



Whitecraig Primary School

November 2022 Newsletter

#HonestyKindnessRespect

**House Captains and Vice captains** – Just before the holidays, all the P6 and P7 pupils who wished to represent our school as a House or Vice House Captain were invited to go through a rigorous selection process. The children were initially asked to complete a job application, then underwent an interview with Miss Queen and Miss Cran, finally ending with a speech to the pupils of their own house. We were extremely proud of all our children who applied and they made it a really difficult decision for everyone! The successful applicants were:

- Carberry : House Captain- Mia Kay                      Vice Captain - Leona Holmes
- Craigmillar : House Captain- Rhys Ford                Vice Captain – Meah Russell
- Fa'side: House Captain – Isla Hawkins-Givan      Vice Captain – Adam Kazmierczak
- Pinkie: House Captain – Mason Reilly                Vice Captain – Mirren Edwards

**P6 and P7 Prefects** – The remaining P6 and P7 children have all been appointed as prefects, we are looking for them to continue to be role models for the whole school community. There will be many opportunities for the children to support the House and Vice House Captains throughout the school year.

**Pupil Council** – We also have to congratulate our new pupil council representatives, who had to complete an application form which Miss Queen and Miss Cran read and then select the successful candidates.

- P1 – Willow Devine and Tucker Cowan
- P2/3 – Aria Reid and Hanna Weglarz
- P3/4 – Abbie Baggs and Fraser Ross
- P5/6 – Aarvi Kumar and Zac Glass
- P6/7 – Nathan Reid and Lillian Armstrong

These children will be working closely with their classes, the whole school and staff, to continue in improving all aspects of their Learning and Teaching in our school community.

**Our JRSO's** have written an update for you:

Winter is approaching and the nights are getting darker more quickly. It is important to be seen, so the JRSOs advise people to wear something reflective on their jacket, bag, bike or scooter. The JRSOs will be running competitions, where the children can win prizes including reflectors for bikes, bags and scooters. There will be a poster competition – design your own reflectors. There will also be a road safety quiz. So be bright and be seen!

Report written by Josh, Leona, Monroe and Adam

**Bite and Blether** – Our P7 children are continuing to support our older community at Bite and Blether on a weekly basis. As well as serving lunch, they are involved in ensuring the Hub shop runs, as well as being extremely competitive when it comes to games after lunch. They are beginning to realise that our older community are no less competitive and also no push over!

**Basketball Hoops** – Some bad news, leads to good news! After a recent inspection of our basketball hoops in the gym hall, which required a substantial amount of money to make them useable, we were left with a dilemma, however active schools co-ordinator Anna Potter stepped in and offered to replace them with portable hoops until we move to the new school. This is great news, as Mrs Clark is starting a P4 to P7 basketball club on a Wednesday afternoon.

**Class Assemblies** – After Soft Start on Friday mornings, we have noticed a great interest from parents, with respect to the morning assembly. We thought it would be really nice to be able to invite parents in to share both our learning and celebrations. In order to accommodate everyone, we have created a timetable for each class, to share some of their learning. If you can, we would love for you or even a grandparent/family friend to come in on the dates that your child/children's are leading the assembly.

Assembly starts at 9:25am

- P5/6 – Friday 11.11.22
- P3/4 – Friday 18.11.22
- P2/3 – Friday 25.11.22
- P1 - Friday 02.12.22
- P6/7 – Friday 09.12.22

We ask that each child only has two adults coming along to support their assembly, as space is limited.

**Christmas is coming!** We are planning some exciting events for Christmas in school. The P1 children will be acting in our Nativity performance, supported by the P2 and P3 children. Our P4 – P7 children, would like to invite you to participate in their songs around the

Christmas tree, in school after the Nativity. The performances will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of December at 1.45pm and again at 6pm. Each child will be allocated 2 tickets and there will be a ballot for any leftover tickets. We have a maximum capacity of 160 for in the hall, which is why tickets need to be limited.

**Nursery Christmas** – Throughout December, the Nursery will be engaging in lots of Christmas activities, culminating in a Christmas Sing-a-Long, followed by a party on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. All children who attend Nursery, are invited along with their parents at 10.30am. Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, is a normal Nursery day for the Wednesday / Thursday cohort and they should come and leave at their normal times. The Monday / Tuesday children should come at 10.30am and leave at 12pm. All parents are welcome to stay for a mince pie after the sing-a-long, while the children have their party. There might even be a very special visitor to the party that day!

**Christmas parties** – Each class will hold a Christmas party – please see the dates below. Children can wear their Christmas party clothes to school, can bring them into school in their bag or can go home for lunch and get changed at home, if their party is in the afternoon. Please let us know if you are wanting your child home for lunch.

**Musical Instruction** – Mr Ross our Piping Instructor has been working with small groups of children from P5, 6 and 7, who are learning the chanter. The children are very enthusiastic and we are hoping that they will be able to share some of their hard work with the school and parents during the festive period.

**Scooter Workshop** – We are very pleased that Christine, the Bike Officer for East Lothian, is visiting us again to offer the children more Scooter Workshops. These sessions are amazing and the children have previously enjoyed them, learning new skills, scooting safely and keeping them active. All classes will participate within the school day and we will share photographs of the event on the school website.

### School Improvement

#### Curriculum – Meeting the Needs of All Learners

On the In service Day, staff worked on developing our approach to tracking and moderating Writing. In addition to this, we looked at ensuring there are greater opportunities for children to be involved in the planning of their own learning. The children will write their thinking down in ‘floor books’ and these will be displayed in classrooms, for you to contribute to during soft starts.

#### Wellbeing, Equality & Inclusion

**Attendance** – We recently sent out letters where attendance fell below 90%. We then followed this up with a call, so you may have a missed call from us! We want to support families, to ensure their children attend as much as possible and there are many things we can offer support with. We will continue to raise the profile of good attendance in school, as we know the positive impact of this.

#### Leadership

We have shared our school improvement priorities with you as the parent forum and our next step is to share this with the children. The children will then share this information with the whole school community, through our assemblies.

Some of you have been enjoying the singing and the celebrations of success, when you come along to the soft start and stay for coffee. This term, we will be inviting parents to come into the assembly, when their child’s class is leading the assembly. Each class will have an opportunity to take the assembly for the whole school once between now and Christmas.

**Parent Teacher Consultations** – We look forward to seeing you in school on either the 8<sup>th</sup> or the 9<sup>th</sup> of November for your Parent Consultation, for P1 to P7 children. The Nursery will be holding their consultations week beginning the 28<sup>th</sup> of November and the Nursery staff will speak to parents directly about arranging suitable dates and times for this.

#### Requests from staff

**Indoor Shoes:** We still have a large number of children who are claiming not to have indoor shoes, as the wetter weather approaches, this is going to make the classroom environment unpleasant to be in. Indoor shoes do not have to be new, just clean and suitable for walking around in.

#### Young Scot Card [getyournec.scot](http://getyournec.scot)

Which benefits do I get applying for this card?

- Proof of age
- Discounts
- Rewards
- Leisure facilities
- European Youth Card

Who can apply?

If you're not eligible for the free bus travel, or you are just not interested in it, you can still get the rest of the perks. All 12-25 years old resident in Scotland are eligible for the Young Scot card, without the free bus travel product on it.

Books at Breakfast - Mrs Clark in our Nurture Room is hosting Books at Breakfast each morning for anyone who needs it. Just knock on her window or let a member of staff know when you arrive at school. Mrs Durrant, made an application to Kellogg's for £1000 funding for this initiative and we were successful. Huge thanks to Mrs Durrant.

Pupil Lunches – We have a lot of children telling us they don't like the food that has been selected by their parent on the school lunch system. Can we ask that you choose the lunches with your child, to ensure we have happy kids at lunchtime!

**Dates for your diary:**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November Scooter Workshop

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November: Parent Consultations

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November: Parent Consultations

Week Beginning the 28<sup>th</sup> November Nursery Parent Consultations

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December: Nursery Sing-A-Long and Party 10.30am – 12pm

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December: Mon Tues Nursery Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm and 6pm : Christmas Performances

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December: P1 – P7 Visit Brunton Theatre

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 1.15pm : P2/3 and P3/4 Christmas Party

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December: P1 - P7 & Wed Thurs Nursery Christmas Lunch

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am : P1 Christmas Party

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 1.15pm : P5/6 and P6/7 Christmas Party

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December: Term Ends

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January: Term Begins

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February: Term Ends

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February: In Service for staff

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February: All resume