



# Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter March/April 2014

## Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Families

Thank you for your support this week with our Book Fair and a big 'THANK YOU' to Mrs Berry for organising this event. It was great to see so many families in the Hall on Wednesday enjoying a cuppa, the Fair and cakes from our Bake sale!

The winners of our Book Fair competition are: Harris and Mason in P1/2, Jessica and Lauren F in P3/4/5 and Erin and Ameline in P6/7. Well done to all!

Miss Edmunds and her P1/2's had a great outing to Edinburgh castle this week. Our P6/7 pupils braved the elements to walk along the railway line with Leigh from the Ranger Service on Monday and Primary 3/4/5 are planning a visit to Yester Dairy soon. Here are some wise words from Blogger Leigh-Anne Stradeski on Educational Excursions; 'Outings are an important part of delivering the curriculum as children encounter rich and memorable experiences that expand their horizons, build their self-confidence and provide them with a sense of the wider world. Children have many different styles of learning and outings offer an alternative to traditional classroom learning. Even though Outings are part of the school day and linked to the curriculum, because they are in a different setting, there is a greater sense of adventure and freedom to explore, for children to think for themselves and make connections to what they've learnt in the classroom. They give children a new perspective and understanding of their own potential to learn and discover, making them more motivated when they get back to school! On school trips, children can take risks they wouldn't be able to in the classroom. Good school trips also stay with children for a long time!'

On a completely different note, I ask for all parents/carers to support us with enforcing our school rules. I met with pupils to evaluate how well we were achieving our whole school target/s each month. It was agreed that they were good at getting to school on time and showing respect but that we need to work on walking sensibly around the school and lining up. One thing we do really need to get better at is saying nice things to others and not nasty, hurtful things. I deal with a lot of name calling as do the rest of the staff. I have spoken to all pupils using the analogy that words are like toothpaste in a tube, once out, you can't take them back just like you can't put the toothpaste back in the tube! Please reinforce this message at home too.

I would like to welcome Anne Eadie to our staff. Anne works in the Nursery class. Rachel McDade, student teacher has been with us for 6 weeks in P3/4/5. We bid her a fond farewell as her last day is Friday 28th February. She has done well and been a great team member in her short time here.

With March just around the corner, I thought I would share some interesting dates/events with you:

2nd of March ....Is share a smile day so smile all Saturday...March is also home to International Women's day so here's to you all mums, grans and nans and finally on the 26th March it is a 'make up your own holiday day'...so there you go, freedom to invent a day just for you!

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

Best wishes *Heather*

- Important Dates
- Message from HT
- Leisurewear Order 2014-2015
- Rag Bag Collection
- Online Payments
- Message from Eco group
- Swimming
- Bake Sale
- Club/Golf + Holiday Club
- News from other groups in the community.

## Important Dates

- 3 Mar P1 + P7 Dental Checks  
Film Club continues
- 4 Mar P6-7 Risk Factory trip
- 5 Mar P3-5 Rugby continues
- 6 Mar International School Meal Day-Rwandan Lunch  
World Book Day  
Hockey Club starts
- 18 Mar P3—5 Farm Visit – details to follow  
Parental Consultations
- 19 Mar P6-7 Trip to Lammerlaw-details to follow
- 20 Mar Parental Consultations
- 25 Mar Rag Bag Collection Date
- 4 Apr Last day of term
- 10 Apr Messy Church-Holiday Club
- EASTER HOLIDAYS
- 22Apr– ALL RESTART
- 24 April–P3-5 Swimming lessons start till end June

### IMPORTANT 2014-2015 Leisurewear Orders

It is that time again– **the Annual Leisurewear Order.** Forms will be issued very soon.

**Please order for the WHOLE OF THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR (2014-2015). Please ensure that all sizes are correct at the time of ordering as only faulty goods can be returned.**

**PAYMENT MUST BE MADE WITH ALL ORDERS.**

## Rag Bag Collection

*Our next rag bag collection date is 25 March 2014.*

*How about having a spring clean and donating your clean unwanted clothes, bags belts hats etc to our school?*

*Your unwanted items helps raise much needed funds for our school.*

*A flyer will be issued soon with more details.*



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## Online Payment Options



## Online Payments

In the very near future you will be able to make online payments through the East Lothian Council Pay for it webpage. This will be for anything e.g. Milk, trips etc but NOT school meals. You will be also be able to continue to pay using cash or cheque as usual if you prefer. More details will be sent out when we are ready to start this new system.

## A message from the Eco Committee



We would like to say that we would like you to take litter home from packed lunches. Not only is it better for the school it is also better for ECO so please take litter home.

Thank you

## Swimming



The children in P3-4-5 are due to start swimming lessons at the Loch Centre Pool every Thursday from 24 April 2014 until the end of June 2014. Consent forms will be issued nearer the time.

## P6-7 Bake Sale—26 February 2014

At the Bake Sale on Wednesday 26 February 2014 we raised a fantastic £67.45. Thank you to everyone who baked the lovely cakes and to those who bought the delicious goodies.



Are you a golfer and would you to help to support our future golfers?

If so we'd love to hear from you!

To give as many children the opportunity to learn to play golf we need golfers over the age of 16 to help with coaching either as a qualified coach or a helper. You don't need to be a fantastic golfer - just enjoy the game, like having fun and be keen to encourage more children to enter into the sport for life. Fully funded training is provided and sessions can be delivered at a time and location that suits you.

ClubGolf is entering into its 10<sup>th</sup> year in East Lothian and we now have over 350 children participating in ClubGolf coaching programmes at local East Lothian clubs. ClubGolf aims to ensure that all children have the opportunity to experience golf by the age of 9. This is ensured in East Lothian by delivering the introductory game FirstClubGolf as part of Primary 5's PE Curriculum in school.

Children that enjoy FirstClubGolf are invited to continue to learn to play golf by progressing on to ClubGolf Stage 1. Stage 1 is 40 hours of introductory golf coaching delivered over 2 years. Sessions are delivered by fully qualified PGA Volunteer Coaches or PGA Professionals and are open to all abilities. Equipment is provided if required and sessions cost around £2.50 per hour. Children can continue to progress through the ClubGolf player pathway to the highest of their ability.

For more information please contact:

## Elphinstone Church Club Holiday Club

An action packed day full of games, challenges (some messy, some not!), songs, crafts, Bible stories, dvd and fun, fun, fun!!!

Where?

Elphinstone Community Centre  
Elphinstone

When?

Thursday 10 April  
10-3.00 pm

Who?

Any child currently in P1-P7 is welcome to join the Holiday Club Day.

Cost?

£3 for the whole day!  
Includes all activities and 2 juice and biscuit breaks.

You can pay on the day but as the club may sell out, to ensure your place and that we have enough resources please pre-register if possible by phone or text to Debbie Middlemass on 07549996552, email tranentholidayclub@gmail.com or posting the form to Nicola Bruce



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## News from the Community

‘We make the difference’

This five week course with P6/7 pupils has just finished. During the sessions the pupils were able to explore how our bodies and minds react to stress and how we can ‘make a difference’ to stress levels by recognising stress and altering our behaviour. Huge thanks to all the pupils who participated you were great!



News

Next month sees the transition event at Meadowmill for all Tranent and Fa’side pupils in P7. Participants will get the opportunity to meet Young Scot workers, Ross High staff, Community wardens and Active schools and take part in a variety of different activities- it’s going to be great fun!

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Lastly I am offering a six week Raising Children with Confidence course starting after Easter, anyone interested could you please contact me on the number/ email below  
Lena Hutton 01875 824 138 or lhutton@eastlothian.gov.uk

other

## News from the Parent Council

*First, I wanted give everyone an update on the Trim Trail!*

groups

*Nearly everything is in place for installation to begin. We successfully raised the matching funding needed before Christmas and Legacy 2014 were happy with all our plans. However, after discussion with East Lothian Council (planning and finance departments) it became clear that it would be better if East Lothian Council themselves purchased the Trim Trail, rather than the Parent Council, as ELC can claim back the VAT (which means we have £13.5K to spend instead of £11K) and planning permission is automatically granted.*

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*A new agreement had to be drawn up between ELC and Legacy 2014 and this agreement should be signed this week - but there has been a bit of ‘to and froing’ and paperwork to be filled and signed by people at ELC, which has meant we have not been able to order and install the Trim Trail as quickly as we had hoped.*

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*However - all should be in place by the end of February and once Legacy 2014 release the money to ELC we can place the official order! This does not change what we are ordering as ELC have agreed to go with the supplier and layout chosen with the help of all the pupils, parents and teachers before Christmas and what was on display in the parents room. I will let everyone know when we have a date for installation - hopefully by Easter so it will be ready to play when the children return for the summer term.*

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munity

*We also have nearly £7000 to spend on further playground improvements with grants from Awards for All, Support from the Start and the Bank of Scotland Fund. We need to plan exactly what this will be spent on as there are lots of ideas from children and teachers!*

*Thanks to everyone who came to the Burns Night - hopefully everyone had a great time. Although this wasn’t a fundraiser we still managed to raise about £150 from raffle and ticket sales.*

*The Parent Council have again funded the Text Messaging service for the next year after positive feedback from parents.*

*A questionnaire will be going out to all parents about fundraising for the school. Now we have reached our target of raising nearly £20K for the playground refurbishments we would like to know how parents would like future fundraising to be spent. We would also like to know how you would like to help raise money for the school.*

*The next Parent Council Meeting is on Thursday 24th April at 7pm in the school hall. Hope to see you there!*

*Helen*

## News from the Playgroup

Sadly Kirsten our playgroup secretary as decided to step down from her role. Kirsten has done a fantastic job and we will miss her terribly. It does mean that we have a vacancy for playgroup secretary, we would like to fill this post on or before 5th March. If interested please get in touch.

Don't forget parents evening Wednesday 5th march between 7-8:30pm. Please pop your name in the sign up sheet (displayed on the playgroup door) if you plan on coming along.