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- Happy Easter!

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Families,

Our skills clubs started after the February half-term and have been hugely successful! I do hope you are getting positive feedback from your children when they come home from school. Our P6/7 class are leading these clubs. They have identified the skills they wish to develop and they target these every week. Each group is supported by a mentor (member of staff) but it is the pupils who are planning, delivering and evaluating the sessions.

We are also working on a Positive Behaviour policy with all pupils. This work as well as the 6 key drivers of school improvement as outlined in the National Improvement framework are being explored by pupils. I have had the pleasure of working with the upper class to develop their knowledge and understanding of these drivers. The P6 pupils led our Assembly this week and shared their knowledge with the rest of the school.

All pupils involved will also present all of the above work at the next Parent Council meeting on the 16th March at 17:00. You are very welcome to come along and hear their presentations.

I have also been working with pupils from P1-7 about the skills for life, learning and work so that we, as educators, prepare all young people for employment. All of the above development work will be on display in and around the school. Please look out for them when you come in for your parental consultations.

One last thought...are you teaching your child how to be resilient? I found this article to self-evaluate your response to this question.

Encouraging resilience is one of the best things parents/carers can do for their children. Resilient children deal with challenges in positive ways- at home and at school. Answer yes or no to questions below to see if you are helping your child develop resilience:

1. Do you give your child opportunities to make decisions? It's a skill that improves with practice.
2. Do you talk to your child about how to find the right answer when you are faced with a problem?
3. Do you talk to your child about their strengths? Children draw on their strengths when facing challenges.
4. Do you remind your child how they have handled tough situations in the past when they are struggling?
5. Do you listen to your child when they are struggling to make a decision without solving the problem for them?

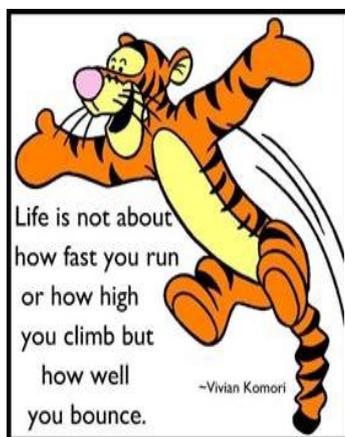
How well are you doing?

Each yes answer means you are helping your child become more resilient. For no answers, try those ideas from the quiz.

(2013, The Parent Institute, Vol 24, No 6, page 2).

Together with growth mind-sets, resilience is certainly regularly visited in our everyday life of the school. If we work together on this it enhances the development of this skill.

Best wishes
Heather





Term 2/3 2016-2017 dates

Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

- **6 Mar** 4.30-6.00 p.m. Family Learning Event
- **7 + 9 Mar** Parental Consultations— appts already issued
- **8 Mar** P7 Transition event— Meadowmill
- **9 Mar** P1-2 Bake Sale
- **6-10 March** **BOOK WEEK** (incl Children come Dressed as favourite book character Fri 10 Mar)
- **16 March** 5.00 p.m. Parent Council Meeting *All Welcome*
- **20-22 March** P6-7 Camp at Lockerbie
- **24 March** **RED NOSE DAY**
- **30 March** Rag Bag Collection Day
- **31 March** 11.00 a.m. Easter Assembly in school with Tranent Parish Church— Parents/Carers welcome

- **3—17 April** **EASTER HOLIDAYS**
- **20 April** P3-4 Swimming lessons start weekly
- **24 April** P3-5 Football session
- **26 April** P6-7 Visit to Scottish Parliament



Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter March/April 2017

Book Week and Parental Consultation Week 6-10 March 2017



A separate flyer about Book Week and Parental Consultation week was e mailed through Groupcall on 28 Feb 2017.

Children should come dressed up as their favourite book character on Friday 10 March 2017.

Rag Bag Textile Recycling Scheme

The next pick up will be on

Thursday 30 March 2017

Please put your bags in either of the Textile Banks by 8.50 a.m. on the morning of Thursday 30 March 2017

*Easter Assembly
Friday 31 March 2017
at 11.00 a.m.
in the school*

*All Parents and Carers are welcome
to join the children and Tranent Parish Church
for our Assembly on the last day of this term.*

Swimming

The children in P3-4 are due to start swimming lessons at the Loch Centre Pool every Thursday from 20 April 2017 until the end of June 2017.





Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter March/April 2017

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL...

All parents and carers of all primary school and nursery children are invited to attend parent council meetings which take place in the school. Childcare is provided - just bring your children along with you on the night. The meetings are friendly and you will be made very welcome.

Please come along, have a cuppa, find out more and give your ideas for what the Parent Council does to 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 jude@judithdunn.co.uk or 0777 635 6380. Look forward to seeing you there!

Also please like our Facebook page Elphinstone Primary School Parent Council for updates Here are the highlights of what was discussed at the last meeting.

Fundraising sub group report

The excellent result from the Christmas Fair was noted. Nicola and Rob were thanked for their work on this event. Rob has sent thank you letter from the PC to all the raffles donors.

Donation of £50 received from Torness via Amanda/Kev. Thank you letter has been sent.

There is currently a total available for projects of £756.28 and ideas are welcomed for projects that will support the school and the pupils.

Ideas for fundraising were discussed including the Mini Mudder – Megan planning to arrange. Summer fayre stalls including tombola and face painting and also another Christmas Fair in 2017.

Management Team Update (Mrs Williams and Mrs Hamilton)

Mrs Hamilton announced a family learning event which will take place on 6 March.

School is developing a behaviour policy with input from children and parents – real tasks to be involved. Golden time to change to skills focussed clubs which P6/7 will run. There are lots of ideas on loads of great topics.

Group commented on what they would like to hear about and some ideas were more about the resources in use, i.e. Twinkl, accelerated reading, music teaching.

Could you or anyone you know be our Clerk?

There is still a need for a Clerk – this is a position paid by the council for administration of the parent council including taking minutes at the meeting. If you would like to find out more, please contact parentcouncil@elphinstone.elcschool.org.uk

Date of next meeting

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on **Thursday 16 March 2017 from 5.00pm-6.30pm.**





Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter March/April 2017

News
from
other
groups
in
Our
Community

News from the Playgroup

Hi All,

We hope everyone enjoyed the February break. Parent surveys will be coming out shortly, if you have any suggestions/comments please leave these in our suggestion box at any time.

We currently have spaces available so if you have a child who is 2 years old or is coming up for two years old message elphinstoneplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk for an application form. It is important to get your 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.



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