



Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter December



Message from the Head Teacher

Special points of interest:

- Message from head teacher
- The Magical Christmas Jigsaw Performances
- Winner of Oct/Nov Newsletter
- Community News
- Playgroup News
- Parent Council News
- Christmas Cards
- Milk money
- Board Games and Playmobile
- Education Scotland Website
- Zig Zag lines
- Webb Ivory
- Greetings

IMPORTANT DATES

2 Dec eve- EL schools annual concert-certain pupils-Ross High School

9 Dec 9.30 Dress Rehearsal

10 Dec 2 p.m. The Magical Christmas Jigsaw performance

11 Dec Xmas Lunch

11 Dec 5.45 Children due at school for performance starting at 6.30p.m.

15 Dec p.m. Panto trip-return approx. 3.45 p.m.

16 Dec 9.00-10.30 a.m. Storyline Showcase/Open Morning

17 Dec a.m. Early Years (Nursery + P1-2 Party)

17 Dec p.m. P3-7 party

19 Dec Last day of School
HOLIDAYS

6 Jan ALL restart

9 Jan-Milk Money due

Dear Families,

At the end of another busy term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers and other friends of the school for supporting the work of the school over the last few months.

A great deal of hard work has been done by pupils and staff, but parents in particular play a vital role in ensuring that the school continues to be successful.

I know that many of you attended our Harvest Assembly, Parent's Evenings and Curriculum evening as well as sponsored your child for our Mini-mudder. We look forward to welcoming you to our Storyline Open morning on the morning of 16th December and to watch our Nativity Play!

On behalf of all the staff at Elphinstone Primary school may I take this opportunity to send our best wishes for a happy Christmas and an enjoyable New Year.

*Yours,
Heather*

THE MAGICAL CHRISTMAS JIGSAW

performances will take place on the

afternoon of 10 December 2014

and the evening of Thursday 11 Dec 2014

Please see the separate flyer that was issued on

Thursday 27 November 2014

regarding important seating and ticket requests.

We will be selling

raffle tickets for a Christmas Hamper at each of our shows.

The Christmas Draw will take place after the evening performance on the 11th.

Any donations towards our Christmas Hamper will be most welcome.

October /November Newsletter Winner

Well done to Amalea who was the winner of the October/November newsletter. Will it be your child next? Read this newsletter with your child and hand the slip back before 5 December to enter this month's draw.



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Christmas Cards



Merry Christmas

Once again this year we will have a Christmas post box in school for children who wish to hand out Christmas cards.

We would encourage everyone to recycle their Xmas cards in January.

Whole School Christmas Lunch



Our whole school lunch takes place this year on 11 December 2014. This is a lovely Festive occasion and I would be good for all children to join in. Details have already been issued.

Children may wear festive headgear if they wish on this occasion.

Wanted -good condition

complete Board Games and Playmobile



If you are looking for a new home for any of your child friendly board games (complete games in good condition) which you no longer want at home then please hand them into to the school office.

We certainly can make good use of them.



Webb Ivory

A huge thank you to everyone who ordered items from the Webb Ivory catalogue. You helped raise commission of £105.26. Thank you for your support.



Zig Zag Lines

To ensure the safety of everyone please do not park on the zig zag lines. Emergency vehicles require access to the school at all times.



Milk Money

Milk Money for the period -6/1/15-2/4/15 is £10.26 . Payment is due by Friday 9 January 2015.

We would prefer you paid this online by using the link on our school website or by using the link on the council website www.eastlothiancouncil.gov.uk/payforit. You may however still pay by cheque payable to East Lothian Council or by cash.

New email update from Education Scotland for Parents and Carers

To subscribe to this new email update please visit the sign-up page on the Education Scotland website and select News for Parents and Carers by following this link:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/newsandevents/emailupdates/index.asp>



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NEW APPROACH FOR PARENT COUNCIL...



November Update

I am pleased to report that at the recent parent council meeting eleven families were represented. There was some great discussion and the activities for the children in the P6/7 classroom proved a huge hit!

We discussed trying a new approach around the meetings in the hope that some other parents may be able to join us. We decided to rotate the day of the week for meetings, keep the timing to an hour and offer childcare at the school. I will be looking at dates for the rest of the year and these will be sent round a.s.a.p. My approach is for these meetings to be open to the whole parent forum so please come along if you can to feed in your thoughts and ideas...

Discussion Topics

Road Safety – we discussed planning a campaign this year around road safety trying to encourage people to slow down through the village and stop parking on the zig zag lines. More information will follow on this in the New Year

Transport – we talked about transport for school trips so we will look at supporting the staff to complete some minibus training and will look into costing for potential fundraising for a minibus.

Events – We hope to arrange another Burns supper for the weekend of the 24th January. Please put the date in your diary and let us know if you would like to help arrange the event. We also talked about other priorities for the year and we are going to look at being able to fundraise to arrange other events such as a family East Egg Hunt, Summer Fayre and a Halloween disco.

Parent engagement – It was great to see some new faces at the meeting and we talked about methods of parent engagement. I will aim to use the website more but send out text messages to advise when this has been updated. If you are a facebook user please also check out the Elphinstone Village page: <https://www.facebook.com/ElphinstoneVillage> or on twitter: <https://twitter.com/ElphinstoneInfo>

Main Issue Report - The Main Issues Report outlines the main planning issues in East Lothian and is the first formal stage in the preparation of the new East Lothian Local Development Plan. It is a discussion and consultation document, giving you the chance to have your say on the big ideas for future development, along with environmental and infrastructure issues. There is a consultation event in Tranent at the Fraser Centre on the 8th December. This features an afternoon drop-in session from 2pm to 5.30pm and evening workshop from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. There are plans for more housing in Elphinstone which will have an impact on the school so I would encourage you to attend the event or feed into the report. Find more info here: http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/204/local_development_plan_main_issues_report/1470/local_development_plan

Feedback

I have created a short survey online which is anonymous and just for my information. Please spare a few minutes to let me know your thoughts if you haven't had the chance already to do so:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2LHH8BV>

If you are interested in becoming involved, in whatever capacity, then please drop me an email using the address below or catch me at the school gate. This is our opportunity to get involved and make a difference... I look forward to hearing from you!

Jacqui Stone, Chair



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Community News

**News
from
other
groups
in our
Comm-
unity**

Elphinstone is to set up a new tenants and residents association! This new body will ensure that the actions of the TECAP plan and the views of villagers in Council, Housing Association and Owners are represented.

For more information contact Lena Hutton below.

We are hoping to run an Incredible Years course in Tranent in the new year. This is a very popular course, with crèche support which has supported many families with children aged 3-12. For information contact Lena below.

PEEP will return in the new year, with an average reach of 25 families per week these courses are in demand so please see Tranent Support from the Start facebook page for information on booking.

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

Playgroup News

Hi All,

Welcome to all our new children who have joined us since the Summer. The children are all settling in and we hope they are enjoying their new experiences in playgroup.

We have bid farewell to Katie who has moved on to another role and we would like to thank her for her contribution and wish her well for the future.

Nancy will now take the position playgroup manager and we have employed Kirsten Henderson, who was our previous secretary, to become our administrator. She will deal with the administration jobs to ensure Nancy can spend her time in the playroom with the children.

We have our Christmas party coming up on 18 December 10-11.30am information is on the playgroup noticeboard, please sign your child up if they are already on the list. Please note that the last day of Playgroup this term is Thursday 18 December as we will be closed on Friday 19 December for our deep clean. If any parents are able to help with our deep clean, please let us know. We will open again on Tuesday 6 January.

We hope everyone has a great Christmas and New Year.

Thanks, Kirsten

**Merry Christmas from the staff at
Elphinstone Primary**