

## Loretto RC Primary Oct 2016 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Our first term is complete and what a variety of learning experiences the children have had! Our pupils are enthusiastic and motivated to learn, becoming more and more confident in making their thinking visible, and explaining their strategies and ideas.

We are continuing to promote the challenge and enjoyment of reading, and we are registered with the First Minister's Reading Challenge - all children have smart personal reading records. Our evaluations of 'Reading is Braw' showed a very positive impact; increasing children's reading times. Our visit to the Edinburgh Book Festival was enjoyed by the upper classes.

The whole school enjoyed a drama production of a children's traditional tale and already we have had P6 visits to St. David's for a French event with our St. David's partner schools.



We welcome Dufei He to Loretto as our Mandarin language assistant. Dufei will help teach Mandarin to P4s and will also be timetabled to other classes to learn about China and Chinese topics and culture throughout the year. On Thursdays we are hoping to offer an after school Chinese art and craft club. This will be open to small groups of children for a block of six weeks. We cannot offer this to everyone and it will be targeted at P3/4 upwards. More details later.

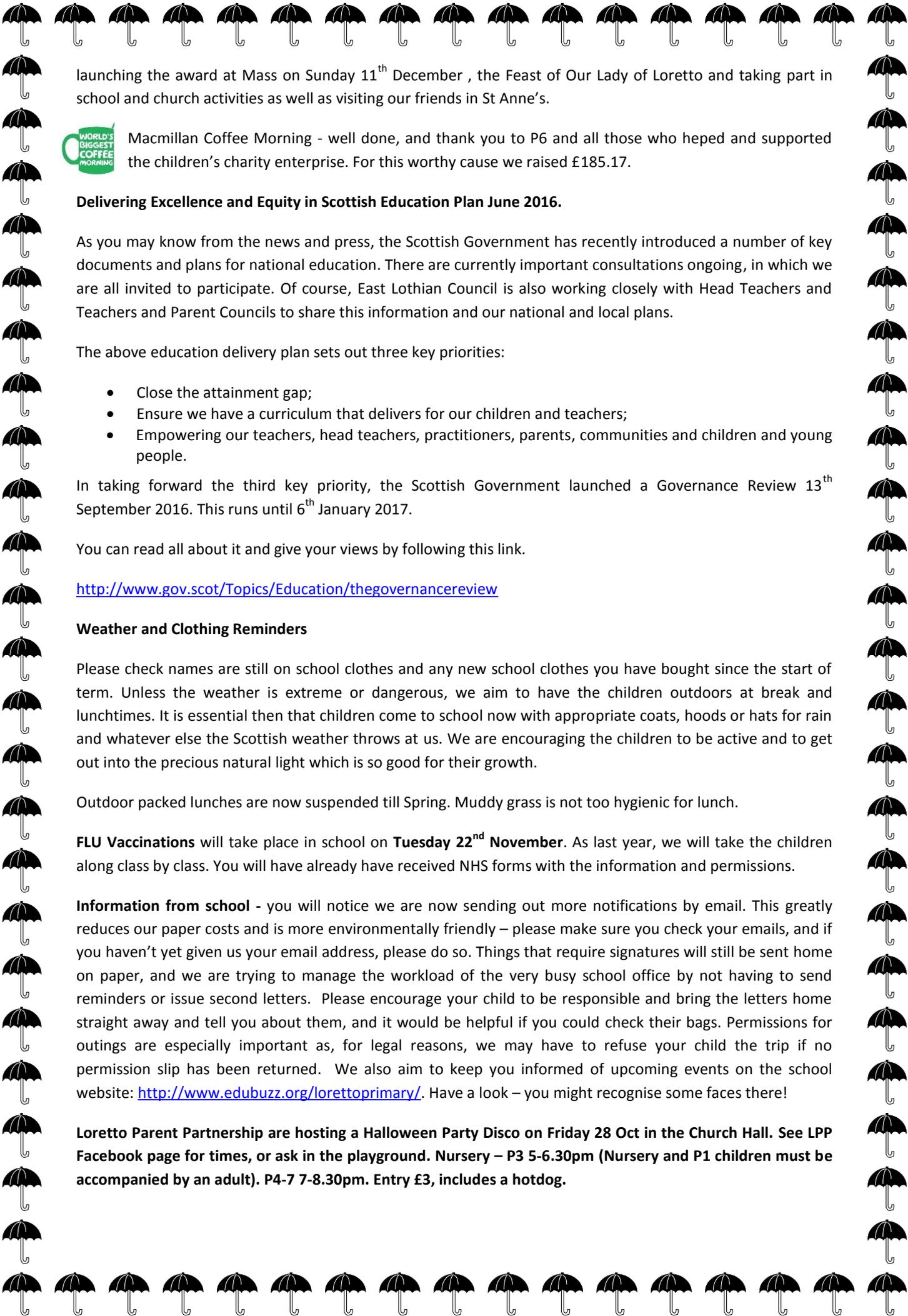
Our Maths Week was again very successful. The children enjoyed outdoor maths, number buddy visits, money skills workshops and we are proudly displaying number lines in our dining hall, showing the progression in our children's learning from Early Level, through First Level to Second Level work. We topped off our week with some 'Magic Maths' at assembly. Today we enjoyed having a Maths Open Lesson and welcoming parents in to share our learning. We hope this helped you see 'what' and 'how' your child is learning in numeracy and maths at his/her current stage. We also hope that it helps us all adopt a Growth Mindset and positive attitudes to maths. This is such an important message for our children; number is a core life skill. We would still love to have any adult come and chat to a class about how they use numbers and maths at work. Joiners and builders-all that measurement and estimating, shop workers and office- accounts, hairdressers and bakers - using ratios and fractions to prepare quantities...please come in and share it with us. Speak to your child's teacher or the office and make a time and date.

### P1 Enrolment

We are currently enrolling pupils for Primary 1 in August 2017. Nursery pupils have already received an enrolment form which parents should return to the office with the child's birth certificate, child's baptism certificate for RC pupils, the council tax award letter and a recent utility bill (within six months) as proof of address. Please bring these along to the office by **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**.

### Pope Francis Award

As part of our Religious Education and Responsible Citizenship, we will be offering the children in P6 the opportunity to participate in this new achievement award. The Pope Francis Award is designed to start in P6 and continue into P7. The award is supported by the Scottish Catholic Education Service and aims to build on the children's understanding of Christian concepts and Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The discussions and workbook allow children to personalise how they put their thoughts, ideas and beliefs into real actions. **All** children are able to participate in the school and home aspects and all children are invited to participate in the parish life too. Fr Basil is delighted to be welcoming so many young people into the life of the parish and Musselburgh. Next year, the children who have participated would be eligible for the Award. An achievement beyond school and something to be proud of as well as being a super citizen in Musselburgh! We envisage the P6 children



launching the award at Mass on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December , the Feast of Our Lady of Loretto and taking part in school and church activities as well as visiting our friends in St Anne's.



Macmillan Coffee Morning - well done, and thank you to P6 and all those who helped and supported the children's charity enterprise. For this worthy cause we raised £185.17.

### **Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education Plan June 2016.**

As you may know from the news and press, the Scottish Government has recently introduced a number of key documents and plans for national education. There are currently important consultations ongoing, in which we are all invited to participate. Of course, East Lothian Council is also working closely with Head Teachers and Teachers and Parent Councils to share this information and our national and local plans.

The above education delivery plan sets out three key priorities:

- Close the attainment gap;
- Ensure we have a curriculum that delivers for our children and teachers;
- Empowering our teachers, head teachers, practitioners, parents, communities and children and young people.

In taking forward the third key priority, the Scottish Government launched a Governance Review 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016. This runs until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

You can read all about it and give your views by following this link.

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/thegovernancereview>

### **Weather and Clothing Reminders**

Please check names are still on school clothes and any new school clothes you have bought since the start of term. Unless the weather is extreme or dangerous, we aim to have the children outdoors at break and lunchtimes. It is essential then that children come to school now with appropriate coats, hoods or hats for rain and whatever else the Scottish weather throws at us. We are encouraging the children to be active and to get out into the precious natural light which is so good for their growth.

Outdoor packed lunches are now suspended till Spring. Muddy grass is not too hygienic for lunch.

**FLU Vaccinations** will take place in school on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**. As last year, we will take the children along class by class. You will have already have received NHS forms with the information and permissions.

**Information from school** - you will notice we are now sending out more notifications by email. This greatly reduces our paper costs and is more environmentally friendly – please make sure you check your emails, and if you haven't yet given us your email address, please do so. Things that require signatures will still be sent home on paper, and we are trying to manage the workload of the very busy school office by not having to send reminders or issue second letters. Please encourage your child to be responsible and bring the letters home straight away and tell you about them, and it would be helpful if you could check their bags. Permissions for outings are especially important as, for legal reasons, we may have to refuse your child the trip if no permission slip has been returned. We also aim to keep you informed of upcoming events on the school website: <http://www.edubuzz.org/lorettprimary/>. Have a look – you might recognise some faces there!

**Loretto Parent Partnership are hosting a Halloween Party Disco on Friday 28 Oct in the Church Hall. See LPP Facebook page for times, or ask in the playground. Nursery – P3 5-6.30pm (Nursery and P1 children must be accompanied by an adult). P4-7 7-8.30pm. Entry £3, includes a hotdog.**



**Diary Dates-Reminders and Updates**



**Tues 1 Nov 9.15am P5 lead Mass –All Saint’s Day**



**Fri 11 Nov 9.45am P3/4 Assembly-Parents invited**



**Tues 15 Nov 7pm Confession Preparation P3 pupils and parents in CHURCH**



**14- 18 Nov Anti Bullying Week – focus in classes**



**Wed 16 Nov 6.30pm Loretto Parent Partnership Meeting in the dining hall**



**Fri 18 Nov Children in Need - The Big Spotacular.**



**Wear spots to school-in any way and pay £1 for Children in Need**



**Sun 27 Nov 11am Mass for P3 pupils and all new pupils making Sacraments this year**



**Wed 30 Nov St. Andrew’s Day-wear TARTAN . St Andrew’s House will have extra playtime too!**



**Fri 2 Dec Mass**



**Sat 3 Dec Christmas Fair**



**Fri 9 Dec 9.45am P7 Assembly Parents Invited**



**Wed 14 Dec Christmas Nativity led by P1-3 pupils. As before, we will have a show at 9.30am and again at 11am. Each P1-3 child will automatically be allocated two tickets for one of these shows. There is a limit on tickets due to fire regulations, so after that extra tickets will be available on a first come first served basis. Tickets are required. There will be an opportunity to donate an entry fee to Save the Children, as suggested by our Pupil Council. Ticket requests will be issued on Thurs 1 Dec to be returned by Mon 5 Dec for issue that week.**



**Thurs 15 Dec Whole school morning outing to Brunto Theatre Pantomime. Tickets cost £7.50. Money can be paid online [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit), or hand EXACT money in to school in a named envelope by Fri 9 December.**



**Fri 16 Dec Christmas Mass - led by P4 pupils (with carols from all classes)**



**Christmas Disco (Loretto Parent Partnership) – details to be confirmed**



**Tues 20 Dec 9am (ish!) Nursery Nativity in gym hall**



**CHRISTMAS PARTIES.**

We are grateful to Loretto Parent Partnership for their support at the Christmas Parties, which are a special occasion for the children. Please speak to Sandra or any LPP member if you can help to set up for any party. Children may wear party clothes. If you wish to dress your child, pupils may be collected at 12.10pm to go home to change into party clothes and return to school for 1.15pm ready for their party. Children must be collected and returned by an adult. Alternatively, children can change into their party clothes INDEPENDENTLY in school at 1.15pm ready for their 1.30pm party start. Please send party clothes in a marked plastic bag.



**Mon 19 Dec 1.15pm for 1.30pm P1 party**



**Tues 20 Dec 1.15pm for 1.30pm P2 and P2/3 party**



**Wed 21 Dec 1.15pm for 1.30pm P3/4 and P4 party**



**Thurs 22 Dec 1.15pm for 1.30pm P5, P6 and P7 party**



**Thurs 22 Dec During am and pm session Nursery parties in Nursery.**

**School closes at the usual times on THURSDAY 22 DEC and re-opens on Monday 9 JANUARY 2017**

