



Curious
Positive
Successful

NEWSLETTER SESSION 2018-2019

To report a pupils absence – call 01875 811327 and press '1' to leave message
Weblog <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/cockenzie>
Email admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk
Twitter [@cockenziePS](https://twitter.com/cockenziePS)



Staffing

Mr Backe is currently unwell although making a slow recovery. To provide continuity for the class Ms Victoria O'Neill and Mr Pat O'Malley are currently covering the class. Ms O'Neill and Mr O'Malley will meet with the parents in P7B to discuss progress at our parents' consultations.



Success

A huge thank you to all the children and families who spent time learning and practising the Scot's poems for our Annual Competition. There is lots of research surrounding the benefits of this activity and I include a quote below.

Poetry and Rhymes Help Develop Memorization Skills

Children also learn to pick up patterns and sequences in poetry recitations. As they practice memorizing the poetry to recite, it links memory with audio and visual events, helping them develop memorization skills.

The benefits do not end here. Being proficient in memorization, patterns, and sequences in turns give students an advantage in learning new languages, reading comprehension and mathematics.

Well worth the effort then! The standard was incredibly high and winners difficult to choose. Our judges were from the Burns Society and have very precise guidelines they use for judging. Congratulations go to the following:

P7 Harvey	P3 Fearne
P6 Lucy	P2 Bobby
P5 Maisie	P1 Poppy
P4 Isla	

Robert Burns continued to be remembered through our annual P6 Burns Supper. This again was a huge success and many congratulations to the staff parents and pupils who held such an outstanding event. There are a number of pictures and videos of this event on twitter.

Cockenzie Pupils Recognized

P7 set a very high standard at the Scottish Parliament recently being complemented not only for their behaviour but also the quality of their questions and knowledge. The topic of Brexit is obviously making this block of learning highly relevant and current!

MARCH MARCH MARCH MARCH



Swimming Gala

Our school was represented recently in the East Lothian Schools Swimming Gala. Harvey won the 25m Breast Stroke with Connor – coming a very respectable 4th in the Freestyle. A huge well done to both boys.

Girls Football

Our girls team had a league match with Stoneyhill last week where they had a comprehensive win! Well done girls!! Many thanks to Vanda Dow for all the time spent on coaching the girls.



Health and Happiness day

On Friday 8th February all of our pupils participated in our new annual tradition: 'Health and Happiness Day'. This event promotes our school values of curious, positive and successful and supports our curricular work in Health and Wellbeing. Pupils started their day with a 'Wake Up, Shake Up' followed by two health or happiness themed workshops. Workshops included activities such as smoothie and fruit salad making, circuits, mindfulness and First Aid. Great fun was had by all! A huge thank you to all of the parent helpers who came in to support the day!

Parent Link



The Parent Link met in February to discuss a range of activities going on in school, the Eco committee's targets and the spending priorities to see us up to the end of the financial year. The last discussion point was homework and we are therefore reviewing what we do for homework and keen to gather views.

In the March / April Parent Consultations there will be a selection of questions to answer and a suggestion box for you to share your views on this subject. It is a subject that can never have an answer that suits everyone but we will be issuing a statement on why we do homework and how we plan to move forward. This will also be tied into the forthcoming changes we plan to make to Parent Consultations and Reporting. Please come along to the next Parent Link meeting on Wednesday 13th March 2019 at 1900hrs to find out more. Please note the change of date.

The Parent Link have also organized a community talk on Tuesday 19th March in Port Seton Community Centre – details in one of our attachments.

Mrs Kelly Evans and Mrs Nichola Ma have both done a tremendous job as the joint Chair but are at the end of their two year tenure and will be stepping down at the end of the year. This leaves the position open for a single chair or a new joint chair. Could this be you? Please get in touch if you would like to discuss this role or meet with the current Chairs.

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Head Lice

Always an emotive subject but there does seem to be an outbreak at the moment so please check your child's hair regularly. If your child does have head lice you can be prescribed medicated shampoo from your pharmacist free of charge.

Rotary Quiz

The annual Rotary Quiz was held in Longniddry Primary School on Tuesday 5th March at 1800hrs with a team of P7 pupils representing the school. Great team effort by the pupils who took part.



Internet Safety

Dougie Smith our Community Police Officer came into school to share with P4-7 the importance on internet safety. All pupils had in class lessons about this subject and we will continue to raise how children can keep themselves safe on line. Next session we will be focusing in on improving our technologies curriculum and we will ensure that internet safety is integrated throughout this work.

MOMO Challenge

The school are investigating any discussions about the MOMO challenge and classes are discussing this, if and when the need arises. As a school we are following the guidelines and not raising the profile of this through a school assembly etc. If you have any specific concerns then please do get in touch.

Pupil Equity funding based on free school meals

Schools receive additional funding of £1200 for every pupil who is registered for free school meals. Schools are then able to run a range of initiatives to support achievement and progress and provide the best learning environment for all children.



Some parents do not register for free school meals because all children in P1-3 receive a free school meal. If you think you are entitled to this support can you please consider claiming as your child would then receive free school milk and the school would receive the Pupil Equity funding.

If your child is in P4-7 and does not want the free school meal please still apply as the school could be missing out on crucial funding. Thank you, this will help us keep up the initiatives introduced through this funding such as the nurture provision and our dedicated speech and language therapist.

How do I know if my child is eligible for free school meals?

Please visit our website www.eastlothian.gov.uk to check your eligibility and download an application form.



Lunch Money

Since moving to the online system we have been seeing increasing amounts of debt building up for parents / carers who are not keeping up with payments. Unfortunately with the financial pressure on schools we will be chasing all unpaid lunch monies through the Council Debt System. Can parents/carers please ensure your child has sufficient funds to pay their lunch money each day if you have not paid using the online system.

Schoolpay

There are still a large number of parents / carers who have not yet signed up for this service. There is no obligation to pay on line but it does allow you to track what you have paid into the school and any outstanding amounts. It is particularly useful for tracking things like payments for school camps as well as ordering school lunches. The more that school lunches can be ordered on line the less wasted teaching times in the mornings. Please note that even if you do pay by cash the office staff then need to add this money into you ipay account.



If you have mislaid your codes then please get in touch with the office who will happily re issue your details. Computers and support will be available at forthcoming parent consultations.

Parents' / Carers Consultation

Parents' / Carers Consultation for this term will be held on Thursday 28th March 2019 and Tuesday 2nd April 2019. Your day (Tuesday or Thursday) and time will remain the same as Term 1. Slips reminding you of timings will be issue shortly. Due to the continued absence of Mr Backe we have moved his appointments. Mr Backe's appointments from Thursday 28th March will now be on Thursday 4th April and Tuesday 2nd April will be held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019. Unfortunately Mrs Greenwood and Mrs Blevins appointments for Tuesday 2nd April 2019 have also had to be moved to Thursday 4th April 2019



Safe Driving

We would like to respectfully remind all our parents and carers that they should respect the one way signs when exiting the school car park and that Osborne Terrace is clearly identified as a one way street.

Attachments

First Response. – a leaflet about support that can be offered if you fell you have reached crisis point

1-5 in poverty – a talk organised by the parent link to raise awareness of the current economic picture and what we can do to help.



15th March 2019 - Red Nose Day this year will be organized by the Primary 2 year group more details to follow

See Attached Sheet - please continue to check on line diary for any updates.

Jacqui MacKinnon

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Head Teacher