



## Message from the Head Teacher

- Important dates
- Message from Mrs Williams
- Communication
- Information
- School Edubuzz site
- Office Bearers 2015-2016
- Communication with Mrs Williams
- Parent Council News
- Community news
- Playgroup News

## Important Dates

- 31 Aug– P1 children attend ALL DAY
- 1 Sept P3-4 Watersports  
4 Sept JRSO Launch event
- 7 Sept P5-7 Watersports
- 15 Sept **POSTPONED**  
Curriculum Evening followed by AGM of the Parent Council+ Beetle Drive  
ALL WELCOME- More details to follow soon
- 18 Sept HOLIDAY  
21 Sept HOLIDAY
- 29 Sept P5-7 Orienteering
- 12-16 Oct HOLIDAY
- 19 Oct In-Service Day  
26 + 28 Oct Parental Consultations -Details and appointments to follow

Dear Families

Welcome back to a new school year! This is our third week back and our pupils are back in routine and settled. Our new starts in the Nursery are all in and our P1's are now in for a full day.

A quick staffing update: Mrs Paterson is with us full time until she goes on maternity leave at the end of September. Mrs Collier is also pregnant and will go off on maternity leave at Christmas time. I will recruit a full-time maternity cover from January to June. I will cover Mrs Paterson's days from October to December.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Curriculum evening on the 15th September 2015. This will take the form of a family Learning walk followed by a Beetle drive (with the Parent council AGM in the Middle). Each teacher will cover an aspect of the curriculum to share with you and your child. I will tell you more about how we are making some improvements to our Learning stories and our school. Following on from this, you may recall that at the end of last session I sent a summary of what we had achieved over the year and how we covered our school improvement plan. This year we are looking at:

- Raising attainment
- Learning for sustainability
- Introducing the 1+2 language Initiative
- Moderation of Numeracy

**Reviewing our resources and programmes** including our Learning stories\*  
Introducing a Play pod in the playground (working with our Parent Forum on this).

You may notice that I've put an aspect of our school improvement in bold and underlined.

Whilst clearing out our resources, there was a lot of good textbooks and a reading scheme that would benefit another school. My cousin, Alison Neal teaches in a school in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe where they are still using Janet and John (1949) and Peter and Jane (1970) readers. She is the Department Head for the Junior school and was delighted to hear of the possibility of getting these resources to aid the pupils in her school. Together as a school community I hope to raise the funds for postage. We will create a link with the school so our pupils can see the pupils in Zimbabwe and also the benefit they get from the resources once they arrive there. I think this will be a personal way of pupils seeing how recycling resources can have a huge impact on others.

Please let me know if you have any fundraising ideas or if you are willing to help me organise something.☺

On behalf of my committed and caring staff, we look forward to another productive and happy year at Elphinstone Primary school.

All the best,  
Heather



# Elphinstone Primary –Community Newsletter August/September 2015



## Information and Consent Forms

At the start of every session there is always lots of information for parents. Please remember to check your child's message bag **DAILY** and read all the correspondence which is sent out. Please ensure all consents are completed and returned to school the next day together with the appropriate payment.



## School Edubuzz Site

The new class sites on our website will hopefully be up and running soon. We are waiting on our IT dept to help us set the new classes up.

Sign up for e mail alerts. It is easy-by logging onto:  
<http://www.edubuzz.org/elphinstone/> and on the right hand side of the site enter your email address in the subscribe by e mail box.

Congratulations!

Well done to Mason Fleming who was the winner of the prize for reading our May-June 2015 newsletter. Will it be your child this time?



Elphinstone  
Pupil Council  
Representatives

Leon Skwara Pacione P7  
 Jessica Stable P7  
 Euan Hill P6  
 Alistair Dunn P5  
 Matthew Stable P4  
 Kelvin Jones P4  
 Grace Fleming P3  
 Mullen Fleming P2  
 Kiara Campbell P1

## Elphinstone Office Bearers Session 2015-2016



Lewis Stanton P5  
 Alicia Ross P6

EPS

Elphinstone  
Playground  
Assistants

Rebekkah Jamieson-Love P5  
 Ryan Hill P5  
 Rhys Gilchrist P5  
 Ben Kean P5

Elphinstone  
Junior Road  
Safety Officers

Emma Fraser P7  
 Lauren Skinner P6



### P7 Prefects

Aaron Scott  
 Leon Skwara  
 pacione  
 Emma Fraser  
 Lauren Fraser  
 Hayley Ross  
 Jessica Stable

Elphinstone  
Eco Committee

Lauren Fraser P7  
 Shane Fleming P6  
 Huw Skwara Pacione P5  
 Aaron Townsley P5  
 Theo Kyle P5  
 Darcey bell P4  
 Oli Alexander P3  
 Demi-Lee Macgregor P2  
 Leah Stable P1



*Written Communication with  
Mrs Williams*

*Please send all written communication for Mrs Williams via the school office whether it is by letter or e mail.*

*For your information the school  
e mail address is :*

*[elphinstone.ps@elphinstone.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:elphinstone.ps@elphinstone.elcschool.org.uk)*



## FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL...

### September Update

New term and lots of exciting planning for the year ahead... Please see below for options to get involved!

Just a quick note of some things coming up over the following weeks and months...

**Gardening** - The parent council will purchase tools for the children to do gardening. These will be ready for use in school soon.

**AGM** - There will be a parent council AGM on the 15<sup>th</sup> September at 4.30pm. This will be held in conjunction with a family learning walk and beetle drive before and after. More information will come out about this. We are actively looking for new members of the parent council to join at the AGM across all year groups. If you are interested and would like to know more about what is involved then please get in touch.

**Spending of Funds** – Still looking for ideas on what else parent council funds should be used for... School Song? Spelling Resource? School Trips? Something Else? If you have a view then get in touch... We will also be focusing on more fundraising next year to top the funds back up so please let me know if you can help...

**Halloween Disco** - We will hold a Halloween disco the week of the 26<sup>th</sup> October (plans will be confirmed soon). I am looking for helpers to plan and also help on the night – please volunteer if you can!

**Mini-mudder** – We are considering holding another mini-mudder event this year. If you would like to help organise then please get in touch.

**Clerk** – We currently have a vacancy for a clerk for the council. If you would be interested and wish to find out more about terms and benefits then please get in touch.

### Dates

Dates for the Parent Council meetings will be confirmed at the AGM. As before meetings will take place 5.30 – 6.30 with childcare being provided.

Feel free to contact me anytime...

Jacqui Stone, Chair

[jacqui.stone@live.co.uk](mailto:jacqui.stone@live.co.uk)





News  
from  
other  
groups  
in  
Our  
Comm-  
unity

## *News from the Community*

Welcome back to a new school term!

PEEP baby resumes on 31<sup>st</sup> August for a six week block. This group is open to 0-12months and involves songs, rhymes, stories and learning about child development. The group meets on Mondays from 1.15 in the lounge.

This term the Raising Children with Confidence course is being held in the McNeill Room, George Johnstone Centre. The group meets on a Tuesday evening from 6.30pm. There are still spaces on this valuable course.

Youth club is likely to restart after the September break as we are still waiting budgets to be agreed.

We are holding Stay and Play sessions in both Tranent and touring round the villages in partnership with Carefree Kids Toy Library. Please see Tranent Support from the Start Facebook page for more information.

The latest adult learning programme has just been published. If you are interested in learning a language, art/craft or developing a new skill then look at [www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk) or if there are enough local people interested in pursuing a class we can arrange one locally. Contact [cl-d-faside@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:cl-d-faside@eastlothian.gov.uk)

Lena Hutton 01875 824 138 or [lhutton@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:lhutton@eastlothian.gov.uk)

## *News from the Playgroup*

We welcome everyone back after our holidays and have heard of the memorable days out from the children. We have enjoyed getting everyone settled back in to playgroup. We have also welcomed many new starts and still have a few more due to start in the coming weeks. We still have some spaces left so if you know anyone who has a child turning two who hasn't already got their application in to get in contact. We were extremely pleased with how our stall went at the village fair on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of August and would like to thank all who kindly donated bric a brac and wine for our wine or water stall.