



## Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter December 2017



White Christmas

### Special points of interest:

- Message from Principal teacher
- December Dates
- Christmas Performances
- Xmas Lunch
- Dress for all weathers
- Christmas Cards
- Milk money
- Parent Council news
- Community News
- Playgroup News
- Greetings

Dear Families,

We are nearly at the end of what has been a challenging term for the school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers and other stakeholders of our school for supporting the staff over the past few months.

The support of our parents/carers plays a vital role at all times in ensuring the school continues to be successful. East Lothian Council have recently launched a new parental engagement strategy which outlines opportunities for schools and parents to work together. It is available to read on East Lothian Council's website.

I would of course also like to thank the staff for their hard work and commitment over the past few months which has ensured the smooth running of the school.

Our Parent Council is one means of parental engagement and all parents/carers are welcomed at meetings. There is currently a consultation on the new Education (Scotland) Bill called Empowering Schools: A Consultation on the Draft Provisions in the Education (Scotland) Bill. We hope some of you will respond either individually at:

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/>

or by attending a meeting in school which will be organised in the New Year.

The school already has a festive feel to it and I am enjoying hearing bursts of singing and seeing the glitter begin to appear! We look forward to seeing some of you at our nativity performances or our Christmas Fair.

On behalf of all the staff at Elphinstone, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Best Wishes,

*Alison Hamilton*

Principal Teacher



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### December 2017 Dates

- 1 December 10 a.m.-12.00 PC Xmas Fayre- school hall-  
**Wear something Christmassy!!!!**
- 7 December Xmas Lunch (P1-7)- **Children may wear Christmas jumper/Xmas headgear if they wish**
- 7 December 5.00-6.30 p.m. Parent Council Meeting- in school- all parents and carers welcome to attend
- 12 December 9.45 a.m. Dress Rehearsal (Ticket only- parents/carers with small children may attend this performance)
- 12 December p.m. P1-7 Pantomime trip
- 13 December 2 p.m. Nativity (Adult Tickets only— no secondary pupils allowed to attend)
- 14 December Children arrive at school at 5.30 p.m. for 6 p.m. Nativity performance (ADULTS only by ticket)
- 19 December p.m. P3-4 Party
- 20 December a.m. Nursery/P1-2 Party
- 20 December p.m. P5-7 Party
- 21 December a.m. P7 singing songs to the elderly at Carberry Care Home
- 22 December Last day of term- Carol singing at 10.30 a.m. parents and carers invited to attend.

More information will be issued nearer each date.



## Our Christmas Performances

will take place on the  
afternoon of 13 December 2017 at 2 p.m. (Adult tickets only)  
and the evening of 14 December 2017 at 6 p.m. (Adult tickets only)

Please see the separate flyer issued on  
?? November 2017  
regarding important seating and ticket requests.

We will be selling  
Raffle tickets for a **Christmas Hamper** at our Dress Rehearsal and 2  
performances.

The Hamper Draw will take place after the performance on 14th December  
2017.

Any Xmas themed food donations e.g. mince pies, Christ-  
mas pudding, chocolates etc  
towards our Christmas Hamper will be most welcome.

### Whole School Christmas Lunch



Our whole school lunch takes place this year on 7 December 2017  
This is a lovely Festive occasion and it would be good for all children  
to join in. Details have already been issued.

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



### Dress for all weathers

Children will be going out at break times in almost all weather  
where possible. Please send your children to school dressed  
appropriately with a **warm waterproof jacket, hat scarf and  
gloves** on cold days and wellies on wet days.



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### Christmas Cards



Merry Christmas

We will have a Christmas post box in school from 1 Dec for children who wish to send Christmas cards.

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

We raised £75.00 in commission for school funds from the sales of the children's Cauliflower Cards. Thank you to everyone who bought Christmas cards this year.



### Milk Money

Milk Money for the period -8/1/18-29/3/18 is £9.01 . Payment is due before we break up for the Christmas Holidays by Thursday 14th December 2017.

We would prefer if 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](http://www.eastlothiancouncil.gov.uk/payforit). You may however still pay by cheque payable to East Lothian Council or by cash.

## FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL...

### Christmas Fayre

We hope everyone is looking forward to the Christmas Fayre. The children have all been busy making crafts in their classes, to sell to their parents /carers. The Parent council has been helping Santa set up his grotto ready for his visit to the school, and we know it will be a fun morning.



Thank you to everyone who has donated prizes to our tombola, baked cakes for our bake sale, and sold / bought tickets for the raffle.

We look forward to seeing all the families on

**Friday 1st December**

**10-12**

**in the school hall.**

### Next P.C meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will be **Thursday 7th December 5-6:30 p.m.**

Free childcare will be provided, and all parents are welcome.

If you can't make the meeting, and have anything you would like us to raise, please speak to any of the Parent Council members.

Nursery - **Natasha Murphy & John Brown**

P1/2 - **Amanda Clelland**

P3/4 - **Nicola Gregory, Helen Spencer & Antony Stone**

P5/6/7 - **Rob Moore & Mike Pacione**



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## Community News

# News from other groups in our Community

It has been a busy Autumn, I cannot believe we are in the run down to Christmas already.

**Baby PEEP.** This group is very popular to the point where we have had to split the group and run a double session. It is a vital 'first group' for parents to get to know others and find out what else is available in the area. This group is free and available from birth. Groups now run 12.45-1.14 and 2-3pm you can register through [cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk)

**Speakeasy.** For some parents the thought of having 'that or those' kinds of conversations with the youngsters may be really difficult. Speakeasy plans to offer support and strategies to parents to discuss Sexual health, relationships and conversations about puberty with ease. This course also considers online safety.

We aim to run a course in the New Year. If you are interested then please email [cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk)

Lastly, Community Learning and Development offer a free range of training for community members each year the link for this calendar of training opportunities is now on the council website. Please take a look!

[http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/10226/community\\_training\\_calendar\\_2017-18](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/10226/community_training_calendar_2017-18)

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

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

## Playgroup News

At playgroup we are looking forward to the Christmas build up and all the arts and crafts. We love glitter.... Keep your eyes peeled when in the community centre at our display boards to see what we have been getting up to.

We had a few new starts at playgroup at the end of October and into November and they have all settled in really well. We still have a waiting list available for children who are coming up for 2 years old and wish to attend playgroup when they are two. For applications please email [elphinstonepgmanager@gmail.com](mailto:elphinstonepgmanager@gmail.com) or alternatively pop into playgroup Monday-Friday 9-11.30am to get a paper copy.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents/carers for your support this year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a **Happy New Year!**

**With Best Wishes for the Festive season from all the staff at Elphinstone**