
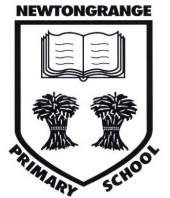




Newtongrange Primary School  
*Aspire, Believe, Achieve*

 @NewtongrangePS



## Primary Pages Wednesday 9th January 2019

### Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2019

Happy New Year to you all. We are straight back into a busy term with lots of learning and wider curriculum experiences for all the children. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with our families to improve our school.

Our thoughts continue to be with families and the Newtongrange Community following the tragic accident during the holidays.

### Attendance, absence and late procedures

Last term we were one of the 11 primary school's to meet Midlothian Council's expectation that children of all primary school age's attendance should be at least 96%. Our aim is for all learners to achieve at least 96% attendance across the school year.

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. 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 96% 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 of 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/guardians by text and phone call.

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 anyway.

### School Improvement Plan

Please find attached a summary report of our school improvement plan progress to date and what our next steps are for this term.

### Care Inspectorate Report

Our nursery inspection report has now been published and can be accessed from our school website or the Care Inspectorate website. During the inspection, aspects of good practice were identified along with next steps for further improvement. The inspector is confident that the nursery leadership team will address the next steps and continue with our improvement journey to provide high quality care and learning experiences for your children.

### Staffing Updates

We are delighted to have two new members join the staff team at Newtongrange Primary School. Jamie Monaghan will take up post as a Youth Worker and Lesley McLellan will take up post as a Learning Assistant.

### Parking

We continue to receive a number of complaints from families and local residents about parking around the school. We urge you all not to park or stop on any of the road markings outside the school, they are specifically placed to aid traffic flow and for the safety of your children. Also please do not park across our neighbours' drives, or on the curbs as pushchairs etc cannot get through. We begin working on our ParkSmart campaign this term and will communicate more information regarding this in due course.

### Burns' Celebration Assembly

We will be choosing the winners of our annual Burns' poetry and song competition on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January for P1-3 and for P4-7 on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Winning children from each class perform on Friday at a whole school assembly and a panel of judges will choose the best poet and singer. Children are encouraged to dress with some tartan on Burns' Day. This can be a tartan scarf, ribbon, tammy or a kilt.

### Uniform and Gym kit

We appreciate the support of our parents with the uniform code. The children look smart and are comfortable and ready for the day's activities. Children should wear a polo shirt or shirt and a blue school sweatshirt or cardigan. Dark trousers or skirts should be worn. Jeans or light coloured jogging bottoms must not be worn to school unless suggested for a particular activity or outing. Please make sure clothing, footwear and bags are clearly marked with your child's name. Children need a full gym kit in school at all times which includes shorts, t-shirt and gym shoes. We always welcome any good quality outgrown school uniform, if you have any items please hand them into the school office.

### Winter Bugs

Before Christmas a number of schools across Lothian had reported norovirus outbreaks. The key advice for parents and staff is that anyone with symptoms including vomiting and/or diarrhoea must stay off school for at least 48 hours after symptoms have ceased and everyone should wash their hands frequently using warm water and liquid soap, especially after using the toilet and before eating or preparing food. Further information about norovirus and its prevention can be found at: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/norovirus>

**Medical Consent Forms**

The school requires a medical consent form to be completed for all medicine to be administered at school. This includes inhalers, hayfever tablets, travel sickness tablets, paracetamol, Calpol and creams etc. We can only administer medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor or pharmacist and if the first dose has been administered by a parent or guardian. If your child requires medicine please bring it to the School Office to complete a medical form, it only takes a few minutes. This ensures the safety of your child and keeps staff well informed.

**Upcoming dates**

- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January      P1 Play and Stay session 9:00 – 9:45am
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January      Wider Curriculum
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January      P3 Trip - The Kelpies
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January      Parent Council Meeting 7:00pm at NPS
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January      Nursery Stay and Play sessions  
Morning class 8:30am – 9:30am  
Afternoon nursery class 12:25pm – 1:25pm.
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January      P1-P3 Burn's Competition
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January      P4-P7 Burn's Competition
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January      Burn's Assembly
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January      P7 Trip - Scottish Parliament visit
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February      P5 Showcase Assembly
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February      Wider Curriculum
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February      School Closes for Mid Term
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February      Schools Reopens for all learners and staff

**Newsletter/Online Safety News Opt-out**

Please do not complete if previously handed into school office

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: \_\_\_\_\_