

Law Primary School



End of term Newsletter

Congratulations everyone we have made it! I'm sure like me you will be glad to see the end of this year! I dare say we have all learnt many lessons from our experiences over the last year, when we reflect on the past year and the life we once had and the life we are now forced to lead. I'm sure like me there are things you will desperately miss and things you don't want to go back to ever!

COVID-19

As you will be aware from the First Minister's Statement on Tuesday, we move back to Tier 3 from Friday 18 December. There is no change to school protocols and we continue to ask parents to wear masks whilst in the playground.

Positive Cases: While we continue to ask you to report any positive COVID cases to admin@law.elcschool.org.uk (link sends e-mail), there is now a mailbox that should be used by parents/carers to alert us to a positive case out of school hours/weekends/**over the Christmas period**. The address is covidinschools@eastlothian.gov.uk (link sends e-mail).

Christmas in school



A huge well done and thank you to the teachers and staff for ensuring Christmas has gone ahead in school in a different format. Our grateful thanks to the kitchen staff who did not cook Christmas lunch only once but 6 times!

The P1 nativity was rethought and actually will change next year as a result. Instead of one mass nativity we will continue with smaller class based nativities to allow children to have more opportunity to have a leading role and shine! We look forward to receiving the links to the films and we will pass these onto parents as soon as they are uploaded. All children will be able to watch one of the nativity videos next week in school.

The P7 Christmas fair is in full flow at the moment with many creative ideas. Again, once evaluated I would imagine there will be elements of this year's organisation that may become a regular event. The money from the P7 fair will help to pay for transport costs associated with the outdoor learning programme planned for the summer term. We are not sure what that will look like as it will depend very much on the COVID restrictions at the time. We have a meeting arranged in January with the outdoor education team to look at different proposals.

Christmas parties are being enjoyed by the classes. Although still in class bubbles we have been able to have all year stage children actively at their own class parties at the same time if not as a year group.

Our end of term assembly will be held next week with a selection of sign-along songs, musical interludes from some of our musicians and a Christmas message from the ministers in the town. I would like to thank everyone for their efforts with this.

A huge thank you to all the teachers and staff who have decorated their doors, windows and shelves full of Christmas cheer. Photos will be available to look at on the website next week.

Parent Council

It was great to catch up with the parent council members this week and look at how they are supporting the school to make improvements. Thank you to all the parents who responded to the two questionnaires that have been issued.

The next parent council meeting will be held on Monday 18th January at 7pm via Google. As well as the Head Teacher report there will be a focus on COVID guidelines and procedures. The parent council will be in touch in the new year to gather your questions.

The positive behaviour policy will be worked on again by staff in the February In-service day. Your comments will be reflected upon and once the new policy is written then you will be asked once more for your feedback.

The questionnaire relating to your experiences of term 1 was very useful. I am pleased to see that parents appreciated the telephone conversation with teachers in October and this will be offered again for next term. Again moving forward I un-

derstand what a pressure it is for parents to physically get to these appointments so there will always be an opportunity for you to opt for a telephone conversation rather than a face to face in the future.

There was some comments questioning the need for class bubbles. Can I please reiterate that this is a government initiative that we must implement in order to safeguard everyone. There is no sign of this being relaxed and this has significant impact when / if we have a positive case in school.

Can I also remind everyone to try and look at the class newsletters each week on google classroom. The staff are going to a huge effort to ensure information is disseminated in a timeous manner.

Staffing update



We said a fond farewell to Mrs Tait in the beginning of December as she moved onto an exciting new job developing policy for early years with the Scottish Government. We have advertised for a Senior Early Years practitioner to replace her with the recruitment campaign closing on Sunday.

The pre 5 centre manager's position has been interviewed for this week and we await the outcomes of the interviews. This position is for a manager of the early year's establishments in a number of schools which will include our new build. We are awaiting confirmation of the nursery build start date with one or two final points being clarified.

A warm welcome to Mrs Nya Edmonds and Mrs Lauren McKenzie who joined the team in the role of classroom assistants and we await confirmation of a further 2 staff joining us in this role once all their checks are completed.

Mrs Jane Crowe will be leaving us in January and we wish her every happiness in her future. The position of additional support auxiliary will be advertised in the new year.

The advert for a Lollipop man to replace "Ted" is still live on the East Lothian website and we would encourage everyone to encourage anyone who could undertake this role to apply. It's a role that can be job shared so it may suit someone who could undertake the role a few days per week rather than the whole week.

Miss Santini returns to full time class teacher after the holidays so Mrs Doyle will be undertaking a range of roles on a Wednesday.

Curriculum developments

Staff have been engaging in training on nurture which has been so very important in ensuring that the children have been back in school feeling safe and secure.

We have also been looking at the way in which we plan and developing our long term plans to reflect the learning undertaken in class. As we move forward with these plans we need to ensure that we cover all areas of the curriculum for excellence and develop skill levels progressively across the school.

Our In-service day in February will be focused on the totality of the curriculum we offer in the areas of Social Studies, Science and Health and Well Being. We will be looking at progression and skills development.

Spring term

The spring term is split in half by the February week. Please remember that we return to school a day early on Wednesday 6th January. The main parental engagement activities up to the February break will be the parent consultations. Times for these telephone appointments will be handed out during the first 2 weeks of term. Again, work will be sent home prior to the meeting so that you have the opportunity to review your child's progress and formulate any specific questions that you would like to discuss about your child's progress.

Well that's the last newsletter for this year. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over this last year and our very best wishes to you all for a relaxing and safe holiday period.

On behalf of the staff team may I thank all the parents for their very generous gifts we have received. Your kind gesture is very much appreciated from us all.

We look forward welcoming you all back in January 2021!

