



Williamsburgh Primary School & ELCC Newsletter January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL AND HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! We hope you all had a fantastic break with your family over the festive season. We had a very busy December with a range of activities such as a pantomime, reindeer visit, class parties, nativity, church service and signing in the Abbey! We also had a wonderful informal visit from Alan Russell (Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council) and Janie O'Neill (Director of Children's Services).

We are delighted to be back now and are ready for Term 3! We have just had an informal visit from the Chief Inspector of His Majesty's Inspector of Education. This was as a result of our successful inspection last year and the work that we now have produced nationally. More information can be found on the following link:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-and-review/promoting-improvement-through-sharing-highly-effective-practice/>

Our Vision, Values and Aims

Vision

Learning today for a successful tomorrow!

Values

Achieving, Respectful, Kind

Aims

We aim to nurture our diverse community

We aim to provide a safe learning environment where we are all valued and encouraged to achieve our best

We aim to create strong, lasting partnerships

Parent Council

Please follow our Parent Council on Facebook for the latest information. Please contact the Parent Council for more information: williamsburgh@renfrewshire.npfs.org.uk

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 21st January @ 6pm ONLINE.**

The parent council have recently given the school £2139.33 towards maths resources and equipment. This will benefit children across all stages. Thank you!



Staff Car Park and Trim Trail

Please do not use the school car park to drop or pick-up your child (unless you have a Disabled sticker or you have arranged permission in advance with the school). Please also ensure that your child does not use the trim trail area at the front of the playground at drop off/pick up as it is currently a safety risk. Thank you for your co-operation.

Annual School Trip

This year the children have selected to go to Edinburgh Zoo! This will be on 13th June 2025. More information to follow.



House System

A huge congratulations to the Earth House who were the overall winners for Term 2. The children will receive a treat for all their hard work (pizza and movie afternoon).

Spotlight: Attendance Matters

Our school attaches great importance to attendance and we are committed to working in partnership with parents/carers to maximise pupil attendance and ensure the best outcomes for our young people.

Research shows that good attendance and timekeeping can have a significant impact on education but also post school positive destinations.

Good attendance is important for developing your child's skills for life. There are lots of supports we can offer to help you or your child if you are worried about attendance or facing any challenges with getting your child to school.

95%	=	40 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	80 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	120 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	160 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!

Percentages based on 190 academic days

Nut free School

We are also asking that **no foods/sweets that contain nuts or nut products** are brought into school. This includes Nutella. This is to ensure the safety of those children who could have an allergic reaction.



School Improvement Priorities Update:

- We have working on improving attainment in Numeracy. Teachers have received additional training and the parent council have also provided a whole range of recourses to support. We have sent you a parent/carers leaflet that we hope you would find useful on some strategies we use for Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division.
- We have worked together to review our Anti Bullying Policy. I am now looking for parent/carers views on this and would like to set up a working group. If you would be interested in attending a meeting or two please let the office know. Your contributions would be welcomed and appreciated.

All Minds

Ann Waugh will continue to be our counsellor on site to help and support the children every Thursday. All Minds is a mental health counselling service for children and young people. All children with permission can “drop in” to Ann for support. If you feel your child requires a block of therapy support please speak to Mrs Thomson in the first instance.



Dates for your Diary (Term 3):



➤ **Parent Council Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st January @6pm ONLINE.

➤ **P7 Burns Supper**

P7 are busy preparing for their annual Burns Supper event. This will take place on Friday 24th January for P7 parent/carers.

➤ **February Holiday**

In-service day (staff only): Friday 14th February 2025

Mid-term holidays (schools closed): Monday 17th February and Tuesday 18th February 2025

Pupils return: Wednesday 19th February 2025

➤ **Open Afternoon/Evening Drop In**

This will take place on **Wednesday 19th March** from 3.15pm-6.15pm. More information to follow.

➤ **Spring Holiday**

School will close at an earlier time of 2.30pm (2.20pm for P1 & P2) on Friday 4th April for the Spring Holiday. School will re-open on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Please click on the link below for School term dates and holidays:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/11856/School-term-dates-and-holidays>

Newsletter January 2025 ELCC

Welcome back after the Christmas holiday and a warm welcome to all the new families joining our ELCC.

The children will still be permitted free flow play within the garden area; therefore we ask that all children have a few changes of clothes and wear warm layers to allow them to freely enjoy their learning outdoors.

Fund raising.

All staff at Williamsburgh ELCC would like to thank all the children, parents and families, who took part in our fundraising activities. We raised over £2,000 - an amazing amount! These funds have supported our Christmas festivities and will help us to develop our outdoor environment through consultation with children. We will update you on the resources purchased.

New addition to the staff team

We would like to welcome Niamh McFadden into Williamsburgh ELCC. Niamh is an experienced Early Learning & Childcare Officer and we are delighted that she has chosen to join our team. She is getting to know everyone and the children are making her feel very welcome.

Seesaw

We continue to use Seesaw to update you on your child's time and learning within Williamsburgh. As you are aware Seesaw is for us all to use and parents/carers can also leave comments or share your child's wider achievements. The children are becoming so confident in posting to and from home, sharing their life experiences.

Forest schools & Community Garden

Forest Schools will be up and running again soon. Joanne will be in touch if your child is on the next session. As you may be aware the ELCC have a space within the Barshaw growing allotment to grow fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs. If you are interested in finding out what goes on at forest school/community garden and would like to join in, please let Justyna or Joanne know.

Donations

At Williamsburgh we support your child to make connections with their experiences, interests, learning, community through providing high quality play experiences. Your £3 weekly donation supports us to enhance these opportunities and we appreciate it greatly.

This donation can be paid through downloading the parent pay app on your tablet or phone. If you have any difficulties accessing this app on your tablet or phone, please see Vicky in the office who can assist.

Gate Locks

A reminder please - the locks on the gates are there to keep your child safe. We would appreciate, even if you feel you are not going to be long in the building, that you ensure these locks are put back in place whenever you enter or exit the building.

Up and coming events – All notifications will be posted on Seesaw.

- We have Stay and Play sessions, week beginning 10th February. A timetable will be placed on Seesaw and a printed copy at the entrance hall for parents/carers to select a time that suits.
- All parents and carers are invited to our Coffee & Chat on week beginning 31st March. Information re times with the key worker will be placed on Seesaw before this, so keep an eye out.

Many thanks for your continued support – ELCC Team

Please remember to check out facebook for all the latest information. School Lunch menus will be posted there for the week ahead.

I will be out the building on the following dates: Thursday 16th, 23rd, 30th January and the 6th February. These are secondment dates as I am currently the Authority Lead for Improving our Classrooms programme across Renfrewshire.

On behalf of everyone at Team Williamsburgh I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms Vhairi Cochrane
Head Teacher

