



Loretto RC Primary June 2017 Newsletter



Dear Parents,

We are now in the last month of this school session and we have even seen the sun! The children are enjoying lots of outdoor learning and our nursery, and P1 and P7 are preparing for a smooth start to new situations. Of course, all our children and teachers work towards a smooth transition to new learning, new rooms and new teachers. Teachers prepare a handover of information and we have our school tracking systems to ensure we are aware of children's progression. Not least, the children themselves know their own learning.

Loretto Parent Partnership Summer Fun Saturday 10th June 10am-12 noon. We look forward to seeing you all there. This is a major fundraiser for the school and a fun day for the family. Our thanks in advance to everybody who helps or comes along.

Nursery

Please note there will be a short nursery induction on Friday 16th June at 1.30pm-2.30pm for parents of those children due to start nursery for the first time in August. Please also note: nursery parents are being advised of their child's nursery class for August 17. Again please note allocation to the morning preschool class is strictly by date of birth.

Jordan Houston Football

We will have our annual fun and fundraising afternoon of football for Jordan's medical research charity on Monday 26th June at 1.30pm. Children and adults are invited to attend. There will be an opportunity to donate to this charity which is very close to our hearts here in Loretto.

P7 Assembly Show and School Achievement Awards Tuesday 27th June 1.30pm in the Church Hall

P7s will lead us in celebrating the end of the year and their time with us. Our P7s will present to us a special Assembly, always full of fun and a few tears. P7 parents are especially invited. We will make a special P7 Pope Francis award for effort and for contribution to the school and recognise the work of all classes too. We will also award the House Trophy.

Staffing

I would like to thank Miss Weir and congratulate her on a super year in Loretto. Miss Weir has very successfully completed her probationary year. She has embraced all the school developments and has introduced some excellent pedagogies to her class. We wish her well as she moves on to a new permanent post.

In nursery, may I thank Ms Nicole Porter who has been working in nursery on a temporary basis with us during Miss Pandit's absence. Miss Pandit sends her thank you for all your kind wishes.

Ms Pietrzak will return to work with us as Additional Support Needs auxiliary next year. Mrs Swanston and Mrs Johnston our classroom assistants, will also support pupils and teachers across the school. Mrs Muhammad will also work in classes in school, though the majority of her time will be in nursery. Mrs Ramage will continue to provide Support for Learning across the school. Mrs Ramage works in classes, in small groups and individually with children both supporting and challenging our learners.

A decorative border of ice cream cones surrounds the text. The cones are arranged in a rectangular frame, with a single row of cones along the top and bottom edges, and vertical columns of cones along the left and right edges. Each cone has a yellow top, a pink middle, and a brown bottom.

Next Session

Next session we will have 8 classes in the school.

Final arrangements about new classes and teachers will be advised when I have all the latest information. However please be advised classes can change - even over a summer holiday (although obviously we hope not!) We are fortunate to have close team of teachers who work and plan for the children's learning very closely. Our family ethos also allows the children to mix and play together, maintaining friendships and making new friends too.

We plan to have a Move Up Day on Thursday 15th June when children will visit their new classrooms and teachers. On that morning the children will do a 'get to know you activity' and also discuss with the teacher a new mini topic they would like to start the new year with. The idea is that together the children and teacher discuss and choose a context/theme or topic for the first two weeks or so of the new session. This gives the children an idea of things to be looking out for over the summer perhaps, something to look forward to and provides personalisation and choice in the curriculum. Fun and motivation play a very important part in how well children learn and achieve too. This will not be a set topic but will provide an opportunity for the children to set learning questions, suggest learning activities and ways to 'prove or present' their learning and provide the teacher with an overarching context for those all important new reading, writing and numeracy lessons.

P7s transitions Those P7s going to St David's High School had their visits on Wed 8th June and Thursday 9th June, and those going to MGS will have theirs next week.

Golden Time

Next year following guidance from our Head of Education we would like to inform you that Golden Time will no longer operate as part of our reward and sanctions. To ensure children receive their entitlement to a broad general education in line with the principles and purposes of Curriculum for Excellence, we have reviewed our practice and plan to use this period in the week more closely for structured learning. In Loretto and across East Lothian Council we are committed to Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and the right of a child to be included and respected. Therefore, as this period in the week will no longer simply be free choice play, but linked to our curriculum, all children are entitled to this learning experience. We have discussed this with the children and Loretto Parent Partnership and we have some ideas of how we can use this time to deliver learning of the Experiences and Outcomes in an engaging and motivating way. Our curriculum provision includes lessons Monday to Friday and is planned to be purposeful and to take learning forward. Of course, play is important and we are delighted that children have such a great outdoor space for play during breaks. Sssh don't tell the wee ones but often their 'activities and games' in class are really lessons and ways for them to practise and learn.

Rewards such as stickers, stampers, praise, certificates, Star of the Week and House Points will all continue. We have high expectations of our children's behaviour in school and the children respond well to this and display good manners, effort and good choices. Thank you to parents for this message and support. Sanctions such as reminder, warning, move away from group and red card and parents informed will all remain. Also we will continue to operate removal of the privilege for play at break and lunch for more serious breach of discipline.

Next session we are planning to introduce opportunities for parents to join us on 'Fabulous Fridays' as part of our structured curriculum and Family Learning. Teachers and pupils will also have the opportunity to plan specific themed learning on Fridays against the CfE Experiences and Outcomes.



General Reminders:

Water: As the weather improves (fingers crossed!), please try to send your child to school with a water bottle every day.

Milk money for session 17/18 must be paid no later than **Monday 26th June**. Please help us by paying for this online, at www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit then 'Primary School Milk Payments'. The milk payment for the full session is £32.30, or you can pay for the first term only, £14.45. Please do not mix payments for school trips and milk.

Dates for your Diary

Wed 8th and Thurs 9th June P7 Transition visit days to St David's

Fri 10 June P1 Assembly Parents invited

Mon 12 June Bikeability Training for Parents here

Tues 13 June P2, P2/3, P3/4. P4 trip to zoo

Tues 13 June/Wed 14 June P7 transition Visit days to MGS

Wed 15 June Nursery to visit P1 for story

Thurs 15 June Move Up Day class visits

Fri 16 June Sports Morning starting at 9.15am-we welcome parent helpers

Mon 19 June P5 John Muir Trip Dunbar

Tues 20 June P1 Trip to Butterfly World

Wed 21 June Nursery outing for all and parents East Link

Thursday 22 June – Netball tournament at Sanderson's Wynd for selected team

Fri 24 June P5 John Muir Showcase-P5 parents invited

Mon 26 June 2pm Jordan Houston Memorial Charity Football event-parents invited.

Mon 26 June 6.30pm P7 Social Evening in Church Hall

Tues 27 June 1.30pm P7 Assembly and School Awards in Church Hall

Wed 28 June Nursery Sports am and pm as advised by nursery

Thurs 29 June 9.15am End of term School Mass-P7 leading

Frid 30 June School closes. Happy holidays everyone!

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the events for the end of term.

School reopens for **ALL pupils at 8.50am on Wed 16th August**. Please note this includes the new P1s, who will attend **full day** from this date onward.