

Law Primary School



A warm welcome back to the winter term where we embrace the autumn colours for a little while longer and look forward to the forthcoming festivities. This term has been reduced from just under nine weeks to eight weeks after the adjustment to the Christmas holiday period. We now finish on Friday 17th December at normal finishing times.



It was absolutely delightful to see the children in their costumes last week. They certainly were making the most of the day. Huge thanks to the PTA for organising the event in the Lodge. It received rave reports, despite the rain! Our newly appointed House Captains organised a quiz to build the excitement on the day too.

We are already in week 2 of this term so you can appreciate how short a term this is!

Covid-19 Guidance

The Scottish Government has announced that there will be no changes to mitigations in schools at present but this will be reviewed on a weekly basis. Although this may be disappointing it is important that we keep everyone safe and our schools open. The restrictions in schools are very different from the ones in general society now, as indeed there are differences in Early Years Settings guidance to Primary Schools guidance and I appreciate that in some senses this makes it much more difficult for all of us. So a huge thank you for your support.

Continuing with the current mitigations means that the wearing of face coverings (unless exempt) will continue in the playgrounds for all adults and we will also continue with our hand-sanitising and ensuring all areas are well-ventilated. We completed our CO2 monitoring trial and out of the whole school we had only a small number of activations of the monitors which were all quickly remedied by a "flush" of fresh air from opening windows more fully. The council are now working with the unions to agree next steps.

As it is getting colder please ensure pupils have a red fleece/ jumper/sweatshirt to wear in class, as all windows will be open to some degree for ventilation, and a cosy waterproof jacket for when they are outside. Pupils are able to eat their lunch in the lunch hall but do go outside as often as possible to get some fresh air. Please ensure all clothes are labelled and that your child has indoor shoes to leave in school.

Please note that staffing levels change on a day to day basis which might result in changes to your child's normal routine. Last week we had 10 staff off between the nursery and school, which provides a range of challenges, and adjustments are made to routines daily.

Christmas



It's hard to believe it's now November and before we know it Christmas will be upon us. I attach the Christmas calendar as it stands but please note this will be subject to change if mitigations relax or are increased.

In the weeks leading up to the end of term, we look forward to celebrating a Christmas lunch as a year group family. On the days where the Christmas meal is prepared for certain year groups other classes will be provided with a packed lunch to eat in class. Please ensure that you order your child's Christmas lunch as soon as the notification is given on SchoolPay, as it's always very tight for numbers and no alternatives can be provided. Christmas parties will be organised in the last week of term.

The P1 Nativity preparations will start shortly and at this time the plan is to video the performance so that you can all share this at home.

Anti-Bullying Week 2021

Anti-bullying Week takes place from the 15-19th November 2021 and it has the theme 'One Kind Word'. The week will begin with 'Odd Socks Day' which is supported by CBBC and CBeebies star Andy Day and his band Andy and the Odd Socks. Our pupils will learn more about Anti-bullying through class lessons and assemblies this week. Additionally, we look forward to seeing our pupils and staff coming to school on Monday 15th November in their odd socks to help us celebrate diversity and uniqueness.

We are looking for any donations of colourful odd socks for a school display, any size or colour will do! I'm sure we all have one or two lying about so please send them in this week.



ODD SOCKS DAY
15th November

CURRICULUM UPDATE

The school improvement plan is now uploaded onto the website along with our standards and quality report.

As we drive forward our bid to aim high and raise attainment levels for all pupils, we have focused our work this year around literacy development and positive relationships. Staff are working in groups looking at key aspects of the literacy curriculum. The lead teacher has provided a summary of their work so far:

Writing: Mr G Richerby

We have started a new programme, PM writing, based on the pedagogy of Stephen Graham for the teaching of writing. This programme breaks down the writing process for nine specific genres. Within this, pupils are explicitly taught language and structural features related to each genre. Over a cycle of around three weeks there are opportunities for shared, scaffolded writing in order to fully embed and build confidence in writing and editing skills as pupils work towards a final published piece. The cycle involves discussion of the genre, then modelling and practising the language and structural features. Finally, independent texts are planned, drafted, edited and published. Over the year several genres will be explored in order to gain mastery.

Next steps: The writing group will continue to work on how we implement the PM programme systematically within our school and agree a consistent approach to marking writing.

Spelling: Miss C Brodie

This year we are embarking on a new synthetic phonics scheme to be taught from P1-P7, using Phonics International resources. A good grasp of phonics is the foundation of our learners' literacy skills and creates a path to better reading and writing as well as spelling. Through the study of phonics our pupils will study the phonetical 'building blocks' which will provide practice in encoding (supporting spelling), decoding (supporting reading) and letter formation through handwriting practice.

Next steps : Currently, the working group is in the process of creating a webpage for parents which will provide access to the 'phonetical codes' that form the basis of all words, access to instruction videos for each sound and suggested homework activities.

Reading: Mr J Orr

Staff have been working to organise year group reading novels with a focus on updating the current stock of books. This will ensure there is a wider variety of literature and literacy focusses within each year stage. Staff have also begun to plan the return of in-school libraries and how best to use them to provide pupils with rich learning opportunities. Beyond this, staff have been taking part in professional learning to upskill the group and wider staff. This has involved reading part of Reading Rediscovered by Doug Lemov and engaging in training delivered by Stephen Graham.

Positive Relationships: Mrs D Hadden

We are delighted that the new house points system is up and running. Pupils have been really enthusiastic about the house names, logos and tokens. Each term the winning house will receive a treat to celebrate their achievements. House Captains have been elected by their peers to oversee the house points as well as taking on other responsibilities within the school. Thank you to everyone who completed the parental survey, and to address your feedback we are working to create a new positive relationships policy which will be presented to the Parent Council in due course.

House Captains



SCHOOL NEWS

Fire Safety

Prior to Bonfire Night, older pupils were given a first-hand update on fire safety this week from Mr McPherson. Mr McPherson is one of our P6 teachers who is a retained fire fighter. He was able to deliver the Fire Safety Code in an engaging assembly. Pupils from P1-3 will have this message delivered through class lessons.



Safe routes to school

The Parent Council continues to support the school in improving routes to school with a particular focus on improvements not only to the current travel to school but also improving routes for when the nursery new build is completed.

The P7 team are currently appointing Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO) who will work with one of our teachers, but we are still looking for a parent volunteer to help.

Please find below some reminders from the East Lothian Council Travel Coordinator:

Safe school travel reminder for parents

School travel routines have changed over the last year and it has been great to see so many children walking and wheeling where they can. It is hugely important to us that this journey to and from school is as safe as possible for all pupils, regardless of how they travel, although we recognise that some children do need to be dropped off by car. With that in mind we wanted to remind parents of the importance of safe driving and appropriate parking around our school campus.

Traffic congestion, dangerous driving and illegal parking remains an ongoing challenge in East Lothian, placing our children at risk. We know that all parents and guardians want a safe environment for children and therefore ask for your support in achieving this by doing the following:

Walk, cycle or scoot to school where you can.

If you have to drive, leave in plenty of time and park as far from the school gates as possible, ideally at Ride and Stride points.

Do not park on double yellow lines or zigzag markings.

Do not park on pavements or around junctions, where you will block children's view of the road and make it harder for them to cross safely.

If you would like to get in touch with the Parent Council regarding safe travel issues or suggestions please contact lawprima-parentcouncil@gmail.com.

If you have any suggestions for school or would like to volunteer to support the JRSO team please contact the school office.



Attendance

East Lothian Council is consulting on a policy which outlines how schools and the authority will promote attendance and reduce absenteeism.

'Included, Engaged and Involved: A Positive Approach to Promoting School Attendance' is divided into three sections:

- positive approaches to promoting attendance
- school attendance procedures
- alternative attendance arrangements.

It recognises that promoting good school attendance can be a complex issue with many impacts on the individual and the whole family. When developing the draft policy and its procedures the council has worked closely with other organisations including Children's Services and Police Scotland.

A link to the Council website page can be found here: [Consultation on new school attendance policy](#)

The consultation is available online at www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk until 16th November 2021.

ROUND THE SCHOOL

P7

P7 have been learning about COP26 and how it will impact Climate Change for their generation and beyond.

House Captains have been chosen and have had tasks to complete like organising a Hallowe'en Quiz and judging the costumes for the whole school.

We are looking forward to getting our P1 buddies organised so that we can have a focus on learning about Health and Wellbeing, modelling the school values of kindness, determination and respect.



P6

For our topic contexts, we explored the The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). To complement the teaching points, each class completed a novel study on The Boy at the Back of the Class. Pupils also learned about Energy and explored the difference between renewable and non-renewable sources. In maths, pupils learned about 2D and 3D shape names and properties. The numeracy focus was on place value, addition and subtraction. In writing, Primary 6 pupils learned to write descriptively using 'descriptive perspectives' and then moved onto learning about 'procedure' genre.

P5

The Primary 5s settled well into their new routines and worked hard throughout the term to follow the school rules and values. At the end of term when our new House Point system was introduced, many pupils were earning tokens for showing Kindness, Respect and Determination.



We worked hard on our Fairtrade topic, looking at ethical trade, child labour, food miles, deforestation, palm oil and sustainability. In numeracy, our focus was on place value, rounding/estimating, addition and subtraction. In maths, we learned about compass points, how to read and plot coordinates and how to identify and measure different types of angle. We practised mental agility using our Big Maths Beat That speed challenge and started learning some new times tables. We were introduced to two new programmes of work in literacy: Phonics International (spelling) and PM Writing. Over the term, we gained lots of practice in writing descriptive texts. In reading, we learned how to distinguish facts from opinions and we all enjoyed our class novel, Kensuke's Kingdom. We learned some French vocabulary each week linked to these topics: numbers, colours, days of the week, months of the year, pets and fruit.

Lots of new learning happened in term 1 and it was great to see so many pupils showing real interest and determination in their work.

P4

Island and Mapping Topics

We started the year imagining we were on a desert island and linked this nicely into our mapping topic and compass points. We had fun creating a message in a bottle asking to be rescued! Closer to home we looked at aspects of our local area and what land is used for as well as finding key features on OS maps. We enjoyed creating a plan of an imaginary classroom - I don't think the school budget would cover shark tanks and giant trampolines!



We've been writing procedures which linked in to giving directions and also learning about grid references and co-ordinates in maths.

Music - We are learning chords on ukuleles and delighted to be back in the music room.

PE - we've enjoyed playing lots of team games with Mr Dougall and Miss Imrie and our P4 teachers - bench ball and ultimate dodgeball are favourites.

Art - we have created some wonderful Henri Rousseau inspired art work with Mr. Connell.

P3

P3 have had a tremendous first term getting to know each other through the novel Clarice Bean by Lauren Child. This was a great way to bring our new classes together, establishing routines and school values: kindness, respect and determination.

Our new Spelling programme, Phonics International has been a great success, encouraging them to write more and broaden their vocabulary. Our new Writing programme, PM writing has given them good structure and routine. In particular we have been looking at Descriptive writing.

Numeracy and Maths included 2D shape recognition, Time, place value and the continuation of Number counts. We constantly

encourage our pupils to take ownership of their numbers and working out their best strategies. The Romans was a fantastic topic and the children have learnt so much from map skills to creating their own Roman newspaper. They were even creating their own Roman sums, using Roman numerals.

I II III IV
V VI VII
VIII IX X
XI XII

We became involved with the community's Window Wanderland, creating wonderful window displays for everyone to see, as the night darkened. The P3's reached for the stars in Term 1.

P2

Primary 2 have been learning about the Romans, what they did for us and different aspects of Roman life, e.g. leisure, schools, homes and entertainment. We also looked at comparisons between life today and in Roman times. We have been focussing on the school values of kindness, determination and respect and practising these daily. We have been using our new spelling scheme to reinforce our phonics knowledge and learn new spelling patterns, such as double consonants. We have also been using the new writing scheme to write descriptions of our classmates. Our new topic will be on weather and climate, touching on COP26 as a discussion topic, and the changing seasons.



P1

P1 children have settled in well and since the start of the year have been learning sounds and starting to blend them together to make words. It is lovely to see them also starting to write letters and spell words. All children now have reading books home each week to practise. We will continue this work this term. We are also writing stories through detailed drawings - the progress in the children's drawing now compared to the start of the year is amazing! Before the October break we also learned about families, and each child brought in a photo of themselves with their family and told their class what they liked doing with them.

We are looking forward to learning this term about 3D shape, night and day and are very excited about starting to learn songs for our Nativity performance! This will be filmed for P1 parents to see, and we're looking forward to sharing it with you.

Nursery

We welcomed back children for their pre-school year and welcomed over 50 new children to the setting. We will be enrolling more this month and then more in January.

There are 8 new members in the staff team including Miss Jess Stockford, Senior Early Years Practitioner. New working relationships are being developed as staff become more accustomed to their shift patterns.

There is excellent co-operation from parents/carers at drop-off and pick-up, complying with guidance and accepting mitigations in place to keep everyone safe. Children receive input from several adults throughout their days in nursery and benefit from having consistency within that staff team. Positive relationships have been developed between children and their key adults. Thanks to parents for trusting the staff team when they aren't able to come into the building and be part of their child's learning at nursery at the moment.



Everyone has the opportunity to socialise outdoors in the garden every afternoon.

Children who stay later in the afternoon are able to join together with children from other groups when the nursery is quieter.

Wellbeing calls are being scheduled at the moment so that parents/carers can talk about their child's learning and development with their key worker and/or SEYP

Hot lunches are being served 4 days a week and packed lunches on Fridays. This is a social time for the children where we have time to talk, promote healthy eating and table manners. Most children are loving the meals and we enjoy having Ammara from the school kitchen come to serve the food each day.

A Nursery tea towel is being designed as a fund raiser. These will be printed and will have a drawing or hand print from every child. Orders will be received in time for Christmas.

Reminders

Please remember to call the absence line if your child is going to be missing from school or nursery.

Please remember to cancel your child's school lunch if they are off sick or you may still be charged.

Please ensure you name all sweatshirts and jackets.

Please check your child's homework weekly on the Google Classroom.

Please read your child's class newsletter posted weekly on their Google Classroom.

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
22 nd November					
29 th November			1 st December : Christmas trees go up	11.45 P3 Christmas lunch 12.45 P5 and P7 Christmas lunch P1, 2, 4 and 6 packed lunches only.	
6 th December	Access to virtual panto	11.45 P1 and P2 Christmas Lunch 12.45 P4 and P6 Christmas lunch P3,5 and 7 packed lunches only			P7 Christmas Fayre
13 th December	P4 party pm Sport's hall	P3 party pm Sports Hall Nursery Christmas Lunch	P2 Party pm Sports Hall P5 party Sports hall. Nursery Christmas lunch	P1 party pm Sports Hall P6 party am Sports hall	P7 party pm