



Loretto RC Primary Autumn Term Newsletter 2018



Dear boys, girls, parents, family and friends of Loretto,

The October break is behind us and we are all back full swing into our learning. The children worked so hard in Term 1 and we are delighted with their focus and calm start to each day with individual reading. Reading continues to be a vibrant and important part of our curriculum with a visit to the Book Festival again for older classes. P5-P7 have been out and about developing their watersports skills at Musselburgh Lagoons. The younger classes are exploring learning outdoors through Loose Parts Outdoor Play and we were delighted to have so many parents join them on a recent Family Friday. The SSPCA also visited all classes and helped the children learn about new topics, building on their workshops from last session. We have enjoyed learning about Egypt, from the P4 class assembly shared with parents. A number of parents signed up to First Aid Family Learning in school. If you missed it we have another date booked for later in the year, as well as a workshop for parents with our Speech and Language Therapist. Our Family Learning programmes are designed to build on the curriculum areas we looked at last session and in response to parent suggestions. Watch out for future class assemblies from each class and Family Learning Fridays.



Our Pupil Council and P7 leaders are in post and have begun their work. House Captains and IT officers regularly present at assembly. Our P7 buddies have done a super job in settling our now very grown up P1s. Well done and thank you boys and girls, playground staff and mums and dads.

URGENT PLEA FOR NEW PARENT COUNCIL. Loretto Parent Partnership called their Annual General Meeting in October but unfortunately, we were not able to proceed with appointing new office bearers as there were not enough parents at the meeting to be quorate. Our official thanks go to Sandra Gray, current Chair, who has worked tirelessly for the school but is now stepping down as Chair. A number of other parents have children in P7 and will be due to leave us. We do have offers of help for Treasurer and class representatives. Please send your nominations for Chair, and Vice Chair to the school office or the Loretto Parent Partnership e-mail by Monday 19th November.

The new AGM and first meeting date will be confirmed shortly and sent to you.

If you can help at all in any way please come along, as we are at serious risk of not being able to form a new Parent Council. The role of the Parent Council is to support the life and learning of the school. Parent Councils have an important role in supporting school improvement and indeed there is a duty on Parent Councils to co-create areas of the School Improvement Plan with the HT, staff and pupils. Initiatives such as Bikeability have been suggested and actioned by parents. It represents the views of all the wider parent body in educational matters. Traditionally the LPP has supported social events and fundraising for the school. It would be a great shame if the children were to miss out. We aim only to have 4 or 5 meetings a year. Dates and times of meetings are flexible to suit members.



Our P7 Charity and Events Coordinators are preparing for Children in Need on Friday 16th November. At Pupil Council they have decided that during week beginning Monday 12th November each class will run a sponsored Daily Mile. Your child will bring home a sponsor sheet. Additionally, on Friday 16th November children can dress up or down – ‘Do their own thing’- instead of wearing school uniform, and support Children in Need by paying £1. If you dress up or down please don’t forget your pound! All children will also be able to

join in a Children in Need Challenge.

Well done and thank you to P6E and their families for raising £161 for Macmillan Cancer. P6s are commencing their Pope Francis Faith Award and this is certainly our faith in action.



Well done to the P7 Eco leaders who have established regular weekly litter picks groups in school. Our aim is to reduce litter in our extensive grounds and build and accept responsibility for improving our local environment by reducing this ground pollution and danger to animals.

Staffing

We are looking forward to welcoming Miss Mhairi Torley as a new permanent teacher to Loretto. We hope Miss Torley will be able to start with us on Monday 19th November in Primary 5. Our sincere thanks go to Mr Richard Wilson who has been with us a supply teacher from the start of term. We have very much enjoyed having Mr Wilson with us, and are grateful for his commitment to the school and the care he has shown for the children.

We are also delighted to welcome Miss Fleming to Loretto, who works both in Nursery and also temporarily in school supporting children's learning in class and small groups.

£££ IPAY

East Lothian Council has now introduced a new online payment system. We know there have been some teething problems beyond our control, but it seems to be fine now. This is the preferred and recommended way to pay. The new system lets you pay for all school and nursery payments as you did before. We will soon be asking parents to pay for this year's pantomime, so make sure you're registered and ready to pay online!

As well as being able to pay for school trips etc., the new system now allows parents to order and pay for school meals. It would be very helpful, and would save class learning time, if parents ordered and paid for their school meals in advance for their child. Teachers would still open and check the school lunch order system in class in the morning, but the time on this would be reduced. You can use your phone to register and pay. If you have any questions or difficulties with the new system, Mrs. Donohoe is very happy to help you, please just ask. School meals can still be paid in cash.

Common School Day

East Lothian Council is currently consulting on changes to the organisation of the school day. This is aimed at enhancing provision across our secondary schools. It also includes qualified proposals to increase class teaching time for P1 and P2 in East Lothian schools to 25hrs per week in line with P3-P7. The consultation is available for your comment at <https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/education/commonsecondaryschool/day/>

P1 August 2019 Enrolment

Enrolment for P1 in August 2019 is now open. Parents should bring along the completed enrolment form, child's birth certificate, this year's council tax letter and a utility bill dated within the last six months, and hand them in to the school office by November 15th. For RC pupils, proof of baptism should also be supplied. Please note that should the school be oversubscribed, then RC pupils will have priority. If you live outwith Musselburgh, Wallyford or Whitecraig and wish to apply for a non-catchment school place, please ask at the office for a form.

Nursery and School Gardens. Can you or someone on your family help? We need to tackle the raised beds, cut down the weeds and tidy up for autumn. If you have any time and would like to help, please speak to the nursery staff or school office. Free tea and coffee!



Family Learning Fridays In response to requests from parents and as part of our plan to Close the Attainment Gap we continue to offer ways for parents and families to learn together. As so many parents collect their children on Fridays, this is when we offer these workshops. They run at 11am and parents can stay in school having a cuppa till home time-so there is no need for a double journey and you get a chance to make friends and exchange ideas. Keep an eye out for these upcoming Family Learning Fridays.

Date	Event	Who's it For?
7 th Dec	Christmas Crafts	Parents in all classes
11 th Jan	Help your Child to Write a Real Thank You Letter	Parents in all classes
18 th Jan	Restorative Practice	All parents led by Mrs Kinsella and pupil group from P4 and House Captains
26 th January	Learn to Play a Scottish Tune	Led by Miss Hannah and P6H for P6 parents
1 st Feb	Big Scotland Quiz	All classes and parents
8 th Feb	ART EXHIBITION	All classes and parents
15 th March	Rights of the Child	Led by Rights Respecting Pupil Group for all parents
22 nd March	Supporting your Child in TALK	All parents. Led by our Speech and Language Therapist

Polite Reminders

It is essential that we are able to make *telephone* contact with a parent in the event of a problem or emergency. Please keep us up to date with mobile phone number changes. Please also remember that if your child cannot attend school, you must contact the office to let us know. Any term-time holidays must be notified in writing.



Playtime snacks

We are still seeing large numbers of children bringing crisps or sweets to school almost every day. We do have a healthy tuck shop where children can buy fruit for 30p. This is run by our P7 Tuck Shop managers as a social enterprise. We aim to cover costs and any small profit goes to P7 transition and events. Also, please do not send juice to school. Water only please.



Sacraments

Fr Basil is held a meeting for parents of pupils in P3 and P4 who will be making their First Confession and First Holy Communion. If your child is not in these classes and has not received these sacraments, please speak to Fr Basil in order that you can prepare your child. Older children do not routinely join the younger class lessons, but we can support with resources.

Diary Dates

Friday 16th Nov

Children in Need Dress Up and Charity Events-all pupils



Tues 20th Nov

National Adoption Week workshops for P4-P7 classes

Wed 21st Nov

Small school representative group at Centenary Celebration Mass in Cathedral

Sun 25th Nov

11am P3 and P4 Sacramental Enrolment Mass and Catholic Education Sunday

Fri 30th Nov

11am P6 E Class Assembly-parents invited

Monday 3rd December WHOLE School Outing to Brunton Theatre Pantomime. **£7.50** each to pay

Friday 7th Dec

Family Learning Christmas Crafts-all classes

Sunday 9th Dec

P7s Senior Parishioners Lunch helpers-community action Pope Francis Award

Wed 12th Dec

Christmas School Lunch



Thurs 13 Dec

Infant Nativity-Dress Rehearsal performance for school and morning nursery in church hall 9.30am

PM - School choir sing at St. Ann's Care Home (to be confirmed)

Fri 14 Dec

Infant Nativity for parents 9.30am and 11am in CHURCH HALL

Fri 14 Dec

12.15AM ONWARDS Loretto Parent Partnership and School

Christmas Fair

Christmas Parties

Mon 17 Dec 1.30pm P1, P2 and P3

Tues 18 Dec 1.30pm P4 and P5 Nursery am and pm Parties

Wed 19 Dec 1.30pm P6E P6H and P7

Thurs 20 Dec Carol Service in Church P4-P7 and choir to perform



Christmas parties-pupils may go home at lunch time to change or dress for parties. P1-P4 must be collected by adults. All other pupils must have written permission from parents. Or pupils may change themselves in school during lunchbreak.

Thurs 20th Dec

2pm Christmas Carol Service P4-P7 led by Mrs Peebles our music teacher

School closes Thursday 20th Dec at the usual times. Reopens Monday 7th January 2018.