



Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter January 2016

Happy New Year

- Happy New Year
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- Playgroup News

Important Dates

- 11 Jan Mountain Biking Group 1 starts**
- 26 Jan P5-7 Museum trip**
- 27 Jan Class Photos**
- 8 Feb Mountain Biking Group 2 starts**
- 15-19 Feb HOLIDAYS**
- 22 Feb In Service**

Dear Families,

Welcome back to you all. ☺ I look forward to yet another productive and positive year working alongside you and your children to achieve great things! Miss Hannah Williams joined our staff as the P1/2 teacher and I know she is looking forward to meeting her parents/carers on Friday 15.1.16 at 11.30. Mrs Collier started her Maternity leave on Friday 8.1.16 and Mrs Paterson will be popping in for her 'Keeping in Touch days' over the coming months. Mrs Gina Fleming will only work on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from January 2016 and Mrs Leanne Campbell has picked up some of her hours across the week to support pupils in class.

I welcomed back happy and healthy pupils brimming with news of their Christmas break when I opened the door last Tuesday. I trust you enjoyed special family time over this period. The Courier (Thursday 7.1.16) has a full page spread of photographs from our Baboushka Nativity Play. Well done to Liz Moore, Director, and her team as well as your talented children in giving such a top class performance. Please check the 'Dates for your Diary' section of this newsletter and commit these to your calendar/ phone or filofax. The office get a lot of phone calls asking for clarity on dates that are already in the monthly newsletter. My mantra to staff is that they can't work any harder so we have to think of ways to work smarter! Not fielding calls like these allows them to get on with other tasks.

As always, I try to support parents/carers as soon as possible to uphold my 'Open door Policy'. Please bear in mind that I am a teaching head and cannot always attend to requests/demands as soon as they are made. In keeping with Council Policy, I have 5 days to address a complaint. As always, we appreciate the support from our parents/carers and we positively thrive on hearing good news. This is the ethos we adopt across the whole school with an approach by all to 'unconditional positive regard'. If your child achieves an award/certificate from an extra-curricular activity, please send this into school for us to celebrate their success in Assembly. Every month we celebrate the birthdays of pupils in school. Their photos go up on our Birthday Wall and we sing 'Happy Birthday' to them in the Dinner Hall/Nursery to celebrate their special day.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the family atmosphere and pastoral care in this school is exceptional. Your children are too! We value each of them as individuals and plan lessons to meet their learning needs. This will be the focus for this year, as ever.

Best wishes always,
Heather



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Emergency Contact Numbers

Please keep the school informed of any changes to all emergency numbers. This is particularly important with our text messaging system.

Congratulations!

Well done to Benjamin Cuthill who was the winner of the prize for reading the December 2015 newsletter and returning the slip.

Will it be your child this time?

UPDATE FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL.....



On behalf of the Parent Council, I am pleased to inform you that Ashley Macpherson has recently taken up the role of Clerk to Elphinstone Parent Council. In the absence of a Chair, we will endeavour to get a date for an AGM in the near future.

Heather



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News
from
other
groups
in
Our
Com-
munity

Community News

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Youth club will recommence with a new worker on 28th January for an eight week term (with a week off at February). I will confirm dates after Easter when budgets are agreed.

Baby Peep resumes on 18th January at 1.15pm. So far we have had a good number attending this group so we hope this continues.

The popular Fun Friday sessions at Ormiston restart on 29th Jan, 26th Feb., 18th March, 22nd April and 20th May. These sessions are open to children from all the rural primaries from P2 to P7. Sessions are from 1.15-4pm at Ormiston Community Centre and cost £3 per child. To book email cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk

A flyer regarding community adult learning was sent out recently as we are keen to find out what Elphinstone residents would want to see in the community centre, do you fancy learning a new language, getting fitter, learning a new skill or support to go back into work or learning. Please take time to fill in the form and post back into the box at the school office. Should you not get a flyer spares will be available by the box.

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

Playgroup News

We are glad to return to playgroup after the Christmas break and see all the children again. It is exciting hearing all their Christmas stories.

Over the next few weeks we are going to be busy settling in new starts which will take playgroup numbers to full capacity. If you are interested in your child getting a place at playgroup and are not already on the waiting list we would advise you to pop in and get an application or alternatively email elphinstonepg-manager@gmail.com.

We would like to thank all parents for their help and support in the run up to Christmas and would also like to take the opportunity once again to thank all parents/carers who handed in gifts. We were overwhelmed with everyone's kindness. We are all excited for what 2016 will bring for playgroup. So let's work together to make it an amazing year.

Kind Regards

Nancy, Isobel, Ashley and Vicky