



Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter December 2016



White Christmas

Special points of interest:

- Message from head teacher
- December Dates
- Christmas Assembly
- Xmas Lunch
- Dress for all weathers
- Christmas Cards
- Webb Ivory
- Xmas Fayre
- Milk money
- Community News
- Playgroup News
- Greetings
- Governance Review

Dear Families,

We are nearly at the end of another busy term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers and other stakeholders of our school for supporting the work of the school over the past few months. A great deal of hard work has been done by the pupils and staff but parents/carers play a vital role as well in ensuring the school continues to be successful.

Mrs Hamilton's coffee mornings are proving to be a great success and she is moving forward with her Family Learning agenda.

We are still looking for a Clerk for our Parent Council. Alison and I use the opportunity, at Parent Council meetings, to present a Management Team Report which covers contemporary updates on education.

There is a Governance Review which is currently being undertaken by the Scottish Government. In terms of responding to this review there are a number of ways this can be done as follows:

As a school we are responding via the following lime survey link for staff/pupils who have web access
<http://links.edubuzz.org/govreview>

As parents/carers we hope some of you will respond by completing the attached word document questionnaire electronically and submitting it to the governance review mailbox (governancereview@eastlothian.gov.uk).

or by completing and returning it by post to John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA

The 1st of December is just around the corner and we have a busy few weeks leading up to the 22nd when we break for Christmas.

On behalf of all the staff at Elphinstone, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Best Wishes,
Heather



December 2016 Dates

- 1 December 5-6.30 p.m. Parent Council meeting
- 14 December 9.30 Dress Rehearsal (Ticket only - parents/ carers with small children may attend this assembly)
- 15 December 9.15 a.m. Christmas Assembly (Ticket only)
- 15 December Xmas Lunch (P1-7)- Children may wear Xmas headgear if they wish
- 16 December 10-12 Xmas Fayre- school hall- Wear something Christmassy!!!!
- 19 December P6-7 Singing Christmas songs @ Carberry Care Home- Children may wear Xmas head gear if they wish
- 20 December a.m. Nursery/P1-2 Party
- 20 December p.m. P3-7 Party
- 21 December a.m. P1-7 Pantomime trip
- 22 December Last day of term- normal times

More information will be issued nearer each date.



Our Christmas Assembly

will take place on the

morning of 15 December 2016 at 9.15 a.m.

Please see the separate flyer that was issued on
29 November 2016

regarding important seating and ticket requests.

We will be selling

Raffle tickets for a **Christmas Hamper** at our Dress Rehearsal and
Assembly.

The Hamper Draw will take place on 15th December 2016.

**Any Xmas themed donations e.g. mince pies, Christmas
pudding etc**

towards our Christmas Hamper will be most welcome.

Whole School Christmas Lunch



Our whole school lunch takes place this year on 15 December 2016 This is a lovely Festive occasion and it would be good for all children to join in. Details have already been issued.

Children may wear festive jumpers/headgear if they wish on this occasion.

Dress for all weathers

Children will be going out at break times in almost all weather where possible. Please send your children to school dressed appropriately with a warm waterproof jacket, hat scarf and gloves on cold days and wellies on wet days.





Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter December 2016

Christmas Cards



Once again this year we will have a Christmas post box in school for children who wish to hand out Christmas cards.

We would encourage everyone to recycle their Xmas cards in January.

We raised £83.50 in commission for school funds from the sales of the children's Cauliflower Cards. Thank you to everyone who bought Christmas cards this year.

Webb Ivory



A huge thank you to everyone who ordered items from the Webb Ivory catalogues. You helped raise £101.69 in commission towards school funds. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Fayre

in the school hall

Friday 16 December 2016

10-12

Crafts made by the children/Tombola/Santa etc

Hope to see you all then.

Milk Money

Milk Money for the period -9/1/17-31/3/17 is £9.18 . Payment is due before we break up for the Christmas Holidays by Thursday 15th December 2016..

We would prefer if you paid this online by using the link on our school website or by using the link on the council website www.eastlothiancouncil.gov.uk/payforit. You may however still pay by cheque payable to East Lothian Council or by cash.





Community News

**News
from
other
groups
in our
Comm-
unity**

Youth Club Following a successful recruitment drive we now have a pool of workers for the youth club. We will be operating on a rota basis to ensure that we have coverage every week. This is a model being adopted throughout East Lothian where over 20 new youth workers have been appointed.

Youth Club dates are as follows

19th January- 30th March 10 week term and then 27th April – 15th June an 8 week term.

Baby Peep goes from strength to strength with over 70 attending our Halloween party!

The new term starts on 16th January and is on every Monday term time through to 12th June.

Raising Teens with Confidence This 6 week course is aimed at parents fo children age 10 and abopve and particularly those in transition to High School this year. We are run-

ning two blocks at the George Johnstone Centre 6.30-8.30pm

Block 1 starts 22nd February and Block 2 19th April

Please email cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk to book a place

Lena Hutton 01875 824 138 or lhutton@eastlothian.gov.uk

Playgroup News

We have had a busy month and recently had a care inspectorate visit which went really well. Can our parents/ carers who were given a form to provide feedback to the care inspectorate please ensure you return this promptly in the freepost envelope as all feedback is greatly received. Once all feedback is received we will put it up on our playroom notice board for our parents/carers to see.

We are looking forward to Christmas this year and have a lot planned for the children and their Christmas party. So please check our notice board in the community centre over the next few weeks for Christmas party details and activities we will be doing with the children. Also check the playroom notice boards for Christmas artwork.

Our bake sale that we held at the beginning of November raised an amazing £111.45. Thank you to all that contributed by baking for the playgroup and to all who purchased the yummy cakes. Again we would like to say a special thank you to those who helped us on our stall this year. Our Welly Walk raised a massive £ 508.Thank you to all who sponsored the children and to the parents/carers for helping to raise our funds.

We have places available so if you have a child coming up for 2 years old or a friend who does then please get an application in ASAP as our waiting list is filling up again for next year. You can do this by emailing elphinstonepgmanager@gmail.com and requesting an application form from Ashley Macpherson or alternatively pop in and pick one up between 9.00 and 9.30 am, Monday to Friday.

Merry Christmas from all the staff at Elphinstone Primary

Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve Excellence and Equity in Education

A Governance Review

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM:

Before beginning the Questionnaire, please tick one of the following categories:

Please Note this form must be returned with your questionnaire response.

<input type="checkbox"/> Pupil	School:	<input type="text"/>
	Stage:	<input type="text"/> e.g. P7, S2

Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual
	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Organisation

Teachers and other practitioners	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Staff
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Practitioners
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Staff

Parent/Carer	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Parent / Carer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Council Member

Your views are important as they will help to inform the Council's response to the Consultation document. We would therefore like your permission to include your views within the education authority response. However, your comments will remain anonymous:

"I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to elected members and council officers of East Lothian Council. My comments will not be made available to the public"

If you do not wish to share your views, please tick this box

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please note comment boxes will expand as you type your response in.

Question 1

What are the strengths of the current governance arrangements of Scottish education?

Comments:

Question 2

What are the barriers within the current governance arrangements to achieving the vision of excellence and equity for all?

Comments:

Question 3

Should the key principles below underpin our approach to reform? Are there other principles which should be applied?

- be focused on improving outcomes and support the delivery of excellence and equity for children and young people
- meet the needs of all of our children and young people, no matter where they live or their family circumstances
- support and empower children and young people, parents/carers, teachers, practitioners and communities
- be supported by a simple and transparent funding system to ensure the maximum public benefit and best value for money
- support children and young people to make smooth transitions into formal learning, through school and into further education, training or employment

Comments:

Question 4

What changes to governance arrangements are required to support decisions about children's learning and school life being taken at school level?

Comments:

Question 5

What services and support should be delivered by schools? What responsibilities should be devolved to teachers and Head Teachers to enable this? You may wish to provide examples of decisions currently taken by teachers or Head Teachers and decisions which cannot currently be made at school level.

Comments:

Question 6

How can children, parents/carers, communities, employers, colleges, universities and others play a stronger role in school life? What actions should be taken to support this?

Comments:

Question 7

How can the governance arrangements support more community-led early learning and childcare provision particularly in remote and rural areas?

Comments:

Question 8

How can effective collaboration amongst teachers and practitioners be further encouraged and incentivised?

Comments:

Question 9

What services and support functions could be provided more effectively through clusters of schools working together with partners?

Comments:

Question 10

What services or functions are best delivered at a regional level? This may include functions or services currently delivered at a local or a national level.

Comments:

Question 11

What factors should be considered when establishing new educational regions?

Comments:

Question 12

What services or support functions should be delivered at a national level?

Comments:

Question 13

How should governance support teacher education and professional learning in order to build the professional capacity we need?

Comments:

Question 14

Should the funding formula for schools be guided by the principles that it should support excellence and equity, be fair, simple, transparent, predictable and deliver value for money? Should other principles be used to inform the design of the formula?

Comments:

Question 15

What further controls over funding should be devolved to school level?

Comments:

Question 16

How could the accountability arrangements for education be improved?

Comments:

Question 17

Is there anything else you would like to add regarding the governance of education in Scotland?

Comments:

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please note the closing date for submission of completed questionnaires is **Wednesday 14th December 2016**.

Completed questionnaires should be returned via email to:

governancereview@eastlothian.gov.uk

Written responses can also be returned by post to:

Governance Review
East Lothian Council
Resources and People Services
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

