



Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter March/April 2015

- Important Dates
- Message from PT
- Winner Jan/Feb
- Leisurewear Order 2015-2016
- Online Payments
- Book Week
- Swimming
- Red Nose Day
- Parent Council News
- Ormiston Grows
- News from other groups in the community.

Important Dates

- 2 Mar P6-7 Mountain biking + Orienteering continues every Monday +
- 3 Mar 5.30 p.m. Parent Council mtg
- 4 Mar P7 Transition event-Meadowmill +P3-5 Rugby continues
- 5 Mar World Book Day
- 9-13 Mar BOOK WEEK
- 10 Mar Parental Consultations
- 12 Mar Parental Consultations
- 13 Mar Red Nose Day
- 18 Mar P3—5 Dynamic Earth trip
- 18 Mar P1 + P7 Dental Checks
- 1Apr 2 p.m. Family Service Last day of term
- 2 Apr In-Service
EASTER HOLIDAYS
- 20 Apr— ALL RESTART
- 23April— P4 Swimming lessons start till end June
Eve Parent Council mtg

Message from the Principal Teacher

Dear families,

Goodness! January and February already over! It's been another busy couple of months with lots happening in the school. With a toe in March, we are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day (5th) and Book Week (9-13th).

From its launch in September, Elphinstone Primary has supported the Ross Rocks Reading initiative, and we strive to encourage, share and inspire a love of reading. Our assemblies celebrate pupil successes and achievements and reading is also given a focus with our weekly Prize Draw for 100% Accelerated Readers. Well done to all pupils who earned their lanyards and RRR wristbands.

Our whole school home-teams are ideal opportunities for the children to share ideas and opinions, ask questions and talk about their individual interests. We have held several activities on reading and it is clear, from the high level of engagement, that children LOVE books!

10 reasons why reading is important:

- Kids who read often widely get better at it
- Reading exercises our brains
- Reading improves concentration
- Reading teaches children about the world around them
- Reading improves a child's vocabulary and leads to more highly-developed language skills
- Reading improves a child's imagination
- Reading helps kids to develop empathy
- Children who read do better at school
- Reading is a great form of achievement
- Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind

There you have it-the top 10 benefits of reading!



So, what can you do at home? As parents you have the power to boost your child's learning potential simply by making books an integral part of their lives. The nurturing and one-to-one attention from parents during reading aloud encourages children to form a positive association with books and reading in life. Keep plenty of reading materials in the home; books, magazines, newspapers, comic and puzzle books. There are many online reading resources too. Children enjoy having a variety of reading material. Reading daily with your child is a simple way to support their educational needs...and it's fun!

Happy Reading!

Yours, Karen Thomson (P6/7& Principal Teacher)



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Congratulations!

Well done to Lauren Fraser who was the winner of the prize for reading the Jan-Feb 2015 newsletter and returning the slip.

Will it be your child this time?

IMPORTANT

Leisurewear

New Way of ordering for 2015-2016

It is that time again— considering your Leisurewear Order for the next school year.

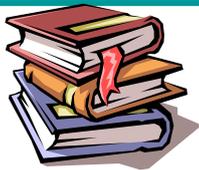
We are moving to a direct ordering online system with our supplier Border Embroideries.

Flyers will be issued soon by the supplier explaining the new system. If you are unable to order online the school will continue to order for you. Forms will be issued very soon for those parents who are unable to order online.

Online Payments for school trips, nursery snack etc



I would encourage parents to use the online payments system through the East Lothian Council Pay for It webpage or the link on our school website. This will be for anything e.g. Milk, school trips, nursery snack etc but NOT at the moment for school meals. You will also be able to continue to pay using cheque payable to East Lothian Council or by cash if you prefer.



Book Week 9-13 March 2015

Look out for our separate flyer about Book Week which will be issued very soon.



Swimming

The children in P4 are due to start swimming lessons at the Loch Centre Pool every Thursday from 23 April 2015 until the end of June 2015.

Consent forms will be issued before the Easter break.

Red Nose Day Friday 13 March 2015

Red Noses are for sale £1 from school anytime now. 60p goes to Comic relief for every nose sold.

The theme for Friday 13th is funny faces. Pay a donation to come to school with a funny face.

Help us raise money for Comic Relief.



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Ormiston Grows



The Ormiston Grows walking bus to the station garden 'Friday Club' began on 23 February. The Ormiston Grows staff are delighted to have 20 Elphinstone primary pupils registered with this project. Each Friday they take a 40 minute walk from the school down to the garden to take part in a range of cooking, gardening and craft activities before walking back up to the school to meet parents again later in the afternoon. This activity will run until Friday the 20th March when the projects current funding comes to an end.



FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL...

March Update

Time is marching on (pardon the pun!) and we are in the run up to Easter already. The days are getting longer again and hopefully the weather will soon be on the turn...

Events – as a follow up to the Parent Council meeting and subsequent note that went out about an end of term activity it was a very close vote. From the responses we have decided to host the following:

1st April from 6-8pm for an end of term disco.

29th May from 12noon-4pm for a family fun afternoon.

I know this will not suit everyone but we had to go with the majority.

I have booked the lets and now I am looking for volunteers to help organise the two separate events. We are also following up looking into sponsorship from local business (whether that is financial or in-kind).

So please can you get back to me if you are prepared to help and let me know your preference. I see the tasks as:

End of term disco sub-group

Family fun day sub-group

Sponsorship / Fundraising

Catering – The council have asked for feedback on the proposed Spring/Summer menu. If you would like to see what is proposed and offer comment then please let me know or come to the meeting where it will be on the agenda.

Dates

Here are the rest of the meeting dates for the Parent Council through to the summer:

Tuesday 3rd March 5.30-6.30

Thursday 23rd April 5.30-6.30

Wednesday 17th June 5.30-6.30

Please come along if you can and childcare will be provided...

Jacqui Stone, Chair
jacqui.stone@live.co.uk





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News
from
other
groups
in
Our
Community

News from the Playgroup

Hi All,

We hope everyone enjoyed the February break. Parent surveys are being collated and the results will be available shortly, if you have any suggestions/ comments please leave these in our suggestion box at any time.

We are currently full, so we are advising everyone to get their child's name on the waiting list early to get a space.

If you have any skills or expertise that you think you could come in to show the children at playgroup, please let us know.

Thanks
Kirsten



*Happy Easter
to everyone
from the staff
at Elphinstone
Primary*