



West Lothian
Council



Count Down to Christmas

The next few weeks at school are incredibly busy but incredibly exciting for everyone. We have lots of festive fun planned but lots of learning planned too!



Staffing Updates

We are delighted to share that Miss Ashenhurst will return from Maternity leave after the Christmas holidays on January 6th. This unfortunately means that we will be saying a fond farewell to Miss Black who has enjoyed her time in Primary 6. We wish her well for the future.

Junior Road Safety Officers



Our Junior Road Safety Officers from P6 are now trained and excited to start the important work of keeping our pupils safe when in the community and when walking to and from school. One of their first challenges is to encourage our school community to drive and park safely in and around the school grounds. They are very determined and have lots of ideas about how they can achieve this.

Please support them in their important mission!



Parent Council



Our next Parent Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 29th January** at 6.30pm in Whitdale Primary School. Please come along and join in with the chat about our school.

The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know.
The MORE that you
learn,
the MORE places you'll go.





Primary 4 have currently been engaging with a local group called Beechbrae. Based in Blackridge they provide ecological outdoor activities for children and adults. Both classes visited the site at Beechbrae where they had the opportunity to see local produce being grown and then used this to cook a Scottish themed pasta dish. Not only did the children learn about seasonality of food but they also were given the opportunity to discuss food mile issues and the impact of these on our environment - hence the creation of a Scottish dish with limited travel of the ingredients.

In the next few weeks Primary 4 will also benefit from food technology lessons, again delivered by Beechbrae. This will help them to develop a wide range of cookery skills whilst creating recipes that focus on left over ingredients thus reducing food waste. They will work in conjunction with the Eco Committee to produce an Eco Cookery book which will be sold to friends and family to inspire local, seasonal and waste-reducing cooking. By the end of the project the children will have a strong understanding of sustainability and will be able to describe food miles and seasonality. They will also be able demonstrate a range of cookery, food hygiene and safety skills.



Water fountains

Drinking water is a great way to keep your brain healthy. We have just had our water fountains upgraded and these are perfect for re- filling water bottles but not quite so good for drinking from. We encourage all children to bring a water bottle to school to ensure that they can access fresh water throughout the day.



Dates for your diary

30 th Nov	9.15 P6 Assembly (Maximum 2 parents permitted per child)
30 th Nov	Primary 1 Stay, Play & Learn 11.15am
30 th Nov	Primary 3 Read, Write & Count 11.45am
30 th Nov	Lost Property Sale 9.00 – 12.00
30 th Nov	Dress Down Day
Thu 6 th Dec	Primary 5 trip to Queensferry Crossing

Further information on Christmas events can be found on our website.





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Families Connect

For the past two months we have been holding weekly Families Connect workshops for the children, parents, carers and grandparents of our Primary 2 children. Each week there have been fantastic opportunities to get together and discuss common parenting issues and look in-depth at how parents, grandparents and carers can develop learning at home. Free resources to help to make these learning opportunities meaningful and motivational were also provided. The feedback from the group has been very positive in particular the opportunities to share ideas. Also highlighted was the valuable time that the project offered for parents/ grandparents to work alongside the children during the sessions. Look out for information about further opportunities like this....coming soon!

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.

