



# Newsletter

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@NewtongrangePS



School app

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Welcome to the November edition of our school newsletter. As the prevalence of the virus increases, we thank our learners, staff and parents and carers for continuing to support on procedures in place to ensure the safety for our school community. Thank you for supporting our physical distancing measures when dropping off and picking up your children and the wearing of face coverings during these times also. We would also like to reiterate that children should be kept off school if they display any symptoms of the virus or someone within the household is being tested for Covid-19.



## Upcoming Dates

- 10.11.20 Parents Evening
- 11.11.20 Parents Evening
- 13.11.20 Children in Need led by P6
- 20.11.20 Anti Bullying Week led by P7
- 27.11.20 Wider Curriculum
- 4.12.20 Talk things over sharing assembly
- 11.12.20 Assembly
- 17.12.20 Virtual Panto
- 18.12.20 Wider Curriculum
- 22.12.20 Christmas Service
- 22.12.20 End of term

## Staffing

As shared in a previous newsletter, Mrs Crossan has successfully been appointed as Headteacher of Humbie and Saltoun Primary Schools, East Lothian. Mrs Crossan will take up her post on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, making Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November her last day with us. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best with her new adventure! Mrs Istephan will take up the role of acting DHT from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November and will have responsibility for P1/2, P2, P2/3, P3, P3/4 and P4 classes. Following interviews last week, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Mitchell has been successful in being appointed acting Support for Learning PT at NPS, she will also take up this role on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

## Children in Need

Children in Need is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November. This year there are two themes, the first is 'Spots and Stripes' and the second is 'Together We Can Boost Children's Mental Health'. The children can dress down on Friday wearing spots or stripes and have the option of donating a pound to the charity. Thank you to P6a and P6b who are organising this event and will lead the school assemblies on Friday.

## Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 6:30pm, virtually. Details will be shared nearer the time.

## School Uniform Exchange

We have been very lucky to receive lots of 'nearly new' uniform for our uniform exchange. So, if you are looking for any type of school uniform, please pop along and take what you need. Even if you don't have anything to swap at the moment, you are welcome to help yourself to some uniform. We would much rather that people were able to use the uniform than it sitting gathering dust in a box.

## Decision Making Groups

At Newtongrange Primary School we believe that children develop and gain confidence from being given responsibilities within the school. Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that children and young people should have a say in decisions that affect their lives. Decision Making Groups provide a meaningful way in which learners can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions which impact upon them.

Learners take part in the everyday and more strategic decisions that steer and provide school-wide direction. This year, we have structured our DMG differently, reflecting on the current climate we are in, and to ensure we continue to follow our Covid-19 risk assessment. As learners are still not able to meet across classes and stages, we have decided 2 classes will take on the responsibility of the work of a decision making group this session. Our DMG for 2020-2021 are:

DMG Group	Classes Responsible	
Learning Council	P6b	P5
RRS Ambassadors	P7a	P1a
Sports Reps	P6a	P2/3
Community Explorers	P4	P1/2
Health and Wellbeing Heroes	P3/4	P2
Digital Leaders	P4/5	P7b
Reading Reps	P1b	P3

The 7 decision making groups will create an action plan with 1 or 2 planned activities to contribute to school improvement. Each group will have a display board and through virtual assemblies share, promote and celebrate the work of their group.

## Christmas Events

The run up to Christmas is always a very busy time in school. We are currently planning how we can continue to enjoy celebrating Christmas in school whilst following the current guidance and safety procedures. We can confirm, P1 learners will still perform a nativity, although it will be a little different this year, as we go virtual! We will also have class parties, jolly jumper day, an end of term service and many more festive traditions, along with maybe introducing some new ones. Watch this space for more information!

## Christmas Help

We are aware that this time of year can be very challenging for families due to many financial pressures. Please be aware that the school is able help in a variety of ways throughout the year with uniform, shoes, gym kits etc.

We also have links with community projects such as, the Storehouse and Mission Christmas, which both offer a range of supports to include food and toys for Christmas. All help given will be treated with the highest levels of confidentiality and discretion.

Please contact Lee Grieve, our Home School Practitioner, or a member of SLT if you need support during the festive season. You can contact us by telephoning the school, by email: [Lee.Grieve@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.Grieve@midlothian.gov.uk) or popping into school.

