

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

## **Newsletter November/December 2019**

### **Exciting News!**

**We have now received our Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award banner and certificate, which is displayed in the foyer.**

**We have also heard last week that Low Port Primary School has won the Enterprising School Award 2019! We are extremely proud of this, as it recognises all the hard work we have done around Developing Young Workforce and Careers Education, as well as our partnership work. A special thanks to FLPPS for supporting Enterprise Night, and to the Rotary Club for supporting Rotakids. There are many other partners who have contributed to our success and to enhancing the learning experiences of our children and we thank you all. Staff and some children will be attending an award ceremony on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November.**

### **Staffing Update**

We have a student supporting learning working on Mondays and Fridays in P1 and P2. Mrs Marwan will be shadowing support staff and working with small groups of pupils, as well as assisting in the playground. Lucy Kilpatrick will also be returning as a student in her 4<sup>th</sup> year and be working with specific classes later this term and in to January.

### **School Improvement Update**

Our In Service days have been very productive with joint cluster work on positive relationships supported by Pivotal Training. As a result of this training, and with the gathering of views from pupils and staff, we are reviewing our Positive Relationship Policy and moving away from Golden Time. All children have the right to play (Article 31 of the Rights of the Child) and classes will now all have Fun31 time with protected time for play, not linked to behaviour sanctions. A full consultation of the revised policy will come later this term.

As part of our improvement plan, we were successfully awarded a grant from Education Scotland to develop Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). This grant is going to be used to develop staff training in both STEM and Mindset Maths.

STEM development work has begun with staff training within the Regional Improvement Collaborative partners. Mrs Johnston is taking the lead on this. She will have some development time to plan for STEM across the school and team teach later in the school session. We are also going to be working in partnership with Heriot Watt University with STEM in January, and with cluster schools and Academy staff at P6 with a K'nex Challenge and with P7 with a Formula 1 challenge.

Mindset Maths training has also launched. Mrs Livingston, Mrs Crawford and Miss Tully are working on this together. After Christmas, both class teachers will be taking forward a

professional enquiry project within their own practice linked to the learning. Later in the session, this will be shared with all staff.

Mrs McCartney and Miss Smith are both leading on the Tapestry programme. This is an 18 month programme with a specific focus on high quality learning and teaching. All staff have participated in the launch session with session two taking place before Christmas.

This term, we are working with all the cluster schools on moderating writing together so that there is a shared understanding of a child's progress across the cluster.

Copies of the School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report are on our website, have been sent out via groupcall and are in our foyer.

## Health and Safety

### Car Park Safety

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.

## Sharing Our Learning

### Enterprise Evening

On the evening of Thursday 5 December we would like to invite all families and friends of Low Port to our enterprise evening. Every class will have been working on an enterprise project using a £25 donation from FLPPS and will share (or sell!) to you on the evening. There may be Christmas gifts for you to buy as well as teas and coffees. Teachers will be looking for pupils to run the stalls – look out for further information nearer the time about how each class has decided to make their money grow! We look forward to seeing you there!

### Working with Community Partners Burgh Beautiful

Our Primary 7 classes are involved in a very exciting community project in conjunction with Burgh Beautiful along with other cluster schools to create mosaic displays for the town. These displays will showcase some of the wonderful features of Linlithgow and will be on display for years to come.

Our focus is 'Plants for Diversity' and the dovecot at Learmonth Gardens and we've already been along there to tidy up, plant some wildflowers and scatter seeds. As a year group we have been sharing ideas on how we'd like our mosaic to look and along with Millie Wolfe (an ex pupil) we have a design ready to go. We would like to appeal to the school community to send in any tiles or broken china or anything else that could be used as part of our mosaic - the more colourful the better! Please send in to school as soon as possible - your support is very much appreciated!

### Building Resilience Programme

We are entering Year 2 of this programme and communication has been sent out this week about the theme for this term – Take A Moment. This unit compliments our Mindfulness work that we do as part of Health and Wellbeing. Units this year will include:-

- Take A Moment
- Talk Things Over
- Get Active

- Make A Difference

#### Family Learning - P1 literacy and workshop

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 for leading this. We are looking to arrange a stay and play session next term to see the learning in action. Dates will be confirmed in due course.

#### Sharing the Big Picture

Class Sharing the Big Picture documents will be sent out on Monday via email. These set out learning for the term ahead. We then share learning via Twitter and the website feed so you can see this in action.

#### WOW Jotters

At key times in the year, all pupils will complete their learning activities in their WOW jotters – their Week Of Work. 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.

#### Vertical Learning Groups

Vertical Learning Groups began on Friday 25 October. All pupils have been allocated to one of their choices where possible. We look forward to these groups starting for the session.

Groups include:-

- Art
- Construction
- Rotakids
- Eco
- An inclusive world (citizenship)
- 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!

The Eco group is very well organised with the following update already!

*The ECO VLG have launched a whole school competition to create a new whole school ECO code. This will act as a set of rules and actions to allow everyone at Low Port to be more ECO friendly. Look out for the winning entry in a few weeks time.” - ECO VLG*

#### Parent Body News

##### Parent Council

Parent council dates have been agreed for the year and are as follows:-

- Wednesday 22 January
- Wednesday 4 March
- Wednesday 20 May

All are welcome in the staffroom (numbers permitting) from 7-9pm.

### FLPPS update

The next FLPPS meeting is on 6th November at 7pm in the school. All welcome. Disco tickets and tea towels are now on sale at [www.pta-events.co.uk/lowport](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/lowport) .

### Wider Achievements

#### Cross Country

We were very pleased to have two children from our school going to the P7 Cross Country finals at Dechmont Hill. Hamish did very well with second place and Finlay came close behind with 6<sup>th</sup>! Fantastic results boys!

#### Ski Group

A poster has been shared with all families about a ski fundraiser coffee morning.

#### After School Clubs

Football has started on Tuesdays after school for P7s. Basketball has started on Mondays for P6 and P7. A small charge is required to cover costs for these clubs.

Choir continues on Monday lunch times for P4-7 as well as Scripture Union on Thursday lunchtimes.

Strings for the cluster is held here on Tuesdays by invitation.

Our sports captains have started Fit Friday every Friday morning 8.35-8.50am. It would be wonderful to see some parents join in!

### Diary Dates

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

- Friday 1 November P7 assembly parents welcome
- Tuesday 5 November P5 rugby
- Wednesday 6 November FLPPS meeting in the staff room all welcome
- Sunday 10 November Remembrance Service at St Michael's Church 10.50am
- Tuesday 12 November P1 and P7 dental checks  
P1 prospective meeting for new intake 2019  
P5 rugby
- Thursday 14 November P7 Athletics Cluster Event  
Author visit
- Friday 15 November VLG 2  
P5 assembly, parents welcome  
FLPPS disco
- Tuesday 19 November Flu immunisation day  
P5 rugby
- Tuesday 26 November P3 cluster benchball event
- Friday 29 November Enterprise Awards
- Monday 2 December P5 Church visit – Christmas Unwrapped RME learning
- Wednesday 4 December P7 STEM event
- Thursday 5 December Christmas lunch – wear a Christmas jumper if you wish!  
Enterprise Evening 6.30-7.30pm

- Friday 6 December Rag Bag Day.  
 VLG 3  
 P5 and 6 show dress rehearsal – school only
- Monday 9 December Nativity rehearsal – school only
- Tuesday 10 December P5 and P6 school show
- Wednesday 12 December Nativity St Michael’s Church 1.45pm All Welcome  
 P5 and P6 school show
- Monday 16 December P7 Party PM
- Tuesday 17 December P5 and P6 Party PM
- Wednesday 18 December P3 and P4 Party PM
- Thursday 19 December Parent Helper Mince Pies and Coffee Morning 10.30-11  
 P1 and P2 Party PM
- Friday 20 December Informal talent show – school only  
 ALL BREAK FOR HOLIDAYS