Lothian Schools Swimming Championships on Sunday 4th November. Representing Low Port Primary (and Linlithgow!) were Suzie (P7) and Lisa (P5). Both girls had strong swims getting points in their 2 events for the school. Suzie won gold in breaststroke and silver in butterfly which means that she qualifies to enter the Scottish Schools Championships in January 2019 for Low Port Primary. Leroy will be looking out his goggles again to support her.

Good luck to Suzie who is competing again in January!

Ski Club

Skiing continues to flourish at Low Port with more than 120 children from across the Linlithgow cluster schools taking part in the Friday Cluster Club and really enjoying it. The challenge is to keep this enthusiasm going and watch the kids gain confidence and support

their progress from mat to mountain. There are a number of schools competitions both on the local dry slopes and snow.

On Wednesday (28th November) the Low Port School team competed in the Scottish Schools Snowsports Association ski/boarder cross event at Braehead. This was our first time at this competition and all members of the team did very well with Lexi (P6) finishing 5th and Nuala (P7) 10th in the girls event and Hamish (P6) and David (P6) finishing in the top half out of more than 200 children at the event. Overall the Low Port team finished in a very credible 9th place out of 21 teams.

A highlight of the school skiing calendar in December is the annual Boyd Anderson Competition held at Hillend and Low Port plan to enter two teams, one for experienced skiers and one for novices. Watch this space for further information.

As nights draw in the Scottish Schools alpine event is looming on the horizon. This year we plan to enter teams in the heats held at the Nevis Range. The heats at the Nevis Range are less busy than other centres and it has an excellent snow record as well the benefit of affordable accommodation which can be easily cancelled if there is no snow. We are also hoping to include snow training in the run up to the Alpine event.

Learning Updates

Bikeability for P5

We have been lucky to have Nicola Fell from West Lothian Leisure LTD delivering bikeability to P5. They are all on track to complete level 1 before Christmas and we are grateful to Nicola for providing this opportunity.

Animation

Animation Jam and Linlithgow Heritage Trust supported P5 in making short animated films based on historical artefacts found within Linlithgow. The class learned about places, people, objects and occupations from the past and compared them to the present day. Groups within the class created their own 2D character puppets and backgrounds, moving them and taking 100s of single photos in sequence to create animated scenes of action and re-enactment. The groups recorded their voices to put onto the characters and their animations came to life. The resulting film will be screened in 2019 at the museum opening!

Pupil Council Update - Plastic campaign

Pupil council updated our school at assembly on the campaign we began last year to reduce the use of unnecessary plastic in our school and town. We wrote to local businesses and visited them to ask them to review their provision of disposable plastic such as straws. We were happy to note some changes in policy at some establishments and happy to hear that some already had plans in place to reduce the use of plastic. It was also very interesting to hear the financial and business point of view on these issues. This year we are continuing to liaise with the council and are expecting a visit to our school for the council to conduct an audit and advise on any further action we can take to help with this effort. All classes have been invited to take their own water bottle to the lunch hall and please remember to bring a water bottle to the Christmas parties.

P7 Sportshall Athletics Festival

We had loads of fun and we were so close to being second but sadly we came third (which means we don't get invited to the West Lothian event). Ronin and Kyran thought it was fun and a good experience to go up against other schools. Katie said that it was really fun and she would love to go again. We all thought it was a great event, even the people who didn't

participate enjoyed cheering us on! If we had the chance to go to another event like it, we definitely would!
by Stuart and Emily

Diary Dates

We thought that it would be helpful to include December diary dates as this is such a busy time of year!

- Thursday 6 December Christmas lunch – wear a Christmas jumper if you wish!
Enterprise Evening 6.30-7.30pm
Bikeability P5 Group 2
- Friday 7 December VLG 3
- Monday 10 December Nativity rehearsal – school only
- Wednesday 12 December Nativity St Michael’s Church 1.45pm All Welcome
- Friday 14 December P1 Care Home visit
- Monday 17 December P7 Party PM
- Tuesday 18 December P5 and P6 Party PM
- Wednesday 19 December P3 and P4 Party PM
- Thursday 20 December Parent Helper Mince Pies and Coffee Morning 10.30-11
P1 and P2 Party PM
- Friday 21 December ALL BREAK FOR HOLIDAYS

**All Low Port Primary staff would like to
wish you a very Merry Christmas and
happy New Year!**

Merry Christmas

