

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

### **Newsletter January 2019**

A happy new year to you all! I hope you all had a wonderful break. Term 3 is going to be very busy!

#### **School Improvement Update**

We continue to review our curriculum rationale and we have 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, gathering the views of pupils and staff. We have found that we may need to adapt our vision statement alongside this to reflect changing priorities. Look out for a parent's views survey coming out in the next couple of weeks where we hope you can share your views too.

#### **Low Port Primary's P5-7 Curriculum Focus Group**

*Hello,*

*We are the Low Port Primary Curriculum Focus Group. We have been thinking about ways in which we can improve our amazing school and ways in which we are unique. We have been meeting with Mrs McCartney to talk about how school helps us to feel a sense of belonging, how we know that everyone is treated fairly and safe and how we behave towards each other in school.*

*We had to come up with 5 words that we would like a Low Port child to leave Low Port with/as. We found it quite a tricky task but our resilience helped us to decide on what words were most important to us.*

*All of our parent/carers are going to be given the same challenge, the teachers have too!!*

*We will give you updates throughout this term about how we are getting on.*

*Thank you!*

*Jenna, Hannah F, Millie F, Rosie McN, Kyran, Calvin, Amelie B, and Zoe*

Last term, we spent quite some time on staff training around health and wellbeing initiatives as we launched Building Resilience, and we are now ready to launch Do Be Mindful across all classes from next week. This term, our focus will be on reading with time together to focus on moderation, planning and assessment of reading comprehension skills. This may impact on reading homework around the February weekend as all classes will have a slightly different focus on reading learning within the classroom. Teachers will keep your class updated.

#### **Opportunities for Parental Engagement**

##### **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 our whole school event will take place on Friday 10 May – further information will follow nearer the time. Information on your child's class shared start/finish will come from the class teacher.

### School Show

Our school show plans have started for P2 and P3! Show dates are 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> March, both evening performances from 6.30pm. Further information regarding tickets will follow. Class teachers are busy preparing scripts, talking to children about their views on parts and planning the performance. We do appreciate the support you give at home with learning songs and lines.

### Change of date P1 assembly

Please note there is a change of date for the P1 parent assembly date from the annual calendar issued back in August. This will now take place on Friday 22 March at 9am. Please note that this assembly is for ALL P1 parents.

### Enterprise Night

What a huge success the Enterprise Evening was! We really appreciated the support of FLPPS with the teas and coffees, and Parent Council who shared information about their work, including a pupil demo of the interactive panels we are fundraising for in the zone. I think my own family self-funded the bottle stall and the home baking! It was amazing to see so many of you joining us in the school that night. All money raised will go towards the interactive panels.

### School Fundraiser – Sponsored Walk

Pupils and FLPPS together have decided on a sponsored event for school fundraising. Pupils suggested a sponsored walk around the loch as they wanted an event that would help with health and wellbeing and that ties in with the health and well-being development work within school this year. The date we plan to do this is Thursday 4 April. We invite parents and carers to join us on the day you would like to come along and enjoy a walk with us – all terrain buggies and dog walkers welcome! Further information re timings and meeting points will follow.

### **Parent Body News**

#### FLPPS News

Quiz night is on Friday 8th Feb at 7.30pm, an adults-only event which has proven to be a great laugh! Get the babysitters organised!

- £5 per person including supper
- BYOB
- Teams of 4-6 people (don't worry if you haven't got a team together, we can help on the night).
- Bottle tombola
- Raffle
- Trophy, prize and bragging rights for the winning team and a great (and cheap) night out for everyone else.

Tickets can be booked via the online system; [www.pta-events.co.uk/lowport](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/lowport)

#### Parent Council News

Thank you to all who visited us at Enterprise Night and to our P7s demonstrating the interactive panels. As you know we are looking for additional fundraising ideas such as Employer linked schemes or grants we might apply for - £24,000 is quite a target let us know

if you have any more ideas.

PC, along with Lindsey from WLC, visited Pupil Council in December, after parents asked us about single use plastics. We were so impressed by the work going on in pupil council, their presentation and questions posed to Lindsey from WLC.

**Please support the children's enthusiasm and work by sending your child with a reusable water bottle for lunch** (can be their class one) and look for the great posters around the school. We were all shocked at how many single use bottles were in the recycling bins. Pupil council are looking into better water fountains for refilling bottles, metal spoons to replace plastic and improving recycling. Lindsey told us WLC are already piloting some of these changes and to packaging. She went back with plenty suggestions and requests after her visit e.g. jugs and beakers for milk/water. Thank you Miss Paton and Pupil Council we look forward to hearing more and supporting this work.

**We are meeting 7pm Wednesday 16th January to help Mrs Livingston complete a WLC questionnaire on parental engagement.** It would be great to have some more people involved to properly represent the parent forum. Please come along- bring a mug for tea/coffee and cake!

### Learning Updates

#### P6 Song writing

Linlithgow Museum have been running activities in the run up to the Museum opening next year. We have already worked in partnership with them with P5 making animations. P6 have just started an exciting singer-songwriter project.

The project runs from January-March with a singer-songwriter to create a song about the history of Linlithgow and the surrounding area. The children will work on writing the new songs through workshops and then take part in a recording session. The songs will be put onto a CD for the pupils and they will also get a chance to perform at the opening of the new Museum. The singer-songwriter Caro Overy and she is working with the class teachers to make sure that workshops/rehearsals were planned and agreed in advance. Look out for ongoing updates on Twitter!

#### Building Resilience Programme

Next Friday we will have our launch assembly for Building Resilience and the focus will be Keep Connected. A parent/carer leaflet will be sent home next Friday to help discussion at home.

#### RotaKids Update

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December the RotaKids VLG visited the Caring Café at Low Port Centre. RotaKids is an exciting way for pupils to engage in important, lively activities that will make a positive difference in their school, in their local community and globally.

For our community project this session, RotaKids chose to help the elderly in our community. They wanted to bring some Christmas cheer by singing Christmas songs. They organised a visit to the Caring Café which is held on Wednesday's at Low Port Centre for people affected by memory loss or who have a diagnosis of Alzheimers, and their carers. RotaKids were joined at the Café by our Rotary Mentor Dr Ken MacKenzie and other Rotary members.

We received a lovely thank from the Caring Café -

"Thank you so much for bringing the school children over to sing for us at the Caring Cafe.

They sang beautifully, and their festive attire gave the whole room a lift, it is always a happy day when there are children visiting us.”

## Wider Achievements

### Swimming

Suzie in P7 qualified to enter the Scottish Schools Championships and represents Low Port Primary later this month. We will keep you posted on the outcome. Good luck Suzie!

### Ski Club

At the beginning of December the fiftieth anniversary of the Boyd Anderson Trophy took place; a Lothian Schools Ski Competition, which is held at Hillend to commemorate George Boyd Anderson whose vision was to make snowsports accessible to all.

This year, for the first time, nine teams from the Linlithgow Cluster Schools Ski Club competed at this event. There were two Primary levels: the Boyd Anderson for experienced skiers and Novice for those who have skied for less than one year. There were Experienced and Novice teams from Torphichen, Low Port and Springfield Primaries. In the Secondary competition Linlithgow Academy had 3 teams entered: a Boyd Anderson team, a Girls team and a Boys team.

Torphichen Primary continued their successful run by winning Gold in the Boyd Anderson event and Low Port narrowly missed out on a podium place coming fourth. Nuala Maxwell from Low Port Primary was second fastest racer in the whole competition, younger sister Lexi was third fastest.

In the Novice event it was Low Port Primary's turn to shine as their novices won Gold. Finlay Thomas from Low Port was the fastest novice in the competition. Torphichen Primary medalled again by taking the bronze in the novice section. Springfield Primary Novices just missed out on a podium position by coming fourth - which was a great achievement given that this was their first ever competitive schools race.

Of the three teams from Linlithgow Academy, the Girls' team and the Boys' team won silver medals whilst the Boyd Anderson team was placed 6th.

The Cluster Schools Ski Club has lessons for all levels of skier and we try to accommodate those who would like to race and those who would like a more recreational pace. We are also looking for sponsorship if any parents are interested please get in touch.

Weather permitting at the end of January teams from Low Port Primary will be competing in the snow at the Nevis range in the Scottish Schools Snowsports Association Alpine Event.

Good luck to everyone!

### Competition News!

Evie Mack, Annie M and Euan S from Primary 4 were the three winners of the Linlithgow Players programme design challenge. Their 3 designs will be used for the front cover of the show programme for 'Cinderella: A Fairytale' by Adam Peck. Congratulations everyone!

## School Handbook

We regularly review and update our school handbook, which is issued to all new intake pupils. The most current version has been uploaded to our school website – documents.

## Health Reminder

- A gentle reminder to regularly check your children's hair for any head lice.

- May we please remind all parents and carers that pupils should be kept at home until 48 hours from the last bout of sickness and/or upset stomach. There are NHS guidelines that all schools are asked to adhere to.
- For the safety of your children, please do not park or walk through the top staff car park for drop off or pickups as this is a very busy area with staff, buses and taxis.

### Playground Update

As the grass turning to mud recently, we have asked that the children use the footpaths provided via the Rose Garden to come into school rather than cutting across the grass. The mud has been impacting on the cleanliness of the classrooms, corridors and hall, particularly first thing in the morning. This will give the grassy areas a chance to recover and regrow for spring time. We continue to use our all-weather pitch when it is not too slippery. We appreciate your support in using the pathways provided.

### Job Opportunities

We are aware of parent concerns regarding school crossing patrols on specific routes to school. The Council have been regularly advertising these posts. The most recent advert is on Myjobscotland site currently. Please feel free to share with anyone you know who might be interested.

*The closing date for this post is provisionally set at 27 January 2019. West Lothian Council reserve the right to close this post early depending on applicant response levels. 10 hours per week, 38 weeks per year, salary pro rata - Fixed Term until 30 Sept 2019. Timetable - 8am - 9am- 3pm - 4pm - Mon to Thurs, 8am - 9am - 12pm - 1pm – Friday*

*Post 1 - Springfield Road Linlithgow*

*Post 2 - Blackness Road Linlithgow*

*Post 3 - Mill Road Linlithgow*

*Post 4 - Preston Road Linlithgow*

*Post 5 - Manse Road Linlithgow*

Cleaner required in Linlithgow area.

There is a cleaning post within Linlithgow area, and beyond, with Mears who look after schools. The post is term time Monday – Thursday 3.30pm-7.30pm and Friday 12.30-4.30pm. The successful applicant would have school holidays off except the last two weeks when deep cleaning takes place and they work in service days. Please call the office for contact details.

### Diary Dates

We have included key dates for the term for planning ahead at home.

- Friday 11 January VLG 4
- Tuesday 15 January P6 song project (and every Tuesday this term)
- Wednesday 16 January Parent Council 7pm all welcome
- Tuesday 22 January Ski groups Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Thursday 24 January P5 handball
- Friday 25 January P3/2 class assembly 9am parents invited
- Tuesday 29 January P5 swimming

- Wednesday 30 January FLPPS 7pm in the staffroom. All welcome.
- Friday 1 February P4 assembly 9am parents invited  
VLG 5
- Friday 8 February FLPPS Quiz Night
- Thursday 14 February Rotary Club Quiz for P7 team members
- Friday 15 February P6Cr assembly 9am parents welcome
- Monday 18 February MONDAY HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 19 IN SERVICE DAY STAFF ONLY
- Thursday 21 February P6 camp meeting 6-6.30pm  
P7 camp meeting 6.45-7.15pm  
VLG 6
- Friday 22 February Ski groups Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Tuesday 26 February Rotakids Rally
- Wednesday 27 February P6 camp leave – returning on Friday 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Wednesday 13 March School show P2 and P3 6.30pm
- Wednesday 20 March School show P2 and P3 6.30pm
- Thursday 21 March P1 all pupils assembly 9am. Parents invited.  
VLG 7
- Friday 22 March FLPPS Spring Fayre
- Saturday 23 March Rotakids Fayre
- Friday 29 March Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 2 April Easter Service in the morning
- Wednesday 3 April Parents' Evening
- Thursday 4 April Sponsored walk – all welcome
- Friday 5 April END OF TERM 12.25pm
- Tuesday 23 April ALL RETURN