



Laurencekirk School Newsletter



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December 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Christmas Time

by Mr Boyd

The time of refreshing our minds about peace and goodwill to all, alongside the presents and for some the importance of religion is just around the corner.

The children are becoming more and more hyper and the chatter of "what are you going to get from Santa?" has started.

The classes are preparing for Christmas Parties and the children in Primary 1 are rehearsing for what is promised to be a Nativity for each parent to remember.

As we continue to work hard and use Christmas as a theme, the children will be invited to the Parent Council Christmas Fair, their class Christmas Party and Christmas Nativity. Crafts will be around creating presents and cards for loved ones.

Each and every member of staff would like to wish all children, parents and friends of Laurencekirk a very enjoyable Christmas and look forward to welcoming them to school in the New Year.

Dates for Christmas Festivities:

Christmas Fair: Saturday 28 November – 10.00- 1.00pm

Parties: Stage and not class parties.
P 6 and P7- Monday 21 December 2015
P4 and P5- Friday 18 December 2015
P1-3 – Tuesday 15 December 2015

Party clothes: Children can come to school with a change of clothes or be home lunch on this day.

Nativity: School children only- Thursday 17 December
Parents – Friday 18 December at 9.30 am.

Christmas Service: Tuesday, 22 December, 11.00am – At church (weather permitting)- All welcome. (No healthy tuck shop today).

School Lunch:
22 December 2015 - Ordered on day. Menu will follow

Last Day
Tuesday, 22 December

First Day:
Wednesday, 6 January.



Volunteering

Where we are with setting up for volunteers.

Page 2



Pudsey Fever

Children helping children

Page 3



Meet Miss Davie

Our new Principal Teacher

Page 3

Volunteers

by Mr Boyd

Thank you to those who could make our Induction Evening for volunteers in October. This proved to be a well-attended evening and we are currently going through the formal process of having adults register with Disclosure Scotland. Unfortunately this is outwith our control and we are unable to enlist helpers until the certificate is received directly from Disclosure Scotland.

These are slowly starting to come in and teachers will soon be presented with a list of adults who can be approached to help with classroom and school trip duties. Certain duties do not require Disclosure and we will continue to access our original list for willing volunteers.

It is our intention to run another course in February but as we are operating in a new procedure we will wait to see how this works. We apologise if this is causing any inconvenience to our dedicated volunteers and thank them for their patience.

If you wish to take part in volunteering but cannot give up time during the school day, please consider helping our Parent Council. This dedicated team not only represent the parent voice but also work hard to raise essential funds.

Pupil Council

by Mr Boyd

The Pupil Council are a dedicated committee represented by all stages in the nursery and school.

They are dedicated to improving the life of children in the school and are working to put the "fun" into fundraising. Their latest Children in Need event was a massive success for them and I am sure you will be in awe of how a group of children can organise such a large event.

Their next step is to work with the Parent Council and Out of School Club committee to look at how the playground can be improved not only with small toys but if it would be feasible to invest in large outdoor equipment.



PROMOTING THE SCHOOL,
COMMUNITY AND ITS HARD WORK.

We work hard to pay compliment to all that is done in Laurencekirk School and community and we ask that you do the same.

Why not pay a compliment to the hard work each child does as well as the endless support from staff and parents? It would be great to hear compliments and any comments from you. Drop us a letter, e-mail or phone call.

Parent Council Corner

By Nicola Campbell

The Parent Council would like to say hello and introduce you to your new representatives. Amanda Baillie is our new secretary, Denise Stewart is the Treasurer, Claire Hunter the Vice Chairperson and Nicola Campbell Chairperson. We also have a number of dedicated Parent Helpers who support us every step of the way. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous council members for all their hard work and dedication supporting the school.

We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the purpose of the Parent Council which is stated by the SPTC as "The role of the Parent council is to: support the school in its work with pupils, represent the views of all Parents, encourage links between the school, parents, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community".

If you would like to contact us please email Nicola at laurencekirkppc@outlook.com please also follow us on Facebook under

Laurencekirk Primary Parent Council where regular updates and information will be posted.

Please join us in thanking all the Parent Volunteers who dedicated lots of time and effort in training and assessing the Primary 7 children with their Bike Ability Certificates, it was lots of fun and your children were a credit to you.

The Christmas Fair is fast approaching!! We are SO excited and lots of effort has been put into this fun fundraising event by both parent helpers and the children. It is truly a community event where many local crafters & businesses will be participating. We hope you will all come join us and make it a big success. We would be very grateful for any donations, from Raffle Prizes to Home Bakes or Bottles for the bottle stall. Please drop these into the school.

If you would like to take part and help us on the big day, please just drop me an email.



Clubs

by Miss Davie

Over the past couple of weeks there have been many positive comments from pupils, staff and volunteers about our clubs.

At Laurencekirk Primary we are extremely lucky to have a variety of clubs such as Netball, Yoga, Cross Country, Athletics and Badminton. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff and volunteers for their support in running these activities. I know the children appreciate it.

Miss Robertson, our Music Specialist has been running a very popular Boys Choir after school on a Monday. I can't wait to hear the final results! This term Lego has been offered as an after school activity where children have been creating objects while developing their problem solving skills.

If anyone would like to volunteer or help in clubs next term please contact the school.

HOT TOPICS

**STAFFING**

As previously intimated, Mrs Millard has been promoted on a secondment to Auchenblae School until August at the latest. We wish her well in her new venture. We are lucky to have recruited Miss Davie as Acting Principal Teacher and Head of Red House. I am sure you will welcome her to our fabulous school.

Mrs Irving, a dedicated PSA has also moved to another area in the country and was extremely deflated about having to leave the staff and children, stating that the people in and around the school were a joy to work with. Replacing Mrs Irving is Mrs Baillie. Mrs Baillie has volunteered in the school for a considerable time and been a PSA at some of our neighbouring schools. She is also our Parent Council Secretary.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Laurencekirk Primary remains a very popular school and as a result the numbers in classes continue to change. It is important that space is left for children who come into the catchment area and as such we do have to inform all parents that class structures can change at any time. It is hoped that this will be minimal and will always be a last resort.

Cycling to School

by Mr Boyd



We are so proud of our P7 children who have worked hard in their Bikeability Training. Stay tuned for P6's chance in the summer.

Children in Need

by The Pupil Council

An absolutely marvelous effort was made by the children in Laurencekirk to support Children in Need this year. The Pupil Council would like to thank all the children and parents for helping them Jazz up their Uniform.

Over £640 was raised. This is a great sum of money and will go to help children in Scotland.



Meet Miss Davie

by Miss Davie

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for making me feel welcome at Laurencekirk Primary. I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I graduated with Masters in Anthropology before doing my PGDE at Aberdeen University. During my career I have taught all stages, including Nursery, across a variety of different schools in Aberdeenshire. I was a House Captain in a previous school so I am looking forward to this role at Laurencekirk.

Miss Davie is our new Acting Principal Teacher. She will be responsible for Sports and P6. Miss Davie will also be Head of Red House.

Flu Vaccine

by Mrs Clark



The School Nurse will be in school on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd December to administer the nasal flu vaccine to all P1 – P7 pupils who have returned the NHS consent forms.

If parents have subsequently opted to have their child vaccinated by their own GP and no longer require vaccination by the School Nurse, please notify the School Office immediately.

Also, if you do not want your child vaccinated, please return the form and tick the no box, or notify the School Office.

Nursery Corner

by The Nursery Team

Veterinary Surgery

The children have continued with their interest in caring for animals in our vet area. They have been taking on the role of vet, receptionist and pet owner. Some of the children have also linked their own home experiences of caring for their own pet and have shared this information within their group.

We have discussed the different job roles within a veterinary surgery and the children have enjoyed investigating this topic further.

We would like to thank Mrs Kerr (Anna's mum N1) for coming into the nursery to talk to the children about her job as a vet.

We would like to invite you to our Christmas Play.

Nursery 1 – Thursday 17th December 10.00am-10:30am

Nursery 2 – Friday 18th December 10:30-11.00 am

Halloween

Thank you for taking part in our Halloween themed session. The children enjoyed explaining their costumes to their group leader and taking part in the variety of activities that were on offer. The most popular being the feely box activity which was filled with gunk and slime.



Spooky

Curriculum Rationale

by Mrs Allen

The Curriculum Rationale is the heart of all we do in Laurencekirk that makes us unique.

Introduced by the Scottish Government we are asked to list what education and experiences are important to the community and that take place in Laurencekirk.

During parent/carer consultation evenings, parents and carers were given the opportunity to comment on the curriculum we provide at Laurencekirk Primary.

This was a hot topic of debate and although all agreed that the core skills in maths and literacy were important many differences occurred through the consultation on what is unique in Laurencekirk. These included:

- More Forest Schools – all stages please
- Less Forest Schools
- Swimming in primary school
- Learn about Scotland and it's culture
- Have Spanish rather than French
- Have more French please.
- Look at how children can become more resilient and "bounce back" from unhappiness and unfortunate events.

Children and staff were also asked to give their opinions. With these in mind we have written a curriculum rationale that explains the structure of our curriculum, the essential areas we must include and how it is delivered.

Our curriculum rationale is at the beginning of a continual process of self-evaluation and will continue to be developed with all stakeholders involved with this process. This will be issued soon.

We thank all our stakeholders for giving us input. We value this.

School Closure arrangements

by Mr Boyd



The staff are dedicated to educating your child/ren during all times of the year. We have plans in place to provide a service in most weathers but respect your decision to send or not send your child to school if you deem their safety is at risk when travelling.

The school will contact parents via Text Message if the normal day will be interrupted. This includes before or during a school day. **It is important that telephone numbers are kept up to date.**

- Information will also be available on: Aberdeenshire Council's Website, <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>
- The School Emergency Closure Line 0870 054 4999, PIN- 022060)
- Via our Parent Council Face Book site.
- The Text service will also be used when closing the school.

It is always our priority to stay open and we will use a variety of methods to ensure this can happen:

1. Liaising with Mearns Academy
2. Making decisions to open later in the day, allowing the school and its local area to be cleared and assessed.

Please ensure we have up to date contact details for you.

Diary Dates

School events listed until Christmas- Subject to change, addition and cancellation.

Date	Event	Times
Friday 27 November	P5/6 assembly	9.30 am – 10.00 am
Friday 18 December	Infant Christmas Show	9.30 am
Tuesday 22 December	School closes for Christmas Holidays	3.15pm
Wednesday 6 January 2016	School reopens	9.00 am
Thursday 11 February & Friday 12 February	Occasional Days – Holidays- school closed	
Monday 15 February	Local Holiday – school closed.	
Tuesday 16 th February	INSET day – Staff only	
Wednesday 17 February	INSET day- Staff only	
Friday 25 March 2016	Good Friday – school closed	
Friday 1 April	School closes for Easter	3.15 pm
Monday 18 April	School reopens	9.00am
Tuesday 24 th May	Provisional Sports Day	9.00 am – 3.15 pm
Monday 2 May	May Day holiday- school closed	
Friday 1 July	School closes for end of term	3.15pm