



Elphinstone Primary—Community Newsletter December 2015



White Christmas

Special points of interest:

- Message from head teacher
- Baboushka Christmas Performances
- Winner of Oct/Nov
- Xmas Lunch
- Dress for all weathers
- Christmas Cards
- Webb Ivory
- Carol Service
- Milk money
- Community News
- Playgroup News
- Zig Zag lines
- Greetings

IMPORTANT DATES

8 Dec 9.45 Baboushka Dress Rehearsal

9 Dec 2 p.m. Baboushka Christmas performance

10 Dec Xmas Lunch

10 Dec 5.30 Children due at school for performance starting at 6.00p.m.

14 Dec p.m. Panto trip-return approx. 3.45/4 p.m.

15 Dec a.m. P2/3/4 Party

16 Dec a.m. Nursery + P1 party

16 Dec 2 p.m. Christmas Carols with Tranent

Parish Church in the Community Centre

17 Dec a.m. P5-7 party

17 Dec p.m. certain pupils singing at Carberry Care Home

18 Dec Last day of School HOLIDAYS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

5 Jan ALL restart

8 Jan-Milk Money due

Dear Families,

We have had two important visits over the past 2 months that I would like to update you on.

The 1st was an unannounced Inspection of the Nursery by the Care Inspectorate. We were referred to as a 'consistently high performing service' and awarded the following grades:

Quality of care and support: 5 - Very good

Quality of the environment : 5 - Very good

Quality of staffing : 5 - Very good

Quality of Management and leadership: 5 - Very good

Within quality of the environment (Statement 3) we received a 6 for **excellence**. This is for the calm, nurturing playroom that has been created. Also for access to outdoor play and the way both indoors and outdoors have been developed to provide positive, open-ended play. Our Inspector ends off this statement by writing that the service should 'continue to provide children with the excellent opportunities in place and build on these to ensure positive outcomes'.

The 2nd visit was from 2 Quality Improvement Officers from East Lothian Council. Mr David Scott and Mrs. Karen Haspolat. They spent a day in school, looking at lessons, learners, the way we track progress and evaluate, our self-evaluation document and collegiate working to name but a few areas. Their validation *comments follow*:

Children who are actively involved in their learning.

A strong, positive ethos in the school with a clear focus on health and wellbeing.

Good quality of learning and teaching across the school.

Consistent programmes and courses in place across the school to provide a framework for progression.

A child focused approach in order to support learners and meet individual needs.

An ethos which encourages innovation where staff take appropriate risks to develop a curriculum to meet the needs of learners.

The above comments are a welcomed affidavit to the way I know staff and pupils work to bring about positive outcomes for all.

I appreciate the support from all stakeholders in particular parents/carers. Without your support, no matter how small, it makes a huge impact in the environment we create to support and scaffold learning. **Message cont'd overleaf**



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Some examples may be; by getting your child to school regularly and on time, ensuring homework is done, healthy eating and bedtime routines, attending school events and parents evenings.

I would also like to thank the staff at Elphinstone for their vast and varied contributions to the running of the school and the impact on your child as a learner. Our pastoral care is of the highest I've ever known in a school. Although it is difficult to please everyone all the time, we try our best and are grateful to those who show their support and appreciation.

Mrs Thomson and I have appointed a preferred candidate for the Maternity cover post for P1/2 from January to June. Her name is Miss Hannah Williams and she will be joining her class on the last day of term (18.12.15) for the morning. I am sure you will get an opportunity to meet her on the back steps at the end of the morning.

Best wishes, *Heather*

Baboushka

our Christmas performances will take place on the
afternoon of 9 December 2015
and the evening of Thursday 10 Dec 2015

Please see the separate flyer that was issued on
Thursday 26 November 2015
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 10th December 2015.

Any donations towards our Christmas Hamper will be most welcome.



October /November Newsletter Winner

Well done to Lewis 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 7th December to enter this month's draw.

Whole School Christmas Lunch



Our whole school lunch takes place this year on **10 December 2015**. 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 and wellies on wet days.



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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.

We raised a fantastic **£98** in commission for school funds from the sales of the children's Cauliflower Cards. Thank you to everyone who bought Christmas cards this year.

Webb Ivory



A huge thank you to everyone who ordered items from the Webb Ivory catalogues. You helped raise **£66** in commission towards school funds. Thank you for your support.



You are invited to
join the children
of
Elphinstone Primary and Tranent Parish Church
in the Community Centre

on
Wednesday 16 December 2015
at 2 p.m.

for our Christmas Service.

At the end the children may leave with their parents.

Milk Money

Milk Money for the period -6/1/16-24/3/16 is **£8.84** . Payment is due by Friday 8 January 2016.

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. You may however still pay by cheque payable to East Lothian Council or by cash.





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Community News

News from other groups in our Community

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

The youth term is now drawing to a close and reopens on 21st January for an eight week term to the end of March.

Our yoga teacher has been poorly but hopes to resume after the year.

Baby Peep resumes on 18th January at 1.15pm. So far we have had a good number attending this group so we hope this continues.

Following the success of Raising Children with Confidence course Community learning and development are training staff in Raising Teens with Confidence and we hope to have the first course running in the new year (February) so keep your eyes out if you are interested.

Likewise we are always keen to hear from the community regarding courses or activities you would like to see, my details are below.

We have been asked on a few occasions regarding birthday parties. Elphinstone and Whitecraig Community centres are the two co located centres in east Lothian and we cannot offer the space for parties. Due to the nature of the size and location of the building and rooms within the community wing it is not offered as a let for birthday parties for any age group. This arrangement exists for all co -located school and community centres East Lothian Council will endeavour to offer a suitable alternative for anyone requiring space. Should anyone want space for a party we can accommodate at Tranent or Ormiston.

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

Playgroup News

We would like to thank all our parents/carers for all their support over the course of the year and for their help in welcoming all the new faces at playgroup this November. All of our new starts have now settled in really well and we are now looking forward to the Christmas build up. We will be having various Christmas crafts/activities for the children throughout December with various theme weeks. This year our Christmas Party is on Wednesday the 16th of December. For this we will be having various party games, a buffet and a very important visitor.....SANTA. So keep your eyes on our Facebook page and notice boards for more details. Thank you once again for your continued support the playgroup would not be where it is today without you all.

Kind Regards Nancy, Isobel, Ashley & Vicky

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.



Merry Christmas from the staff at Elphinstone Primary