

Newsletter Term 3 2023/24



Our Vision and Values

Our
Vision

- Never Less than Our Best

Our
Values

- Respect
- Knowledge
- Wellbeing
- Perseverance
- Success

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Knowledge

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to all of our children and families. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and managed to spend time with family and friends.

Staffing

We have appointed a member of staff to join our PSA team and we have appointed a part-time teacher for P1, as Mrs Nicholson will soon be starting maternity leave. Employment checks are now being completed on both candidates.

Our school continues to be organised over three departments.

- Mrs Tracy Westwater has responsibility for Nursery-P1
- Mr Stuart Thynne has responsibility for P2-P4
- Mrs Lesley Rae has responsibility for P5-7
- Miss Sharren Maxwell Attainment Fund Acting DHT

Improvement Priorities 2023-2024 Progress Update

Our improvement priorities and Scottish attainment funding priorities are informed by parent/carer feedback, evaluations with teachers and children and our school data. Our school improvement priorities for this academic session are:

1. A consistent approach to high quality literacy experiences

Progress

Staff have engaged in professional learning with cluster colleagues in writing

All classes are using whole class rich vocabulary text to teach literacy

We have purchased PM writing resource to support the teaching of writing

Four teachers have observed a writing professor teach writing at the stage they are working at. This

has then been shared with all teaching staff at the in-set day in November

All teachers have started the structured planning format to support children's writing

2. Develop health and wellbeing approaches to meet the needs of children, families and staff

Progress

The Cottage Family Centre are working within the school supporting children and families

Bike ability level 1 and Level 2 is being delivered to our P7 children

Emotion works being further developed throughout the school

Kit Bag and Lego therapy being used more consistency to support children

All staff have completed health and wellbeing audit regarding regulation strategies

All staff have been involved in relaxation and sleep input to support their own wellbeing

Pupil voice group have contributed their views to developing health and wellbeing in our school and ELC

All staff attended an input on Regulate, Relate, Reason to support understanding children's emotions, brain development and strategies to support

In partnership with the Cottage Family Centre, the Decider Skills programme is being offered to children and families this term.

3. Develop the use of digital technology across the curriculum

All teaching staff have taken part in digital technology workshops that they identified they'd like to upskill in

A few staff members are attending digital training with colleagues throughout Fife

Pupil voice group have contributed their views to developing digital technology in our school and ELC

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Our Scottish Attainment Fund targeted priorities for this session are:

1. Improve attendance

*An attendance intervention has been put in place to support children to attend school more
Breakfast club is available free of charge to families who have been contacted*

2. Raise attainment in reading and writing in P4 and P6

Baselines assessment and interventions are in place for targeted children

We have a PT working across the cluster who works with our P4 cohort every Thursday to raise attainment in writing

Targeted literacy skills intervention is underway with cohorts of children in P4 and P6

IDL has been used with targeted cohorts of children throughout the school

3. Raise engagement in learning

Staff have been supporting children with a more consistent approach throughout the school

Identified children participating in nurture and wellbeing groups

Pupil Participation

The Green Ghekos (ECO Group) continue their work in the school and this term have purchased some wool in order to make small scarves that will be available to purchase.

Our Sports Committee are working towards the Gold Flag alongside Mrs McPhail and Miss Strugnell.

Our Newspaper continues to flourish. This was shared with all classes just before the festive break.

The KWIO continue with the Tuck Shop. Toast has been a massive success in the school and will continue to be sold on a Thursday at break time. Cost of toast is 30p per slice.

We have recently set up a group of children from each year group who are involved in our improvement priorities. This includes a literacy group, health and wellbeing group and a digital technology group. It is important that children are involved and actively participate in the improvements in our school.

We will keep you updated on our improvements throughout the year.

Website

We have been building our school website. This includes current information about the school. This can be found by clicking on the link below.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fi/kirkcaldywestprimaryps/>

Wellbeing

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is on each day from 8.30am at a cost of 60p per day and is supported by our dinner ladies and our pupil support assistants. Please use the door at the front of the school to access the breakfast club.

After School Clubs

Spaces for clubs are communicated to all parents/carers via email with a link to complete and submit an application. Spaces are limited and therefore we can't guarantee a space. You will receive a confirmation email when a space is provided.

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Please note that after school clubs do not operate on the last week of term.

Monday	New Generation Twirlers	P1-3 3.05pm-4.05pm P4-7 4.05pm-5.05pm
Tuesday	Active School Football Development	P1-4 3.05pm-4pm
Thursday	Netball	P7 3.00pm-4.00pm
Thursday	Running Club	P7 3.05-4.05pm
Friday	Multi-Sports (4 weeks only)	P1-2 3.05pm-4.05pm

Allergies

In our school community we have some individuals who have nut allergies. Please ensure your child's snack or lunch is nut free. This includes spreads that contain nuts.

Parking

We continue to have concerns raised from our neighbours and parents/carers regarding parking at drop off and pick up times. Please do not park on double yellow lines or across driveways.

I'm sure you're aware that the streets and roads become very busy at drop off and pick up times. Please park responsibly and sensibly around the school and local streets in order to keep our children safe and to avoid congestion. This is in the very best interests of the whole school community.

Appointments

If you would like to speak to a member of staff please come to the school office, call or email to make an appointment. Similarly, if you see or hear anything in the playground that is a cause for concern please do not approach children or adults, please report this to a member of staff.

Vision, Values and Aims Refresh

Thank you to all parents/carers who took the time to complete the Microsoft form regarding our Values and Aims. Please see below for results from parents and carers. We received 52 responses to these questions.

Question 1 Do you agree that Respect should be added to our current Values? 98% of people who responded said YES, they would like to see Respect added to our current values

Question 2 Do you feel the aims are appropriate? 96% of people who responded said YES, they felt the aims were appropriate.

We also asked our staff and some of our partners that we regularly work alongside the same questions as above. 100% of the people who responded said YES to both questions.

As you know the aims were written from the feedback we received in Term 2 from staff, parents/carers and children about our school values. Our children, during their house meeting, also agreed that Respect should be added to our current values as this is in line with the wellbeing indicators, the UNCRC and also, they see themselves as respectful children and would like to be recognised and known for this.

The children and staff have also voted to keep the K W P and S badges. The points for the badges are given to children on an individual basis. Points are awarded for individual effort that is put into something rather than the outcome.

Children will also continue to celebrate achievements through the four capacities from the Curriculum for Excellence. These achievements are considered by the children based on their own sense of achievement in one of the following capacities: Successful Learner, Confident Individual, Responsible Citizens or Effective Contributor. Class teachers can support the children to acknowledge their individual achievements.

Commented [A1]:

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The Cottage Family Centre Partnership

What is The Cottage Family Centre?

The Cottage Family Centre was originally developed by a group of parents and established in 1987. Its purpose is to provide a family centre, serving Kirkcaldy which caters for the needs of children aged 0-16 years and their families.

The Cottage Family Centre adopts a community development approach that puts the needs and aspiration of families and children at the centre of its service development and delivery, and encourages participation in the management and development of the Centre.

Please see below activities and dates for this Term

Date	Time	Activity
Every Tuesday	9.30am-11.30am	Art and Craft Group
Every Tuesday	1.30pm-2.30pm	Parent and Child Group
Every Tuesday	3.15pm-4.15pm	Family Time (all ages welcome)
Every Wednesday	3.15pm-4.15pm	Decider Skills (Families)

Successes

Pantomime

We have had very positive feedback from children and staff regarding the pantomime. It is a great experience for the children to have together with their class and their teacher.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair was a great success. It was great to see so many of our families enjoying the day. Thank you to our Parent Council for organising this.

Bikeability

Our P7 children have all had the opportunity to complete their level 2 Bikeability. Alongside Mr Thynne, Miss Strugnell and Mrs Bell our P7s worked hard and stayed focussed, despite the weather, to achieve their level 2 skills.

Basketball

A small group of our P7 children participated in the Balwearie Cluster Basketball Tournament in November organised by Fife Active Schools. The team won all their matches, and didn't concede any baskets. One of our pupils won a sporting performance prize on the day. As winners, they then qualified for the West and Central Fife schools' clusters finals which took place in December. In this tournament they won 6 matches placing 2nd overall. Again, one of our pupils was awarded with sporting integrity award.

Attendance & Punctuality

Our overall attendance for the year so far is at 89.9%. Our stretch target for this academic session is 91.1%.

Regular attendance and arriving at school on time are so important in establishing and maintaining the routines of school and maximising opportunities to learn. If your child does need time off school it is important that you let us know the reason why. Please contact us before 9am if possible so that teachers can be made aware and registers can be completed appropriately. You can contact us to inform us either by phone, text or email. If we have not heard from you then you should expect to receive a text message or call which will alert you that your child is not in school. Please respond to the text by

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contacting the school to let us know why your child is absent. Attendance and punctuality are monitored and in the event of any cause for concern the school will contact parents and carers.

Dates for your Diary

Please see below for a general overview of term 2 and beyond. You will be notified of any additional activities throughout the school year. Please note dates are subject to change and you will be notified of any changes as soon as possible.

February

7 th February	Shared Finish (P1-4) 2.15pm-2.45pm
8 th February	Shared Finish (P5-7) 2.15pm-2.45pm
14 th February	In-Set Day (school closed to children)
15 th and 16 th February	Holiday (school closed to children and staff)
26 th February	P7 Residential Dalguise

March

4 th - 7 th March	Travelling Book Fair
6 th March	World Book Day (wear your pyjamas and bring a book to swap with a friend)
12 th March	Parent/Carer Teacher Meeting (3.30pm-6.10pm)
15 th March	Red Nose Day (wear something red to school make a donation to charity)
21 st March	Parent/Carer Teacher Meeting (5pm-7.40pm)
26 th March	Parent Council (staff room, all welcome 6.30pm-7.30pm)

May

6 th May	Holiday
9 th May	In-Set Day (school closed to children)
15 th May	Shared Finish (P1-4) 2.15pm-2.45pm
16 th May	Shared Finish (P5-7) 2.15pm-2.45pm
24 th May	Sports Day Beveridge Park 9.30am-12.30pm (weather permitting)
28 th May	Parent Council (staff room, all welcome 6.30pm-7.30pm)
31 st May	Reserve Sports Day Beveridge Park 9.30am-12.30pm (weather permitting)

June

3 rd June	Holiday
25 th June	P7 End of Year Assembly Linktown Parish Church (P7 parents/carers welcome)
26 th June	P7 Leavers' Disco

School Holidays 2023/24

Break off School	Return to School
Friday 6 th October 3.05pm	Monday 23 rd October
Wednesday 20 th December 3.05pm	Thursday 4 th January 2024
Thursday 28 th March 3.05pm	Monday 15 th April
Friday 28 th June 3.05pm	Wednesday 21 st August

Additional Holidays and In-Set Days (School closed to children)

Kirkcaldy West Primary School and Nursery

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Friday 10th November	In-Set Day
Wednesday 14th February	In-Set Day
Thursday 15th February	Holiday
Friday 16th February	Holiday
Monday 6th May	Holiday
Thursday 9th May	In-Set Day
Monday 3rd June	Holiday

Once again, thank you for your support. It is important that we work together to get the very best for our children and families here at Kirkcaldy West Primary School. If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us by phone on 01592 583432 or email at kirkcaldywestps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

Kind Regards

Elizabeth Thomson
Headteacher