



Happy New Year

- Happy New Year
- Message from Principal teacher
- Term 2 Dates
- Burns afternoon
- Communication
- No parking on yellow lines outside the school
- Parent Council update
- Community News
- Playgroup News

Dear Families,

Welcome back to you all. I hope all our families enjoyed a restful holiday. What a busy end to the year we had here at Elphinstone! I felt very privileged to work with the children and staff to help organise what was a very memorable Christmas Assembly. The Christmas Fair was also a huge success with lots of families supporting this new venture. Many thanks to the parents and families who gave up precious time to ensure this was a success. I look forward to seeing this develop and grow over the coming years. I thoroughly enjoyed my first Christmas at Elphinstone and the lovely atmosphere that a small school has at this special time of year.

I have enjoyed meeting some of you through our regular, 'Blether and a Biscuit' coffee mornings and now look forward to meeting and working with more parents as we develop 'Family Learning' in our school. This is an important part of our School Improvement Plan for this year and I have already begun working with a small group of parents to plan exciting and fun ways of sharing what we do and what you can do to support your child's learning at home. If you are interested in being part of this group, it is not too late—please let me know!

Ms Collier has now returned from her maternity leave and joins Mrs Paterson in P1/2. Many thanks to Mrs Purcell for all her hard work. She will be greatly missed and we wish her well in her next appointment. We also welcome Mr Mourits to Elphinstone as our new PE specialist teacher.

The children are thoroughly enjoying playing with the wide range of open ended resources we have built up in the playground. It is lovely to watch their endless imagination in action when given access to a range of random objects! Many thanks to parents and staff who contributed items. We have had everything including the kitchen sink! We continue to be on the lookout for suitable objects to add to our collection.

All of us at Elphinstone are looking forward to another very productive year working in partnership with our families and of course, your fantastic children!

Kind Regards
Alison Hamilton
Principal teacher

East
Lothian
needs
more
Foster
Carers





Term 2 2016-2017 dates

Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

- 9 Jan New term starts
- 25 Jan a.m. Class photos
- 25 Jan 2.00-2.45 p.m. Burns Afternoon
- 26 Jan 5.00p.m. Parent Council meeting— All Welcome

- 13-17 Feb HOLIDAYS
- 20 Feb In-Service

- 6-10 March BOOK WEEK
- 16 March 5.00 p.m. Parent Council Meeting All Welcome
- 20-22 March P6-7 Camp at Lockerbie

- 3—17 April EASTER HOLIDAYS

Parent  Paperwork

 **groupcall**
tried • tested • trusted

Important Information regarding Communication and Groupcall Messenger System

We have now moved to a new Messaging system which is currently used by many East Lothian schools. Once again our Parent Council has kindly agreed to fund this very useful service.. It is very important that you keep the school informed of any changes to all emergency contact numbers and main contact e mail addresses as Groupcall Messenger allows us to e mail parents and carers with e.g Newsletters etc. This will hopefully cut down considerably on our paper and printing costs. For your information we will issue the Jan/Feb 2017 Newsletter by pupil Message Bags and then in future Newsletters will be e mailed by Messenger. It will be each pupils main contact who will receive correspondence.. If for any reason you wish to continue to receive a paper copy or do not have an e mail address then please contact the school office to request a paper copy. It is still important to continue to check your child's message bag daily as not all correspondence will be sent by e mail.



www.shutterstock.com - 154385324

**Please Do Not Park on the
Yellow Zig Zag Lines outside
or near the school.
Respect our Neighbours and
consider your child's safety**

Update from the PARENT COUNCIL

Your parent council members have been busy over the last few months and a few highlights of the activities are:



Christmas Fair

Thanks to everyone who came along to support the Christmas Fair on 16 December as well as to everyone who donated raffle and tombola prizes, baked and helped on stalls on the day. It was a great success and all working together school staff, parents and pupils have raised £840 after costs, including income from the Christmas raffle tickets. Lots of children managed along to see Santa, ably assisted by his elf. Thanks are due to Nicola Gregory and family in particular for the fair, to Rob Moore for the raffle, and to Mrs Hamilton and all the school staff and parents for putting on such a fun day for the pupils.

Use of funds to benefit children

All money raised by the Parent Council is used to support pupils and learning in the school in a variety of ways. Please come along to the next parent council meeting to hear proposals for funding and give your views on these. Recent examples of parent council funding are paying for the bus to take pupils to attend the pantomime (saving parents about £5 per child), buying a shed to keep outdoor play resources in, the new Twinkl resource (see more at www.twinkl.co.uk), and the new sandpit which has been ordered for the Nursery. Parent Council has also funded the last three years and the current year of the school to parent text service plus contributed to our P7 leaver hoodies and the cost of school camp, reducing costs to parents. If you can't attend meetings and have an idea for funds or new ideas for profitable fundraising, please do get in touch by text, email or via Facebook message.

Consultation on the Scottish Government governance review

Parents met with Mrs Williams and Mrs Hamilton to go through this government consultation which contained proposals for changes in education which many parents and teachers are worried will not be good for pupils or learning. An agreed parent council response was sent in to the Scottish Government. Any parent interested in seeing this consultation response, please contact the parent council for a copy by email.

Future meetings

The parent council meeting dates for the next few months are **Thursdays 26 January 2017, 16 March 2017, 11 May 2017 and 22 June 2017**. They take place in the school from 5.00pm to 6.30pm. Free childcare is provided with no need to book, just turn up with your children.

Please come along, have a cuppa, find out more and give your ideas for what the Parent Council does support the school and enhance learning. If you can't come to the meeting and you have ideas or opinions to share, please do get in touch beforehand by email to parentcouncil@elphinstone.elcschool.org.uk or to me via 0777 635 6380.

Also please like our Facebook page Elphinstone Primary School Parent Council for updates.

Judith Dunn
Chair





Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter Jan-Feb 2017



News
from
other
groups
in
Our
Communi-
city

Community News

Youth Club. Our first session for youth club will focus on planning a programme and rota for the coming terms. We will be introducing new staff and working out a rota. Dates for the terms are as follows

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

Baby Peep. This group has restarted and we welcomed a few new parents. If you would like to join this group and have a baby between 0-1yr approx then come along on a Monday 1.15pm

Messy Church is in the community centre on Wednesday evening 18th from 6pm.

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

Fun Friday. This group is in Ormiston Community Centre this Friday and we have a few places available. The group is for P2-7 and runs from 1.15-4pm. Activities include games, arts and crafts and much more. Cost £3 to book contact cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk

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

Playgroup News

The Playgroup children have settled back into playgroup after the holidays really well. There have been a few new faces at playgroup this week with five new starts attending. We are all looking forward to what the new term will bring and getting to know everybody. By working alongside our parents and carers we hope that 2017 will be a good year for all.

Last year we were extremely lucky with all the support we received from all our parents/carers of children that attend the playgroup and again would like to thank all for their continued support.

We currently 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.