



Learning, growing, caring, sharing

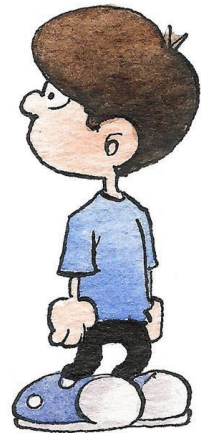
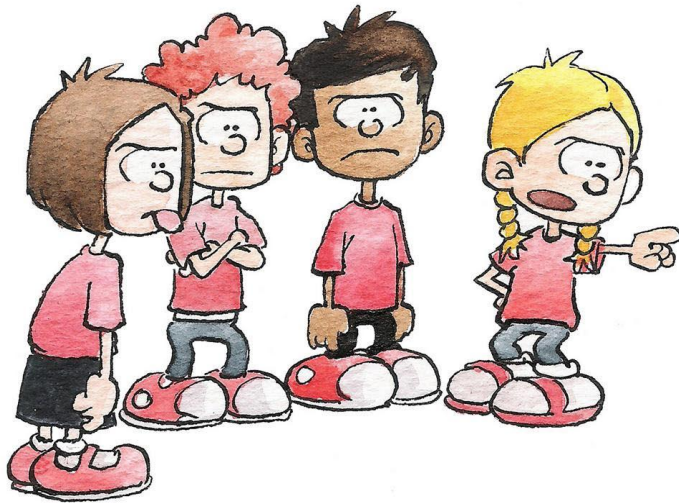


illustration : alex leonard

You shouldn't be treated badly because you seem different

U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 2



Scotland's Commissioner
for Children & Young People

Community Newsletter

November 2015

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Introduction



Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers and Community Friends,

Welcome to our November newsletter. We have plenty of events to look forward to as Christmas approaches - please see the diary dates section to keep up to date with everything that's going on! As always, we look forward to seeing you at our end of term celebrations, which are now not too far away!

Health and safety



UNCRC Article 19: Children should be safe from harm.

UNCRC Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health.

JRSO

We have just completed another successful Walk to School campaign and were happy to see lots of children on our Walk to School charts!! Before this the annual Hands up Survey was completed by all classes. These are sent off to the local council so they can collate figures on school travel plans and we thank everyone for getting involved!

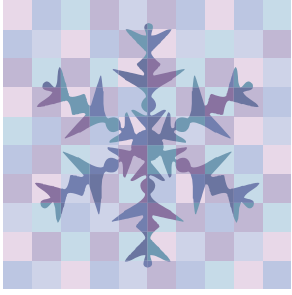
As you may be aware we are having a lot of ongoing issues at the beginning and end of the school day regarding parking and volume of traffic. The police are aware and you will probably have noticed a heightened police/traffic warden presence, while we try to resolve some of these issues. We would like to remind all road users accessing the school, that the main gate area is not a sensible place to park as it blocks safe access for our pupils to the school. Additionally this area is clearly marked with zig zags and double yellow lines. Parking there is both unsafe and in breach of traffic laws.

Tom Curtis the traffic warden has informed us that one driver has already been issued with a parking charge and also a breach of the peace police charge. Further parking tickets **will** be issued on the spot to anyone parked illegally.

We thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone accessing our school safe.

School Gate Closures

Following on from the above article, can we please remind everyone that the school gates are closed in the morning between the hours of 8:30-9:15 Mon-Fri and in the afternoon from 2:30-3:45 Mon-Thurs, 11:30-12:45 Friday. These times coincide with both St Luke's and Mayfield's school opening and closing times. The reason for the closures is to prevent vehicles moving within the school grounds and to promote safety for the children en route to and from school. There is signage at the gate entrance informing of the closure time, however we still have many people asking to be let out of the gates after these have been closed. We have been informed by our janitorial staff that they have been instructed **not** to open these gates during stipulated times for any reason. Can I please ask for your help in informing the wider community.



Snow procedures - planning ahead!

In the event of snow and icy weather now that winter is here, please note that it is impossible to clear the whole playground. Pupils should enter school using the main entrance only in deep snow. A path from the roadside to the main entrance will be maintained by the Janitor. Other paths will be gritted as much as possible.

In the event of severe weather, please check the school and Midlothian websites and local radio stations for information on potential school closures, however we will endeavour to keep school open as much as possible.

Thank you

Mr Martin, our janitor, spent the October break painting white lines on the steps approaching the main entrance to ensure the steps are more visible. In addition, the external doors for the outside toilets, and the gym cupboard were also painted and the hall floor given a coat of polish. Thank you for helping keep our school looking the best it can be.

School news



UNCRC Article 28: Children should be able to go to school.

P7 consultation on technologies

On Tuesday 20th October Alana and Logan from Primary 7 were asked to take part in Midlothian Council's Learning and Technology seminar. The purpose of the seminar was to take part in discussions with pupils from other schools and Midlothian Council representatives to help create a vision and strategy for developing technology in our schools.

"I was nervous to begin with but really enjoyed it. It was good meeting pupils from other primary schools and high schools. I like talking about technology." - Logan P7

"It was really scary at first as there were lots of people there! I was asked for my opinion lots of times and the people in my group helped to put me at ease." - Alana P7

SSPCA visits

We invited the SSPCA to come into school to talk about animal welfare. She visited all of the classes over 2 days and gave us lots of information and interesting facts. She also asked to pass on her thanks to all children and staff for their interest, cooperation and welcome throughout her visit.

Queens' baton

On Thursday 22nd October - the Active Schools Team brought in the Queen's Baton used in the run up to the Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow. P1a, P2a & P5 were lucky enough to be able to see this close up and ask any questions. The baton will now be returned ready to be used in the next Commonwealth Games event.

Sponsored event

Thank you to everyone who took part in, or sponsored children in the schools sponsored walk event. We are happy to announce that we have so far raised over £1550.00. If you still have sponsor money please hand this in to school as soon as possible. Thank you once again!

Rag Bag

A big thank you to everyone who has already helped to contribute to the cheque received of £60.80 during our last campaign. Please continue to support us by using the recycle bin located at the school entrance throughout the year. Thank you!

Recycling News

Please help us to get our biscuit wrapper brigade off the ground. If we can send in a consignment this month we will receive 4p per wrapper. We have the biscuit and Tassimo collection boxes at the school entrance. Pens are also still being collected, Many thanks, Mrs. Chisholm

School Growth Plan (SGP)



Play

UNCRC Article 31: Every child has the right to play.

Visible learning

UNCRC Article 28: Children should be able to go to school.

P7 have been learning about Visible Learning. We learned that there is a lot of power in the words that we use when we are finding our work a bit tricky. We thought about what we could say instead. We decided that if we change our words then we will change our mindset!

Here are some examples;

Fixed mindset	Growth mindset
"I can't do this!"	"If I practise then I'll get better!"
"This is too hard!"	"Miss Burt would never give me something that I couldn't do. I could ask for help."
"I made a mistake."	"It's ok. Mistakes are proof that I'm trying. I could fix it!"

French

UNCRC Article 30: Every child has the right to learn and use the language of their family.

Josh P3 - I am enjoying learning colours in French.

Tayler P3 - French is brilliant! I like learning numbers.

Parent/Carer



UNCR Article 18: Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child.

Parent/carers consultations and Book Fair

It was super to see so many parents/carers visit their child's class teacher as well as supporting the Book Fair. The Book Fair was a great success and we managed to collect a grand total of £300.00+ in books for the school. Thank you very much for your support and looking to our next one in March.

Families and Schools Working Together: FAST

P1 and P2 parents/carers may recall that we intended to set up a project called FAST in conjunction with Save the Children, where family members could come along to session in school for family learning activities and fun. We planned to start these sessions this term, but will now run them after the Christmas break.

Courses for Parent/Carers

In Mayfield Primary School we have successfully run a course called:-

"How to Talk So Children Will Listen", based on the bestselling book of the same title. It has been highly evaluated by those who have attended this 6 week course.

We invite interested parent/carers to attend an information session on **Tuesday 24th November from 9.00am.**

Parents who have completed the course will attend this information session and will be able to answer any questions and discuss what impact the course has had on them.

Tea, coffee and cake will be available and we look forward to seeing you there.

My Childs' Art

Pupils have individually designed their own Christmas pictures. These can now be viewed online and personalised Christmas gifts/cards purchased at www.mychildsart.co.uk

Login details are: Username - MayfieldPS

Password - MAYFIELDPS2015

School Lunch and Break times

As you may know we had been trialling new times for the school day, mainly due to the increase in pupil numbers both in St Luke's and Mayfield Primary school using our shared dinner hall. This meant that children were going earlier for their lunch and break times. This has now been evaluated and we feel that this has not been the best solution. We have therefore gone back to previous times with a few adjustments. The new times are now as follows:-

Break time	10:30-10:45
Lunch time	
P1-P2	12:00-12:45
P3-P4	12:10-12:55
P5-P7	12:15-13:00

Community events



UNCR Article 15: Every child has the right to meet with other children and young people and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

School grounds progress

Our school playground has seen some changes being made, we now have a Trim Tail in the Infant playground. We think the trim tail is lots of fun and we are looking forward to the rest of the playground being finished. by Harris and Skye P2B.

Please note that these changes are being made for the good of the whole community and as such can be used out with school hours. We would just like to remind parents/carers that this will be at their own risk.

P5-7 visit to the Science festival at Mayfield Library

A group of Primary 5-7 pupils attended the recent Science Festival at Mayfield Library. The pupils enjoyed learning about super-computers, with the help of adults from Edinburgh University. The children also took on the role of a computer processor and were surprised at how hard they had to work! They also had to design dinosaurs which took part in a race on a large computer screen.

"It was fascinating" - Logan Pearce P7

P1a and P1b Book bugs

P1a & P1b will be presented with their Book Bug packs at Mayfield Library on Monday 23rd November, we intend to go back the following Monday to see how everyone is getting on with their books.

Head lice

Please be aware we have been advised that there are head lice in school. We would ask that you check your child's head regularly, especially at this time of year. The local pharmacist will be able to advise on any current treatments.

Diary



Date	Time	Activity	Place
November			
Tuesday 3rd	8:50 - 10:00	P1 Phonics Workshops	GP Room/classroom
Friday 6 th	9:30-10:00	P5 Class Assembly	Assembly Hall
Monday 9 th	9:00-10:30	Parent Council Meeting - Xmas Fayre	Conference Room
	12:45-13:45	P1a & P1b - Dogs Trust visit	Classrooms
Thursday 12 th	9:15-12:00	Basketball Festival P6/P7x 10	Danderhall LC
Friday 14 th	All Day	Children in Need - Dress Down	
Monday 16 th to Friday 20 th	9:30-10:30 & 13:30-14:30	Enrolment of New P1s for August 2016 session	
Monday 16 th	9:00-14:30	P3 Class Trip finish usual time 15:20	Botanic Gardens
Tuesday 17 th	All Day	Flu Vaccinations	
	9:00-11:00	Open Morning for new Enrolments	
Monday 23rd	9:00-10:00	Author Visit for P6a,P6b & P7	GP Room
	13:30-14:30	P1 Book Bug Launch	Mayfield Library
Thursday 26 th	9:00-10:30	Parent Council Meeting	Conference Room
Monday 30 th	13:30-14:30	P1 Book Bug - revisited	Mayfield Library
December			
Tuesday 8th		Packed Lunches Whole School	Classrooms
Wednesday 9th	9:30 & 13:15	Infant Nativity P1-P2	Assembly Hall
	9:00 - 13:30	P5 Class Trip	Forth Bridges
	9:00 - 15:00	P4 Challenge Walk	Vogrie Park
Thursday 10th		Xmas Lunch	Dining Hall
Tuesday 15 th	1:15 - 14:40	Infant Xmas Party P1 -P2	Assembly Hall
	9:00 - 15:00	P4 Challenge Walk	Vogrie Park
Wednesday 16 th	9:30 - 10:30	Pantomime P1-P7 - Robin Hood	Assembly Hall
	1:15 - 15:20	Upper Xmas Party P3 - P7	Assembly Hall

Weekly Events			
Friday 4/12/15-25/03/16	9:20 & 10:20	Swimming starts P3/4 4s only and P4	Loanhead LC
Wednesday 21/10/15 -16/03/15	15:20-17:00	P7 - Fast track No Fast track on Wed 16 th Dec 2015	NCHS