



Elphinstone Primary School
January 2019

Happy New Year 2019

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to school for another amazing year. We hope that you and your family had a happy holiday filled with precious moments. In 2019, we endeavour to continue to make our school a place where we nurture children and families to be happy, kind and achieving learners.

Our amazing whole school Christmas Show



I am sure that you will agree that all of our children, nursery to P7, put on a magnificent performance of Ralph the Reindeer and really helped to get us in the Christmas spirit! They were all stars! Huge thanks to everyone for coming along and supporting our show and festive raffle. Many thanks to our Parent Council for giving us £200 towards the cost of our new costumes and props. Please turn the page for more festive photos!

Remember to follow us on Twitter.....

@Elphytweets



Staffing News

As you may be aware, across Scotland, 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare is being piloted in many of our nurseries with the anticipation that it will be in every nursery by August 2020. This change has meant that the structure of staffing in our nurseries has been reviewed to ensure that we can continue to provide the highest quality early learning environments for our children. In East Lothian, changes have been made to nursery staffing. Some of these include teachers, who have been teaching in nursery, being re-deployed to teach in P1-P7 classes, Senior Nursery Practitioner posts being created and, in a few schools, Early Intervention Advisors being introduced.

Due to these changes, at this time, Mrs Moore will be working with Mrs Hamilton in P3/4 on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday all day. Sometimes they will be teaching together in the class but Mrs Hamilton may also have some time out of class to undertake development and strategic work with myself. Mrs Hamilton will continue to oversee the teaching and learning in P3/4. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Moore for the great care and commitment she has given to our nursery children and families.



We are delighted to share that Mrs Gillian Burke has been appointed as the Senior Early Years Practitioner here at Elphinstone. Gillian will start with us on Monday 4th February to support us in preparing for our nursery to start our 1140 hours pilot on 19th February 2019. She will be in school on the afternoon of Tuesday 15th January to meet the staff team.

We are also delighted that Amy Scott, Edinburgh College HNC Childcare student, will be working with us every Wednesday and Thursday until 13th June 2019. Amy has started her placement in P1/2/3 but will be moving around classes during her time with us.



Scotland's Big Laugh



January is officially the most depressing month of the year! Thursday 24th January is Scotland's Big Laugh Day so everyone is invited to come to school dressed up in a funny or silly way. No money, just bring a joke to



share! To cheer us up **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO BRING THEIR SLIPPERS/BAFFIES/FAVOURITE FOOTWEAR TO WEAR IN SCHOOL** from Mon 14th January to the end of January 2019.

Scottish Assembly



We would like to invite all our parents/carers (nursery to P7) to our Scottish Assembly at 11am on Friday 25th of January. It will be an event full of music, songs and poems. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Our Next Parent Council meeting....

Our next Parent Council meeting will be on Thursday 31st of January between 5.00 and 6.30pm where a creche will be provided. It would be great to see lots of parents/carers there. If you are unable to make the meeting please remember that there will be a tea and toast session in school with Mrs Cameron and Nicola Gregory, Chair of our PC, at 8.50am-9.30am on Wednesday 30th January. All welcome.



@Elphytweets



Read Write Count

READING. WRITING. COUNTING.
IT'S IN THE BAG.



We would like to invite all P2 and P3 parents and carers into school on Tuesday 22nd January at 2.50pm to learn about and share their child's Read Write Count bag with them.

Keeping children hydrated...

It is important that children drink to keep hydrated during the day. Cold water is freely available to children in school. Children are welcome to bring in water, flavoured water or sugar free diluting juice from home to drink. We ask that you do not send in fizzy water or juice. Many thanks.



Art Shirt

If they wish, children are welcome to bring in an old shirt/top to keep in school and wear on top of their clothes when they take part in painting/messy activities. Please pop their name on it and put it in a bag to hang on their peg. Please note that this is only if you wish to do this, it's not essential. Thanks.

Keeping Cosy



The weather is expected to turn much colder from Monday 21st January. We like children to play outdoors to get fresh air in all



weathers. Therefore we would really appreciate if all children could come to nursery/school dressed up nice and cosy and prepared for the weather. Many thanks.



Important Dates for your Diary

- **Monday 14th January**— Wear your favourite slippers or comfy shoes in school.
- **Tuesday 22nd January**—2.50pm in the gym hall—P2 and P3 parents and children—Read Write Count bags.
- **Thursday 24th January**—Scotland's Big Laugh—come to school dressed funny...don't forget your joke!
- **Friday 25th January**—11am -Scottish Assembly
- **Wednesday 30th January**— Parent Council tea and toast with Nicola Gregory and Alison Cameron—8.50am to 9.30am. Come along and share your thoughts before the Parent Council meeting.
- **Thursday 31st January**—5.00pm-6.30pm—Parent Council meeting with creche.
- **Tuesday 5th February**—11.00am-12.00noon—Nursery Stay and Play and time to meet Mrs Burke, our new Senior EYP.
- **Friday 8th February**— Bake sale for P3/4.
Children break for the February holiday. Children return on Tuesday 19 February. Have a happy and safe holiday!!



- **Saturday 23rd February - 10am to 12.30pm**—Family Tidy Up Morning—working together to clean up and renovate our playground. Hot refreshments will be available. More information to follow.
- **26th March**—P1/2/3/4 shared assembly on Space
- **Saturday 27th April—10.30am-12.30am**—Family Fun Day in association with our friends @Dadswork. A free fun morning for the whole family. More information to follow.