



West Lothian
Council

Welcome Back

Autumn is now well underway and we are excited about the busy term that lies ahead of us with lots of opportunities for achievement. The children have already been engaged in lots of learning and this is clearly evidenced around our school. Thank you to everyone who recently attended our Parental Consultation evenings and participated in a variety of activities to support the development of our curriculum and curriculum rationale. We will use these ideas and suggestions as we further develop this across the term with our staff and learners.

Mrs Lynn Findlay, Head Teacher (Acting)

Validated Self Evaluation

At the end of last term our school and Early Years and Childcare setting underwent a Validated Self Evaluation (V.S.E.) VSE is a process which aims to build the capacity of schools to evaluate their own performance and improve the quality of outcomes for learners and families. VSE involves collaboration between the school and Education Officers to enhance the school's own self-evaluation processes for continuous improvement. We were delighted with the outcome and through this process a number of key strengths were identified. These include:

- The ways in which a positive, supportive and reflective ethos of teamwork has been created
- The positive relationships, based on professional respect and challenge which enhance collaborative approaches to meeting the needs of all learners. Staff know their children and their families well
- The positive attitudes to learning which are shown by almost all pupils as a result of the school's commitment to children's rights and the value of respectful relationships
- The ways in which agreed actions and areas for improvement are owned by staff and learners, leading to increasing consistency of expectations and attitudes
- Transitions from Nursery to P1, from class to class and from P7 to S1 are well planned with enhanced transitions in place for those who require additional support
- The creative, confident use of digital technologies to enhance learning particularly by those children at the upper stages who find it challenging to interpret and create texts without the strategies and supports which are available
- The quality of the learning experiences in the ELC setting both indoors and outdoors offer plentiful opportunities for children to develop their curiosity, inquiry and creativity and results in children who are highly engaged in their learning within a nurturing and motivating environment.

Validated Self Evaluation Contd.

We will continue to:

- Embed agreed approaches to learning, teaching and assessment in all classes to ensure appropriate place and challenge for all learners
- Continue with our planned further developments of the curriculum to ensure that curriculum continues to be informed by latest and best educational thinking
- Continue to develop our skills at data analysis so that all staff can participate fully in measuring the impact of targeted interventions which have been designed to raise attainment
- In the ELC setting embed the assessment cycle in the planning process and further the use of tracking information to inform next steps in children's learning, which will enhance progress and outcomes for children

Winter Ready!

As winter approaches and the weather becomes more unsettled, it is important to ensure that you have provided us with the most up-to-date contact information. In the event of significant or lying snow, one main path will be cleared to allow pupils to access the school safely. This will be via the main school entrance and our hardworking janitors will work hard to maintain this path throughout the day as far as is possible. We encourage all children and adults to adhere to this path at all times.

A New Volunteer

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Baker to Whitdale Primary as a volunteer and she joins our team of amazing volunteers that regularly help and support the school and our pupils in a variety of valuable ways. Mrs Baker has been trained in the development of reading and will be working across the school. She is looking forward to sharing a love of books and further developing the value of reading. We are always looking for parents and carers who can share their valuable talents and skills to get involved. You may have green fingers and enjoy gardening or have an artistic flair! If you have a little spare time and think you would be able to offer some assistance to the school, please contact us. All helpers are required to undergo a formal check to ensure their suitability to work with children.

Net Aware

I would like to share the fantastic NSPCC New-Aware website <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> with you. This website provides detailed advice and reviews on the different social media apps that young people use today. It covers over 50 different apps including popular apps like Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat to lesser-known apps such as MovieStarPlanet, kik, Roblox and Musical.ly. It reviews the level of risk associated with each app and also includes the views of different young people about the app and how safe they feel using it.



Parent Council

The Parent Council and Fundraising Group meet regularly throughout the school year and provide a very effective link between the school and the wider parent forum. The Parent Council and Fundraisers are always keen to welcome new members. Date of next Parent Council Meeting Wednesday 28th November at 6.00pm.

Upcoming events

Halloween Party on Sunday 4th November at the Hilcroft Hotel, Whitburn, P1-3 – 1.00 - 2.30pm and P4-7 -3.00 - 4.30pm. Tickets can be purchased by completing and returning a permission slip to class teachers. Final day for ticket purchases is Friday 26th October. All tickets will be issued to children during week beginning 29th October. Tickets must be brought to the event to secure admission. Psychic Medium Night on 16th November at the Hilcroft Hotel, Whitburn. Tickets are £10 and can be purchased from any Fundraising Committee member.

Dates for your Diary

Fri 26 th Oct	Dress Down Day £1 donation to school fund
Fri 2 nd Nov	Primary 4 Assembly 9.15am (max 2 no. adults permitted per child)
Fri 30 th Nov	Primary 6 Assembly 9.15am (max 2 no. adults permitted per child)
Tue 11 th Dec	P1 & Nursery Nativity 2.15pm
Thu 12 th Dec	School Christmas Lunch
Tue 18 th Dec	Sing-a-long 2.15pm
Fri 21 st Dec	Church Service at Brucefield Church 9.30am – All welcome!

Look out for our Christmas Countdown schedule coming home in a schoolbag soon!

Dress Down for Get Ajay Fixed

We are delighted to share that we raised a total of £260 from our last Dress Down Day. This money will go towards the Get Ajay Fixed campaign. We are looking forward to hearing updates about how his treatment is progressing and wish both him and the family well.

Our next dress down day is tomorrow Friday 26th October. A donation of £1 is requested for school fund.

Poppy Appeal

Beginning next week our Primary 6 pupils will be selling poppies. I am sure you are aware that this year marks the centenary of Armistice Day