



Aberlady Primary School Newsletter – November 2019

“We learn to be wise”

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Welcome to our November newsletter.

Chestnut Tree in Playground

Some of you will be aware that a considerable sized branch came down outside the school grounds during the last storms. We have had a tree surgeon out to check the tree again and it has been pruned appropriately and deemed as safe. He has advised that during high winds, it cannot be predicted what might happen with branches therefore people should be vigilant if passing trees during this type of weather.



Updates from our Classes

Nursery are learning about keeping themselves safe around the house and when out with family. They have also celebrated Halloween last week and will be celebrating Diwali this week by making diva lamps.

Primary 1 will be exploring “long ago” this term. The children have set up a museum in the role play area and they are going to learn more about evidence which tells us about the past.

Primary 2 will be investigating materials this term and learning about their properties. Later in the term they will be starting to practise for the Nativity – I am sure you will all know the songs as well as they do before show time!

Primary 3 will be learning about the rainforest this term. They will be exploring the issue of deforestation. They will also continue to learn about WoW vocabulary to up-level their writing.

Primary 4/5 are learning about the significance of the Armistice this term. They will then go on to learn about Germany today - the physical country, foods and festivals enjoyed there and will end with how Christmas is celebrated!

Primary 5/6 have just started looking at World War I and are busy creating a museum which they hope parents will come and visit shortly.

Primary 7 As it was Halloween, we wrote creepy stories and worked on including descriptive words to make our writing more interesting. We have been finding out about STEM and trying out lots of fun activities, including designing and building towers and experimenting with different paper planes. We are looking forward to our STEM activity event at Edinburgh College. This term, we are also learning all about the First World War through a range of activities, research and visitors. Later this month, we will have the opportunity to go to the High School for the P7 ceilidh and so are learning and practising a range of Scottish Country dances.

Our school values:

*Kindness * Respect * Co-operation *Positivity *Inclusion *Curiosity

School Improvement Plan

One of the items on our school improvement plan was to enhance our planning and reporting systems. This has been done and we hope you have found the pupil progress updates in P1-P7 a useful tool to know where your child is in their learning journey. Our planning systems have been simplified and although as a family you might not see the direct impact, we believe it will reduce some bureaucracy so that teachers can focus their time on learning and teaching.

Our nursery team have also developed new planning systems and have been creating and updating their environment – what a positive difference!

Dutch visitors



On Thursday 8th November, we will welcome a team of Quality Improvement officers and Head Teachers from Holland who will be spending the day with us looking at East Lothian's Education system. They will speak to staff and pupils over the course of the day and are particularly interested in how Scottish schools support children with additional needs.

Learning Conversations

Thank you for returning your request form re Learning conversations. Notification has been sent home to you advising of your time slot. After receiving only a few returns re crèche requests, the decision has been taken not to run a session during conversations this year but this will be reviewed again for next time.

SIP Groups list groups

Our School Improvement Groups (SIP) are now up and running. We have 7 different groups run by a teacher and some parent volunteers. The groups are as follows: Rights Respecting Schools : Pupil Council : Literacy : Sustainability : Inclusion : Technology : 1 + 2 Languages. We currently have a parent volunteer for both Inclusion and Literacy but if you would like to help out with one of the other groups, please contact the school office. The groups will be held from 2.15 – 3.00pm on the following Wednesdays – 30th January, 27th March and 29th May.

Proposed School Extension

East Lothian Council's Education department are now liaising with the architects over the proposed new extension for our school. This will extend to 2 new classrooms and an extension to the school hall.

Our thanks go to the Parent Council who have submitted their thoughts and ideas to the architects – watch this space for further developments.



Outdoor Nursery

Plans for a new outdoor nursery that were submitted earlier this year to East Lothian Council planning department have now been passed however Care Inspectorate and our Education department are still in discussions as to the exact specifications of the nurser – watch this space also!

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Dates for your Diary

- Monday 5th November Enrolment for new P1's starting in August 2019
- Tuesday 6th Photographer in school to take individual and family groups
- Wednesday 7th P1 drama workshop in school "Giant" part 1
- Thursday 8th Dutch visitors in school all morning
P7 at Edinburgh College for STEM event
Enrolment for new P1's starting in August 2019
- Tuesday 13th P1 drama workshop in school "Giant" part 2
- Wednesday 14th Parent Council meeting – 7pm in school
- Friday 16th Parent Council – Greek Night
- Monday 19th Learning Conversations P1-P7 – 4.00 – 7.00pm
- Thursday 22nd Learning Conversations P1-P7 – 4.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 28th SIP groups 2.15 – 3.00pm
- Thursday 6th December School Christmas Lunch
- Wednesday 12th Flu Jabs in school
P1/2 Nativity dress rehearsal in church – 2pm
- Wednesday 13th P1/2 Nativity performance in church – 6pm
- 17-19th Party week – dates to be confirmed
- Thursday 20th P1-7 visit Panto at Brunton Theatre
Nursery party in morning for both groups – no pm nursery
School closes at 3.15pm to all pupils
- Monday 7th January 2019 – School opens to all staff and pupils



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