



# Noblehill Primary School

## June 2019 Newsletter



Dear Parents/ Carers

I would like to take this opportunity as we approach the end of the school year to thank all of the parents, pupils, staff and partners for their support across the year.



I have had a lovely term getting to know all of the pupils, staff and some of the parents. It is clear that as a school community we are totally dedicated and committed to supporting our learners to achieve our school vision which of course is:

**'To inspire everyone to work to their full potential in a safe and nurturing environment'.**

It has been a very busy term 4 for everyone and I am pleased to inform you that we have completed a review of the impact of the School Improvement Plan for 2018/19 and have created a draft 2019/20 School Improvement Plan. These summaries are provided in this newsletter for your perusal and comment.



All parental responses will be collated and due diligence paid to them.

It is also alas the time of year when we say our farewells. This year we are saying our goodbyes to:

### Primary 7 Leavers

This is always a sad time for any school as we say a massive goodbye and good luck to all of our Primary 7 pupils. It has been a privilege getting to know them this term and it is evident what a fantastic Primary 7 they have been. A real credit to the school! Well done to every single one of you and we hope that you continue to work hard and achieve all that you can.



### ***Best Wishes to all of our fabulous Primary 7 pupils***

Primary 7 Secondary School Induction Days are from Wednesday 19th June until Friday 21st June. Children should make their own way to their chosen secondary school unless alternative arrangements are in place already.

### **School Staff Leavers:**

Mrs Tipping	ASL Teacher
Miss Stewart	Primary 6/5 Teacher
Miss Carter	Learning Assistant
Mrs McCubbin	Primary 1 Teacher
Mrs Mitra	Learning Assistant



We thank all of our staff for their hard work during their time here and wish them all the best for their future.



# Noblehill Primary School

## June 2019 Newsletter



### Welcome to our School

As we say goodbye to some we also say a huge welcome to others.



As a school we warmly welcome all of our new Primary 1 entrants who will start with us after the holidays.

We also hope to have a new class teacher starting with us after the holidays. At the moment we have not heard from the authority who we will be getting. We hope that our new member of staff will be with us for our 'Moving Up Day' however if they are not here for then we will try to organise another time for this person to meet their class.

### Classes for 2019/20 session

Due to our reduction in overall pupil numbers we will be reducing the number of classes from 11 to 10. This will mean that there will be an increase in the number of composite classes across the stages. We now have 4 composite classes across the school.



### Class Sizes

Scottish Government guidelines state that

class sizes can't exceed certain numbers:

Primary 1 - 25 pupils

Primary 2 to Primary 3 - 30 pupils

Primary 4 to Primary 7 - 33 pupils

Composite classes - 25 pupils

Children have been allocated classes in consultation with staff. Consideration has been given to:

- ⇒ Learning needs
- ⇒ Gender balance
- ⇒ Siblings and
- ⇒ Age

You should receive details of your child's new class and teacher by Friday 14th June. Should you have any concerns regarding your child's new class please contact the school.



### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and lovely summer holiday.

School closes for the end of the school year on:

**Friday 28th June at 3:00pm**

And re-opens to children on :

**Wednesday 21st August at 8:45am.**





# Noblehill Primary School

## June 2019 Newsletter



### School Improvement Plan



#### Summary of 2018/19 School / Nursery Improvement Plan

As part of the ongoing school improvement cycle, I am pleased to share with you some of the main developments within the three SIP priorities identified last year.

#### 1. To develop a shared vision, values and aims relevant and appropriate to the school and it's community

The school and nursery now have a shared vision which has been created to reflect the school's values which are Respect, Effort, Trust, Care and Teamwork. All classes have a shared understanding of the vision, values and aims relative to age and stage. All pupils enjoyed creating their own bees which reflect our motto 'Be all you can be'. Children across the school are developing a sense of responsibility and pupil leadership groups such as the Eco group, J.R.S.O. and The Pupil Council have been active in supporting the development of the school vision. Pupil leadership groups were effective in identifying and facilitating extra curricular clubs which were enjoyed by many children across the school.



Staff have received training both in Nurturing Approaches as well as The Rights Respecting School. The school will now review these principles and will now update our Positive Relationships policy to reflect current practice.

#### 2. Assessment of children's progress and performance information

All teachers have had opportunities to be involved in stage partner planning at key times throughout the year. Regular opportunities provided for collaborative practice to develop in planning, assessment, moderation tasks has helped to improve clarity around assigning Curriculum for Excellence levels as well as supporting differentiation and ensuring that all children are being challenged appropriately. Tracking of pupil progress information was reviewed and updated. Staff have all received training to support the interpretation of the SNSA data and now use this more effectively when planning to meet children's needs.



# Noblehill Primary School

## June 2019 Newsletter



### 2. Assessment of children's progress and performance information Continued

In nursery, Care Plans have been reviewed and updated and we are now using a One Page Profile, which is kept at the front of the Personal Journal. The Care Plan review has been replaced with the One Page Profile review to support this. The key information about each child is now more easily accessible within their folders.

Phase A-D SEAL planners are now being used by staff to ensure the CfE early level targets are being developed and supported in nursery.

Small group times have been introduced and these are effectively supporting the development of speech and turn taking.

### 3. To increase parental engagement

The school now has an up to date website which shares school information and any updates.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/noblehillnews/>



Parent focus groups were established to review and update our Reporting, Communication and Homework procedures. Many thanks to the parents and staff involved in these groups. Parent information evenings e.g. Internet Safety, Autism Awareness and Outdoor Learning were very successful.



In nursery Stay, Play and Learn sessions have been introduced — Parents come and join their child in nursery to play alongside them and their friends and update their child's care plan in line with national guidance.

2Build a Profile was purchased for use in Primary 1 and Nursery in March '19 but due to delays in IT will not be fully implemented until August 2019.

Nursery children now access outdoors on a daily basis on a free flow basis. We have updated outdoor toys through generous donations which has provided more options for play. Active School have delivered balance bike sessions which have encouraged those less confident to gain experience in balance and co-ordination.







# Noblehill Primary School

## June 2019 Newsletter



### Summary of 2018/19 School / Nursery Improvement Plan cont.

The Nursery Notice Board is updated regularly including: Speech and Language drop in sessions, Parenting advice websites and relevant entitlement posters for advice and support. Information is also given through the monthly nursery newsletter.

### Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

The Pupil Equity Funding is being provided as part of the £750 million Attainment Scotland Fund which will be invested over the current parliamentary term (2016 to 2021).

The Pupil Equity Funding is allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap.



Every council area is benefitting from Pupil Equity Funding and 95% of schools in Scotland have been allocated funding for pupils in P1-S3 known to be eligible for free school meals.

This funding is spent at the discretion of the head teacher working in partnership with their local authority to improve attainment for identified groups of children who are slightly under achieving.

During 2018/19 we received funding of £22 800 . We used this to train two members of staff, a class teacher to assess needs and a Learning Assistant to deliver the focused interventions across Primary 1 to Primary 7.



I am pleased to say that all children who have participated within these focus groups have made progress.



This year we have been allocated £20 520. This funding again will support a full time Learning Assistant to deliver planned interventions for identified pupils across the school. We will also be training all teachers in the use of the assessment packages to enable the sustainability of this approach thereafter.



# Noblehill Primary School

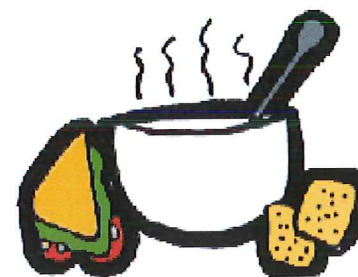
## June 2019 Newsletter



As the amount of PEF funding we receive is directly linked to the number of children receiving free school meals—please check your eligibility .

### The Criteria for Free School Meals

Your child will receive free school meals if you are in receipt any of the following:



- ♦ Income Support
- ♦ Jobseeker's Allowance (Income based)
- ♦ Employment and Support Allowance (Income based)
- ♦ Child Tax Credit on its own, with an annual taxable income of less than £16,105 (subject to change)
- ♦ Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of less than £6,900 (subject to change)
- ♦ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ♦ Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £610

In addition to the criteria above, Councils are now able to use their discretion in order to provide free school meals to pupils who may be under hardship due to exceptional circumstances. You can contact the council should you wish to discuss this. There are also a number of additional criteria which mean children at nursery can receive a Free School Meal:

- ♦ Severe Disability Allowance (parent)
- ♦ State Pension Credit
- ♦ Under a Kinship or Guardianship Order
- ♦ Looked after child since their second birthday
- ♦ Incapacity Benefit
- ♦ These extra qualifying benefits are not considered if your application is for a primary or secondary pupil.





# Noblehill Primary School

## June 2019 Newsletter



### School Improvement Plan Priorities for 2019/20

The following areas for priority have been identified for development from the Authority School Collaborative which was undertaken last November.



#### Priority 1—Learning, Teaching and Assessment

- ◆ Ensure high quality learning and teaching cross all stages which encompasses increased pupil participation in learning, development of learning intentions and success criteria and the use of higher order thinking skills to increase understanding and challenge.
- ◆ Progressive Curriculum—create a three year cycle to ensure that all CfE Experiences and Outcomes are progressively covered.
- ◆ Create a whole school approach to promoting a positive learning environment for all which supports and develops our school vision, values and aims.

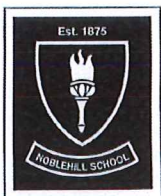


#### Priority 2—Raising Attainment and Achievement

- ◆ Use self-evaluation to review our school attainment over time.
- ◆ Review our school reports and develop more explicit target setting to support children and parents knowing how well children are progressing through the CfE levels and sharing what children have to do to support improvements in literacy and numeracy.
- ◆ Develop our use of CfE Assessment Benchmarks & Tracking to support progression through the CfE programmes and assigning of CfE levels.

#### Cluster Priority—Moderation

- ◆ Continue to develop teacher confidence in assigning CfE levels through increased understanding of holistic assessments and progression of CfE levels in literacy and numeracy from Early to Third level.



# Noblehill Primary School

## June 2019 Newsletter



### School and Pupil Achievements this Term

Well done to all of our students who have achieved both in and out with of school this term. It has been fantastic to have shared some of our pupil's achievements in assembly.



#### FAIRTRADE LOGO COLLECTION THANKS

Congratulations to P1 who are the winners of our Fairtrade Fortnight Logo Collecting Competition. They managed to collect the amazing total of 160 logos!!! A certificate and prize has been awarded.

Thank you very much to everyone who helped to gather logos - we have certainly worked together to promote Fairtrade in our local community.

Please continue to support us as we work through the final challenges to gain the FairAchiever Award.



#### FAIRTRADE FOOTBALL NEWS

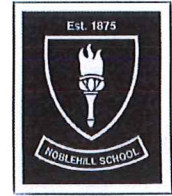
Teams from Noblehill and Georgetown Primaries recently enjoyed a fun game of football on our school pitch - the first 'official' outing for our new Fairtrade ball! Thanks to everyone involved and to Aldi for their generous donation of Fairtrade bananas to support the event.





# Noblehill Primary School

## June 2019 Newsletter



### GARDENING SUCCESS

During their #Nobleskillz session, P7B took part in the "Design a Pocket Garden Competition." Their design was one of those chosen by Eco Schools Scotland to be built and exhibited at the Gardening Scotland Show. The pupils worked enthusiastically on building the components of their garden and were very inventive with recycling many items for the garden. The garden went on display at the national show from Friday 31st May to 2nd June, where it was judged against the 24 design winning schools from across Scotland. The judges were very impressed by our garden and awarded it the Best Garden for Wildlife. We were also awarded the Visitors Favourite Garden which was voted for by the public. P7B will now rebuild the garden at the rear entrance of the school for everyone to see. Well done to everyone involved and a special thankyou to Mrs Munro.



### FOOTBALL NEWS

It has been a very busy month for our football teams. We entered 4 teams into the Guid Nychburris festival, both our P5 team and girls team won their competitions and our P6 and P7 teams made it through to the semi finals. On Thursday 13th June a team will be competing at Lochmaben Primary in the Lochmaben Cup and on Monday 17th June, two teams will be competing in a competition at Georgetown Primary. A special thankyou to Mr Learmont for all his hard work with our footballers over the last month and to parents who have helped transport the teams.



### COUNTRY DANCING CONCERT

On Tuesday 28th May we held our annual Country Dancing concert where the pupils were able to showcase the skills that they have been learning throughout the year. Dancer of the Year Awards were presented to Leah and Renee. Certificates of Leadership were presented to Amy and Rosie. Congratulations to all our dancers for an excellent concert and a special thank you to Jayne and Rose-Marie for all their efforts throughout the year.





# Noblehill Primary School

## June 2019 Newsletter



### GUID NYCHBURRIS SWIMMING

On Thursday 6th June, 2 teams took part in the annual Guid Nychburris schools relay swimming gala at DG1 pool. There was a high standard of swimming throughout and Noblehill pupils were a credit to the school. Our Boys team (Alex, Matteo, Alex and Lochlann) came away with the bronze medal and our girls team (Ayla, Millie, Brooke and Evie) gave their all in their races. Thank you to Mrs Marchbank for working with the teams and to all parents/ carers for their help with transport.



### SPRINT RELAY COMPETITION

On Tuesday 11th June, 16 of our P6 & P7 pupils took part in the Active Schools 4x100m Sprint Relay Competition at the David Keswick Athletics track. All of the pupils were a credit to themselves and the school and gave it their all during the races. Two of our teams made it to the finals and everyone had a great time competing. Thank you to all the parents and families who came out to support our young athletes.





### PUPIL COUNCIL

We are organising a non-uniform day on the last day of term, Friday 28th June. We would ask for donations of 50p for those taking part and proceeds will go towards getting equipment for the playground and field.

As a result of pupils asking to have lunch up at our field sometimes, we have arranged to have our next 'Seaside Special' themed lunch up at the field with all pupils . This will take place during normal lunch times on Tuesday 25th June. Here's hoping the sun is shining!



Happy  
Holidays!



# Noblehill Primary School

## June 2019 Newsletter



### Parental Consultation—School Improvement Plan Priorities for 2019/20

It is important to ascertain any areas which you feel would be appropriate for the staff to work on as an improvement area next session. It is important that you all have a say in what you believe the school priorities are so that we can acknowledge and address them as appropriate. Please return your SIP form by Friday 21st June 2019.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. By working together we aim to make Noblehill Primary the best school possible.

School Improvement Plan Priorities	Agree	Disagree
Priority 1—Learning, Teaching and Assessment		
Comment:		
Priority 2—Raising Attainment and Achievement		
Comment:		
Cluster Priority—Moderation		
Comment:		
Use of PEF allocation		
Comment:		

Please return to the school office by Friday 21st June

Please indicate if there are other areas which you feel that the school should consider for inclusion within the SIP for next session.

Signed:

Parent Of:



# SCHOOL YEAR 2019/2020

## **TERM 1**

Wednesday 21 August to Friday 11 October

### **OCTOBER HOLIDAY**

Monday 14 October – Friday 25 October

## **TERM 2**

Monday 28 October to Friday 20 December

### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

Monday 23 December – Tuesday 7 January

## **TERM 3**

Wednesday 8 January – Friday 3 April

### **MID TERM HOLIDAY**

Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February

### **EASTER HOLIDAY**

Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April

## **TERM 4**

Monday 20 April – Thursday 2 July

### **MAY DAY HOLIDAY**

Monday 4 May

### **IN-SERVICE DAY**

Friday 29 May

### **SUMMER HOLIDAY**

Friday 3 July – Wednesday 19 August

***Teachers Return – Tuesday 18 August***

***Pupils return – Thursday 20 August***