



West Lothian  
Council



## Welcome Back

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to welcome everyone back to the new school session. We hope you had a great summer and are ready for another exciting year at Whitdale Primary School as we continue our learning journey. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new parents/carers and look forward to working with you all during your child's time at Whitdale Primary.



Come along to our **Meet the Teacher** opportunity on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of August from 2.00pm-3.00pm. This is an opportunity for you to drop in and meet your child's class teacher, visit the classroom and catch a glimpse of the learning taking place. All pupils will be dismissed at 3.15 as normal on that day.

## Parent Council

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm** and will be the AGM. It will be followed by a **Fundraiser Meeting**. Everyone is welcome.



## Staffing Updates

We are delighted to welcome Miss B Black to join the staff team at Whitdale. She will be teaching in P6B until Miss Ashenurst returns from maternity leave in January 2019.

We are also pleased to confirm that Miss H Greenshields will remain with us at Whitdale. She will replace Mrs Foy in Primary 1G, who has secured a teaching position closer to home.

Another exciting new addition to our staff team is Miss Julie Allsopp. Julie will be taking up a new position of Family Link Worker and will be working with us to enhance and support parental engagement across the school this year. Julie is spending time getting to know pupils and parents/carers, so look out for her in the playground and at school events.

## Families Connect

We are delighted to be running a **Families Connect Programme** this year. This opportunity is open to parents/carers of pupils in Primary 2 and is an 8 week programme which supports and enhances learning.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting opportunity contact Mrs Bell or Mrs Spence for more information.



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iAchieve



Whitdale Primary is excited to launch our new wider achievements programme, iAchieve. iAchieve provides the opportunity for our pupils to develop new skills across a wide range of contexts and work towards bronze, silver and gold levels. The programme is based firmly on the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence and aims to support our pupils in developing skills for work and life, whilst formally tracking and monitoring these skills across their primary school career. iAchieve will enable us to recognise the achievements of our young people not only in school but from home and the wider community. We are looking forward to celebrating the successes of our wonderful pupils.



### Golden Time

Golden Time is used as a reward for pupils working hard and making good behaviour choices. It is also a time that we encourage social interaction with their peers. This term, pupils are encouraged to bring in their own choice of activity/game.

Can we please remind all pupils that devices such as ipads, tablets and other expensive technological items are not permitted. These devices can be easily broken and we are not insured to cover any damage. We also do not have the necessary permissions to allow pupils to connect to the internet on their own devices.

We really appreciate your support in this matter.

### Tree of Knowledge Parental Engagement

Our parent workshop from Tree of Knowledge takes place on Tuesday evening from 5pm until 7pm in our school hall. The workshop will be full of ideas on how to motivate and help your child learn. This workshop is only for parents and we cannot permit children to attend. Please make sure you hand in your tear-off slip before Tuesday so we have an idea of numbers attending.





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### Our Vision and Values

Thank you for helping us to re-evaluate our vision statement and values. We take great pleasure in sharing with you our agreed vision and values for Whitdale Primary School which remain largely the same.

#### Vision

***Our Vision at Whitdale Primary School & Early Years Centre is to create a safe and happy learning community with an ethos which **inspires, engages, challenges** and develops skills that last a lifetime. We believe that everyone has the capacity to achieve their full potential and to **flourish**.***

### Our Values

*Inspire Engage Challenge Flourish*

A group of learners are currently working on short statements to describe our values and images to represent them. We look forward to sharing these with you when they are completed.

We will continue to work on ensuring that our whole school community has a shared understanding of our vision and values and actively bring our values to life through our school ethos.

### Pupils Equity Funding 2018.19

As you will be aware the Scottish Government has assigned schools Pupil Equity funding to target closing the poverty related attainment gap again this year. Pupil Equity funding allocated to Whitdale will support:

Additional teaching and Support time

- To develop literacy skills especially writing.
- To support nurture and social and emotional development.
- To embed Maths Recovery and SEAL numeracy programmes

We will continue to share developments throughout the year.