




Newtongrange Primary School
Aspire, Believe, Achieve

 @NewtongrangePS



Primary Pages Tuesday 6th November 2018

Staffing

We welcome back Mrs McNeill. P6a rescheduled parents appointments will be held on week beginning 19th November. Please complete and return the separate appointment letter which has already been sent home. We are pleased to inform you we have successfully appointed a PE Specialist Teacher, Joanne Thom. She will take up her post in the next few weeks. Mrs MacDonald has recently joined our staff team as an ASN LA.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to all who attended our Harvest Service at Newtongrange Church and kindly donated to Storehouse.

Parent Council

Following our recent Parent Council AGM, I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Karel Lee was elected Parent Council Chair. Mrs Tricia McNicol will continue as PTA Chair. Further elected members are detailed in the Parent Council minutes. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with the Parent Council.

The next Parent Council meeting is on Wednesday 21st November, 7:00pm at Newtongrange Primary School. Please note this is a change of venue.

Assemblies

This year, each year group is going to present a 'Showcase Assembly' to share some of their learning with you. The assemblies to parents and carers will take place on Fridays' at 11:45am, unless otherwise stated. Primary 2 have already presented an excellent 'Safety' assembly, Please see the dates below for each year group.

- 9.11.18 P7
- 16.11.18 P3
- 1.2.19 P5
- 1.3.19 P4
- 15.3.19 P6
- 7.6.19 P1

Newsletter/Online Safety News Opt-out

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

Printed newsletter/Online Safety News	Opt out	Yes/No	School App	Downloaded	Yes/No
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Parent/Carer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Attendance, absence and late procedures

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential and for them to have the best possible start in life. Midlothian Council have an expectation that all children of primary school age attendance should be at least 95%. Schools have the responsibility to work in partnership with families to ensure children attend school regularly.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school regularly. It is important that pupils are punctual and parents and carers must ensure that their child is at school by 8.45am each morning.

In cases of unsatisfactory attendance or persistent lateness the school follows guidance from Midlothian Council. When a child's attendance falls below 95% the school will seek cooperation with parents and carers to work in partnership to improve attendance.

Our school expectation is for all children to arrive on time and enter the school via their class line each morning. Children who are persistently late miss a significant amount learning. Where there have been persistent incidents of lateness, co-operation of the parents and carers will be sought by the school to work together to improve punctuality.

If your child is unable to attend school or is going to be late to school parents should telephone by 09:30 a.m. If no phone call is received we will endeavour to make contact with parents and carers by phone/text.

If there is anything that we can do as a school to support you with your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact us. Lee Grieve our Home School Practitioner is here to help support you in any way.

Anti Bullying Campaign – Choose Respect

We have reviewed our Anti-Bullying Policy which provides guidance to learners, staff, parents and carers of Newtongrange Primary School on preventing, responding to and reducing bullying behaviour in line with Midlothian's 'Approaches to Anti-Bullying for Children and Young People for Education Establishments (2014)' and national guidance. A copy of the policy is accessed through the School App or Website.

'Firehorse Theatre Company' came into school to perform 'Bully's Paradise' for P1-P7. The production provided learners with a unique insight into the problem through the medium of drama. The actors captivated the audience for over an hour leaving the learners and staff with lots of suggestions for group work, role play and most importantly strategies for dealing with bullying.

We are committed to ensuring that all our learners feel safe, cared for and respected by others. This year we are joining the Respectme campaign to help create more respectful cultures in our school community. Anti-Bullying Week will see the start of our journey. The concept of #ChooseRespect is broken down into four stages which we will focus on across the year:

Self-reflection

Celebrating Difference (coming in January)

Building empathy (coming in March)

Positive relationships (coming in May)

Learners will engage in activities that will help them explore each theme in more detail.

Remembrance Sunday

Newtongrange Remembrance Sunday ceremony takes place on Sunday 11th November at the War Memorial from 10:45am. Learners from P7 will lay a wreath on behalf of the school and the choir will perform in the church at 11:30am. All families are welcome to attend. Community Explorers have created remembrance stones which will be laid at the War Memorial for Sunday.

School Review

On Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th November, colleagues from Midlothian Education Team will be visit the school to review our progress following from their last visit in June.

Ministerial Visit

We look forwards to welcoming Ms Todd, Scottish Childcare Minister, to Newtongrange Nursery Class on Thursday 15th November to see our PEEPS group in action.

Winter ready

Please ensure that your child comes to school everyday with a coat and appropriate clothing and footwear as we do encourage children to get as much fresh air as possible.

Please note that the school day starts at 08.45am and there is no supervision before that time. In extreme weather conditions we open the doors at 08.40am and the children can come into the school building via the Dining Hall entrance.

PE Kits

PE is a very important and valued part of our curriculum, please ensure your child has their PE kit with them on the appropriate days. Your child's gym kit should include the following:

- Gym shoes/trainers
- T-shirt
- Shorts/Tracksuit bottoms

Diary Dates

05/11/18	Dunedin Music workshops for P6
09/11/18	P7 Showcase Assembly
14/11/18	NSPCC assembly and workshops
13/11/18	School Review
14/11/18	School Review
15/11/18	Ministerial Visit – PEEP Group
19/11/18	P1 Enrolment Week
19/11/18	Scottish Book Week
20/11/18	Zoo Ed 'Room on the broom' workshops for Nursery classes
22/11/18	P1-3 Read Write Count Event
26/11/18	Nursery Stay and Play (morning session 8:30-9:30am and afternoon session 12:25-13:25pm)
23/11/18	Wider Curriculum