



Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter March/April 2018

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Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Families,

Our skills clubs have re-started after a hugely successful block last session! Our P7 pupils are leading these clubs and there are 5 in total, namely Lego club, Bat and ball club, Science and Engineering club, Jewellery and Craft club and Sport's club. These clubs will run over 3 five week blocks between now and the summer. This ensures that your child will have experienced at least three of the five clubs. We are using the same successful model as last year where each group is supported by a mentor (member of staff). It is, however the pupils who are planning, delivering and evaluating the sessions. They have identified the skills they wish to develop and they target these every week.

All parents/carers got a letter at the beginning of the month outlining how all cluster schools are targeting late coming and absences. The letter outlined the effect these can have on your child's learning. During an Assembly we talked to a partner about how we would feel if we were late for a meeting or school. Some of the words/feelings the pupils shared were embarrassed, humiliated, worried, shy, disappointed, frustrated and lonely. I also shared this at the last Parent Council meeting. I asked members to think how they would feel if they were late for a meeting. This is the same for pupils. Life doesn't always run smoothly and sometimes being late or absent can't be helped but we encourage all parents/carers to work together with us to keep these to a minimum where possible.

We have established a clear vision for our school in the statement 'Elphy ...a small school thinking big'. This vision is further embraced by our values of 'Everybody knows each other in this loving school and it feels like a family'. Together with our vision and values we will be exploring our curriculum rationale. Essentially, a shared understanding of what we want for our pupils at Elphinstone and what we are going to do to achieve this. This means taking into account what makes our school unique. We will be in touch to gather feedback from all members of our learning community...so watch this space!

Best wishes
Feather



Term 2/3 2017-2018 dates

Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

- 7 Mar EL Youth Summit— certain pupils
- 8 Mar 5.00 p.m. Parent Council meeting—All welcome
- 14 Mar P7 Transition event @ Meadowmill
- 14 Mar Read Write Count -Parent Launch— more details to follow
- 15 Mar P7 STEM event— Edinburgh College, Midlothian Campus
- 20 Mar Parental Consultations— appts already issued
- 21 Mar Parental Consultations— appts already issued
- 19-23 Mar BOOK WEEK (incl Children come Dressed as favourite book character Fri 23 Mar)
- 26 Mar P1-2 Class Assembly
- 28 Mar Open Morning/ P5-7 Bake Sale/P6-7 parental conference at Ross High
- 29 Mar Last day of term
- 30 Mar EASTER HOLIDAYS
- 16 Apr All pupils return to school
- 18 Apr P3-4 Rugby
- 19 Apr P3-4 swimming starts weekly till end of June
- 23 Apr P3-4 Class Assembly
- 25 Apr P3-4 Rugby
- 26 Apr 5-6.30 p.m. Parent Council meeting— all welcome



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Book Week and Parental Consultation Week 19-23 March 2018



A separate flyer about Book Week and Parental Consultation week will be issued soon.
Children should come dressed up as their favourite book character on Friday 23 March 2018

Rag Bag Textile Recycling Scheme

Please remember we have 2 textile banks in our school grounds for:

- ♦ Clean wearable clothing- all fashions- all ages
 - ♦ Paired shoes
 - ♦ Handbags
 - ♦ Belts.

Although it is still Winter weather outside why not have a Spring clean of your wardrobes and then put your filled bags into either textile bank.

Swimming



The children in P3-4 are due to start swimming lessons at the Loch Centre Pool every Thursday from 19 April 2018 until the end of June 2018. More details will be issued soon.



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FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL...

We hope everyone enjoyed their half term break.

It's great to see our P7's wearing their **leavers hoodies**. I spoke to a few of them last week, they were really pleased they got to choose their own colour, and they all seemed very happy with them. These were **paid for by Parent Council funds that you all helped raise, so thank you!**

We received a lovely letter from the **nursery** children, thanking all the families for their **new rain suits**. They have been having great fun in the winter weather, and their new suits have kept them all dry. **These were also purchased with funds from your parent council.**

Our next meeting is 8th March, and once again free childcare will be provided. We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

If you are unable to make the meeting, but have something you would like raised, please speak to any of the PC reps.

Nursery - Natasha Murphy & John Brown

P1/2 Amanda Clelland

P3/4 Nicola Gregory, Helen Spencer & Antony Stone

P5/6/7 Rob Moore & Mike Pacione

Nicola Gregory
Chairperson



News from the Playgroup

Time has just flown in since the February break and now we are nearly at March. Playgroup has had a few new starts after our return from the break. They have all settled in really well. We received a grant from ELC which has enabled us to buy lots of nice new wooden toys and a sand/water play table for outdoors which the children are enjoying. We cannot wait for the better weather to get it all set up but for now we will enjoy the sand indoors. We welcome new applications so if you have a child who is coming up for 2 years old/ know someone who does email elphinstonepgmanager@gmail.com for an application or alternatively pop in and pick one up, Monday to Friday 9.00-11.30.



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News
from
other
groups
in
Our
Community

News from the Community

Baby Peep continues this term with a double group 12.45-1.45 and 2-3pm, should you want to book on the email address is cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk

The transition countdown has started for those children in P7. The social transition event is on 7th and 14th March this year at Meadowmill and we will have a variety of guests from Community wardens to Active Schools, Young Scot, Recharge, school catering services and much more!

The next Raising Teen with Confidence course is starting at Ross High in the library from 25th April 6.30-8.30 for 6 weeks. This course is always positively evaluated by parents as it gives a lot of information on the changing teen brain, looks at your changing relationship with your child and how you can keep those communication channels open! The course is free just email cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk to book a place. This course is suitable for mums, dads, grandparents or carers.

Youth clubs are running this term on 25th January from 5.45 to 7.45 for an 8 week term to Thurs 22nd March the restart 26th April for an 8 week term to 14th June.

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



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