

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

## **Newsletter March 2019**

### **Staffing Update**

We would like to welcome Mrs Marian McPhillips to the staff team. Mrs McPhillips will be working as a Pupil Support Worker, including the safe arrivals on a Friday morning from 8.30am. All children have already met her at assembly last week.

After the Easter break. Mrs Golding will be working Monday to Thursday only. The office will be manned Mrs Miller on Fridays as she extends her hours to cover Mrs Golding. Please bear with us during the period of transition and be aware that on occasion there may be only one person in the office.

### **School Improvement Update**

Our most recent staff training has been focusing on raising attainment in writing, with external training and target setting. We have bought a new resource, PM Writing, that links very well to the benchmarks for functional writing and has a proven track record for improving writing across all levels.

At the February in service day, all staff had training around Looked After Children; GTCS training and changes to career long professional learning; discussion around the new Regional Improvement Collaborative and how they can help us raise attainment at Low Port; Rights Respecting Schools development work. We also spent the afternoon exploring the Digital Literacy Audit to see where we are currently and to identify next steps for our improvement plan next session. We also spent time as a staff team sharing our own areas of expertise within IT, with all staff looking at e-profiling, Cahoot, Glow tools and new interactive panel functions.

### **Opportunities for Parental Engagement**

#### **Whole School Sharing Learning Event**

We will have our whole school event to share and celebrate our learning on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May. The focus will be outdoor learning. Further information will follow. All classes will have some input around outdoor learning in term 4 too as part of our staff professional development programme.

#### **School Show**

Our school show for P2 and P3 is looking brilliant and you are in for a treat! Show dates are 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> March, both evening performances from 6.30pm. The show is McHistory. Tickets have been on sale for a week or so – we will review sales and let you know if we can release more tickets per family shortly. We do appreciate the support you give at home with learning songs and lines. Actors should arrive for 6-6.05pm to prepare for the show. The infant door will be opened at 6pm.

Audience members will enter via the main office door which will be opened at 6.15pm. This allows for sound checks, final preparations and getting the children ready as well as the after school club to leave. We do not have staff on site before this time. Should you wish your child to go from OOSC to us for the show, please let both school and OOSC know in advance.

#### **School Fundraiser – Jaunt in Yer Jammies (Sponsored Walk)**

Our sponsored walk called Jaunt in Yer Jammies will take place on the morning of Thursday 4 April. Pupils, staff and parents are invited to wear their jammies for the walk (plus a weather dependant coat and shoes for a loch walk rather than slippers!), with optional mad hair if you wish. FLPPS will

be providing a Halfway Haribo Handout to all taking part. All pupils had further information shared with them at assembly last week including the sponsor forms and Gift Aid. This is a joint fundraising venture with pupils and FLPPS to raise funds for interactive panels within the school. All parents, carers, grannies and grandads, friends and relatives are invited to join us on the day - all terrain buggies and dog walkers welcome! We aim to start at 9.30am, meeting at the Peel Gate and walking past the Palace, swing park, over the wee bridge, along the back of the canal, through the gate onto Fiddler's Croft, back along the pavement until the small lane beside the church, onto the Peel and back through the Peel Gate into school.

### **Parent Body News**

#### **Parent Council Update**

Alice and Judith invite you to join us looking at Parental Engagement in Low Port. Parent Councils were introduced to enhance Parent Engagement. Come and see what PC is doing and chat about how Parent Council can support parents at Low Port. We know evening meetings can be hard with young children, let us hear your ideas for PC for next year.

**Please come along for a cuppa and chat. GP Room 11am onwards Friday 22nd March. Nothing formal - drop in if you can.**

Looking forward to seeing you then!!

Judith and Alice

#### **FLPPS Update**

We're pleased to announce we've raised enough funds for three interactive panels! Huge thanks to everyone for their fundraising efforts. We now have five left to buy. For the rest of the school session we have the following fundraising events;

- Rotakids fayre - we decided that rather than hold a separate Spring Fayre we'd support the Rotakids with theirs, please come along on the 29th!
- Jaunt in yer Jammies - by now you should have received the sponsorship form for the walk around the loch on the 4th April, please share this with family and friends so they can contribute if they're able.
- Summer disco - 31st May
- Gala Day parade - 22nd June, preparations are already underway for another fantastic parade!

As always, we'd love to hear from folk who'd like to get involved, our next meeting is in the school on the 1st May.

### **Learning Updates**

*The Rotakids VLG Fair will take place on Friday 29th March from 9.30-12pm. P1-P4 will visit the Fayre 9.30-10.30am and P5-P7 will visit 11am-12pm. Siblings can visit the Fayre together if a parent/carer is attending.*

*We are very excited about this event and we will use the money raised to help the school pay for some more Interactive Panels which would hugely enhance our learning experience!*

*In order to make this event the success that we anticipate, we are looking for your support in the following areas:*

*We will need helpers on the day to man stalls so if you can spare some time to help us, please let us know.*

*We would also appreciate any donations for the Tombola. We would welcome adults and kids prizes for these. If you have any donations, please hand them in to the office by Friday 22nd March.*

*Also, we would ask if you could please donate some home-baking for our home-baking stall.*

*With regards to this, please note we cannot accept any baking that contains nuts and any*

*gluten/dairy free donations should be clearly marked. Any donations of home baking should be brought along either to the office on Thursday 28th March, or to the Hall first thing on the 29th March.*

*As well as Tombola and Home Baking, there will be a variety of other stalls, including 'Guess the Teddy's Birthday', 'Lucky Dip', 'Hook the Duck' and 'Tin-Can Alley'. Prices will be between 20p-£1.*

*The last thing we ask for is that you to turn up on the day, with family and friends, spend some money, and have some fun.*

*Thanks from the RotaKids VLG and FLPPS*

### Egg Decorating

On Thursday 4 April, we will have our annual egg decorating competition! All classes will have the chance to decorate a hard boiled egg should they wish with judging in the afternoon. Prizes to be won for each class! Basic art and craft supplies will be provided in the class. If children need specific art materials, please bring these in on the day with a hard boiled egg. This is always a popular event in the school calendar! Look out for photos on Twitter/our website on the day!

### P7 Engineer Visits

*In the past 2 weeks we've had 4 engineer visits - Stephen Neill, John Tenhave, Dan Brodie and John Buckley. Their specialisms have ranged from physics to flight to software - they were all very interesting and have inspired some of us to think more about engineering. They were very inspiring, shared good information with us and hooked us all in to what they were talking about.*

*We'd like to thank all the engineers who have given up their time to come in and talk to us - and the good news is we still have one more engineer visit to go!*

*by Lewis and Ryan Su*

### Live Music At Low Port!

On Friday 22 March, we will be extremely lucky to be hosting a live music event with Genovia Quartet, an all-female Scottish/Spanish ensemble playing the bassoon, performing at the school. As part of this, some of our children will join an audience of other musicians to hear them perform. This is part of Live Music Now and fully funded. We look forward to welcoming them to our school.

Further information can be found at –

<https://www.facebook.com/genoviaquartet/?fref=ts>

### Wider Achievements

#### Linlithgow Grange Rotary Club Quiz

We were delighted to host the annual cluster Rotary Club Quiz last month. Callum, Alice, Matthew and Sam, all in P7, competed very well and represented Low Port admirably. Ten schools were involved with it being a close competition. Torphichen Primary were the overall winners this year. Well done all of you - we are very proud!

### Community Partners

#### Declutter your home whilst helping others to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – With Transition

##### Linlithgow

Transition Linlithgow is taking part in Zero Waste Scotland 'Pass It On Week' and 'The Big Declutter'. We are asking the local community to dig deep into their wardrobes, cupboards, sheds and garages to find items they no longer need. All donations will be passed onto local charitable organisations or used in Transition Linlithgow's own environmental projects, such as the Transition Linlithgow Tool Library.

Donated items can be dropped off at The Old Library @ The Vennel on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th March, or at our donation bins found around the town in the Partnership Centre, Beecraigs Country Park, Springfield Primary School and more. Check the Pass It On Map on our website to find your closest bin and a list of accepted items, or give us a call on 01506 844182.

Alongside 'The Big Declutter', come and take part in our series of events and activities including a Local Food Taster run by our Linlithgow NeighbourFood project, our first Repair Café and Womanswear Swapshop.

Visit our Facebook page and website for details on how to get involved including event times.

[www.facebook.com/TransitionLin/](http://www.facebook.com/TransitionLin/)

[www.transitionlinlithgow.org.uk/pass-it-on](http://www.transitionlinlithgow.org.uk/pass-it-on)

### **General Information**

#### **Severe Weather**

In the event of a severe weather closure, Snow Work for pupils can be found in the pupil pages of the school website. All communication regarding schools affected by severe weather is sent out via groupcall to families and West Lothian Council post updates on their Facebook page. Please make sure that your contacts are up to date with the office team.

#### **Rag Bag Collection**

There will be a rag bag collection where filled bags of clothing items can be delivered to school for collection. Rag bags with a flier explaining what can be accepted will be issued shortly. The collection is Monday 25 March during the school day. Items need to be handed in on the morning of the collection as we are unable to store things over a period of time due to fire safety.

#### **Milk Orders for Term 4**

Orders for milk will only be taken until 29th March. Please note this deadline – we are unable to take any orders for milk at the start of the new term.

#### **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**

Thank you for supporting us in allowing the grassy areas to regrow over winter and spring months.

### **Diary Dates**

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

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|----------------------|--|
| • Wednesday 13 March | P6 camp leave – returning on Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> .<br>P7 camp talk from Dounans staff  |
| • Thursday 14 March  | P5-7 visit re local area statues consultation  |
| • Tuesday 19 March   | Dress rehearsal for school classes and invited nursery pupils  |
| • Wednesday 20 March | School show P2 and P3 6.30pm<br>P4 Fencing   |
| • Thursday 21 March  | School show P2 and P3 6.30pm   |
| • Friday 22 March    | P1 <u>all pupils</u> assembly 9am. Parents invited.<br>VLG 7<br>Genovia Quarter performance for 2 VLG groups in hall<br>Parent Council meeting 11am in GP room |
| • Friday 29 March    | Rotakids Fayre   |

- Tuesday 2 April  
Parents' Evening  
P1YG pond dipping  
P1C Care home visit
- Wednesday 3 April  
Easter Service 11am St Michael's Church. All welcome  
Parents' Evening
- Thursday 4 April  
Sponsored walk – all welcome  
Easter Egg decorating competition pm
- Friday 5 April  
END OF TERM 12.25pm
- Tuesday 23 April  
ALL RETURN