



**NEWSLETTER
SESSION 2018-2019
NOVEMBER 2018**



**Curious
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To report a pupils absence - call 01875 811327 and press '1' to leave message
Weblog <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/cockenzie>
Twitter : @cockenziePS
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Think positive thoughts because thoughts are like the steering wheel that moves our life in the right direction.

Class News

This has been a very busy month for all our classes!



Primary7 enjoyed a very successful residential camp to Whitlaugh Park, Newcastleton. The staff who attended were immensely proud of all our children who overcame their fears and worked cooperatively together to enjoy a successful week of outdoor adventurous activities. I would like to thank the staff members who attended, without their commitment and enthusiasm, the camp wouldn't have been possible.

Primary 6 rounded off their Conflict topic by leading an outstanding assembly which not only shared with us the importance of Remembrance but all their learning about conflict. The children danced, sung, presented, performed and shared videos of their learning which was enjoyed by the P6 parents and carers - many thanks for coming along!

Primary 5 continue to learn about science and the history of our very own environmentalist, John Muir. The children enjoyed a recent trip to Dunbar where they were able to visit his birthplace and learn about his early life before he emigrated to America.

We continue the science theme in P4, who are learning about the human body, different body systems and how to keep fit and healthy.

Primary 3 are busy learning about Scotland and St. Andrew in preparation for their ceilidh celebrations which will take place in school on Thursday 29th November.



Primary 2 have just finished learning about autumn. This has included learning about different festivals that happen during the autumn months, hibernation, how to mix paints to create autumnal colours and even making their own Diwali lamp when learning about the Hindu festival of lights.



It has been all go in Primary 1 who have been as busy as ever. They successfully organised Children in Need 2018. This involved selling Pudsey ears and other merchandise to all the children in the school. They raised over £600 for this worthwhile charity. The children in Primary 1 also enjoyed learning about the environment and this included a very exciting visit to the beach to explore the rockpools. Well done, P1!



**WELCOME
BACK!!**

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Barry to our staff team. Mrs Barry, who left to have her baby boy back in February, will be re-joining us as the class teacher for P5D. Ms Daly, who will remain in school, will take on a support for learning role, working alongside Ms O'Neill to provide support across the school.

Mrs Mackinnon will be back full-time on Monday 26th November.

School Improvement

Staff were incredibly busy on the October Inservice Day. We worked together as a team to further develop our understanding of restorative practice approaches, how we manage behaviour and the Council's Anti-bullying policy. Mrs Greenwood led the staff on restorative practice which looks closely at how to repair the damage that is caused through disagreements and arguments. Our core text for staff this year is by the author Paul Dix and is titled *When the Adult Changes Everything Changes*. This is highly recommended reading not only for teachers but for parents/carers too. The children should be able to tell you about recognition boards, going above and beyond, line of the week and 'fantastic walking.' All of these new approaches are going a long way to support and reinforce positive behaviour at Cockenzie.

Pupil Equity Funding Update

The Pupil Equity Funding is allocated directly to Scottish schools and is targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. At Cockenzie, for session 18/19, we identified the need for a Speech and Language Therapist to work closely with the school to help raise attainment in listening, talking and reading. We have been lucky to secure a therapist who will work in school, two days a week, alongside our class teachers to improve communication skills for all our pupils. The therapist will also support parents/carers in developing essential communication skills for home.

Have you signed up yet?



Our new online payments system, [School Pay](#), went live on 3rd October 2018. SchoolPay will offer greater control for you in terms of keeping track of your spending on school-related items including school dinners and school trips.

You will have received an information letter for you to set up your personal SchoolPay account. We would encourage you to sign up for your account as soon as possible.

Please click on link for further information:

<https://www.edubuzz.org/cockenzie/school-pay/>



Halloween Disco

What an absolutely fantastic event the Halloween disco was. The discos are always so well attended and such good fun. The PTA disco successfully raised £607. The next major fundraising event of the year is the Christmas Fayre which will be held in the school hall on Saturday 1st December.

Christmas Countdown

It's hard to believe that we are starting to think about Christmas already! To help you plan for key dates around this time please [CLICK HERE](#) view our Christmas Countdown calendar of events.





Christmas Panto

All our children will be attending the Brunton Hall to watch Jack and the Beanstalk. Please look out for a separate letter detailing cost and dates. The cost will be significantly less than in previous years due to all the fundraising events that have gone on throughout the year. Many thanks for your support with this.

Christmas lunch will be served on **Tuesday 11th December 2018**. A payment of £2 is required from our P4-P7 pupils by the end of the month. Our preferred method of payment would be via the new online payment system, School Pay. It's essential that children pre-book a lunch by returning the slip at the bottom of the letter about school lunches. The room will be set up for the children to come in and sit down to eat together with crackers for everyone.



NHS Lothian Primary School Flu Vaccination Programme 2018/19

Just a reminder that Cockenzie Primary's vaccination session will be held on Tuesday 4th December 2018 within the school day. If you wish your child to have the vaccination, please remember to complete their form and return to the school office, if you have not already done so.

NSPCC Online Safety Workshop

Many thanks to all who attended our online safety workshop for parents and carers on Friday 26th October. If you were unable to attend, please see below some useful links recommended by NSPCC:

- Visit our [NSPCC](#) and [O2 NSPCC](#) website pages, check the Net Aware and Share Aware resources
- Call our free O2 NSPCC Online Safety Helpline on 0808 800 5002
- Download our Net Aware app on the App Store or Google Play
- Pop into your local O2 store for online safety help from a Guru - you don't even have to be an O2 customer!
- Sign up to our icebreaker email series.

Parking

We've had quite a number of complaints from local residents regarding inconsiderate parking.

REMINDER :

Parking / Road Safety Reminder



Stopping on the double yellow line to drop children off at school **is against the law** and dangerous.

Rule 238 (Highway Code)

You **MUST NOT** wait or park on yellow lines during the times of operation shown on nearby time plates (or zone entry signs if in a Controlled Parking Zone) - see '[Traffic signs](#)' and '[Road markings](#)'. Double yellow lines indicate a prohibition of waiting at any time even if there are no upright signs. You **MUST NOT** wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers, on school entrance markings (see '[Road markings](#)') when upright signs indicate a prohibition of stopping.



Parent Link

The Parent Link last met on Wednesday 24th October. It was a productive meeting and lots of different issues were covered. These included:

- Making best use of the Outdoor Garden and Quiet Garden.
- Vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Looking at strategies to end dog fouling and vandalism
- How we can promote awareness of waste and reduce the amount of plastic we use in school
- Developing our Infant playground and introducing Loose Parts Play
- School Improvement Plan

If you have any issues or concerns that you'd like to raise via the Parent Link, please contact Nichola Ma or Kelly Evans. The next meeting is on Tuesday 4th December at 7.00pm.

Class Dojo

As you're all aware, we are now unable to use Class Dojo as a means of communication. This is because Class Dojo is no longer compliant with EU GPPR regulations (General Data Protection Regulations). We understand that this might cause some inconvenience. Please continue to communicate with teaching staff through written notes or telephone calls via the main office.



PLHS Pipe Band

The PLHS Pipe Band would like to share some exciting news.

Novice Band - nominated for Traditional Music Award

Firstly, the novice band have been nominated for a Trad Music Award, and need as many votes as possible by 23rd November. To vote for the band log in to the Survey Monkey below, enter your details and then find the question about pipe bands. If you can take the time to vote that would be fabulous! Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Scotstrad2018>

Co-op Community Charity

The band also have had an application accepted to be a Co-op Community Charity this year which means that local co-op members can opt online for 1% of all their spending to be donated to the pipe band over the next year. Please consider choosing the PLHS Pipe Band as your local cause to support at

<https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>

And finally...

Mr Stitt and I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff, pupils, parents and carers who have supported us in our seconded roles over the last few months. We both love working here at Cockenzie and for me personally, it was a great pleasure to be Head Teacher for this short period of time. We are very much looking forward to Mrs Mackinnon returning next week. Mr Stitt and I will both return to our substantive posts of Principal Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher.

What can you do to help us:

- Sign up for Schoolpay
- Please sign up to our twitter feed @cockenziePS
- Do not park / stop outside the school on the yellow lines.
- Transfer the information in the newsletter onto your calendar.
- Sign up for Blog updates on <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/cockenzie>
- Phone us when your child is ill as soon as possible. The answer machine is on all night.

D. Mercer

Mrs D. Mercer (Acting Head Teacher)