

Yetholm Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Jamie Wilson

Yetholm Primary School

Kelso

TD5 8RD

Tel No 01573 420363

Email: yetholmadmin@scotborders.gov.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yetholmprimary>

Twitter: @YetholmP



September Newsletter

As September draws to a close and the autumnal weather starts to take a hold, I am looking back at the start to the new academic year that we are having so far.

Thank you to those parents who completed the parent survey that we sent home. We have responses from almost half the families in school. This information is a valuable insight into how we can continue to improve our offer at school to help meet both pupil and parent needs. I have summarised some of the points below so you know immediate actions I have taken.

As I write this our new ELC fence is going up. This is in line with other ELC settings around SBC to ensure our young people are safe in our care and is being done based on the recommendations of the Care Inspectorate. We are already coming up with lots of ideas on how to use it to develop play and learning opportunities.

This will also look great next to our new signage. You may have noticed our old maroon sign is so faded that you cannot read it. We have invested in a lovely new sign that points visitors towards the school office and not towards the ELC gate. Hopefully this will discourage people from trying to access the building from nursery which in turn will keep them safer too.

I also want to share with you that we have had a few incidents of vandalism since just before summer up until now. This has also included children climbing on the roof of the shelter in the playground and the sheds in ELC. We are particularly worried that someone hurts themselves if they were to slip and fall off. If you have children who use our playground after school or at the weekend could you remind them to be safe- we love having them playing here but do so considerately and carefully because if stuff gets broken it won't necessarily get replaced.

Staffing

Following on from a successful interview I am pleased to let you know that Miss Caitlyn Hume will take up the post of Early Years Practitioner with us (lunch cover). Caitlyn is looking forward to getting to know the staff and pupils at our school and is excited to come in and visit us soon. We are hoping that Caitlyn will be able to start after the October holidays.

Rugby/Hockey

On Friday 11th October Primary 4-7 will be heading down to Kelso for the annual P4/5 rugby and P6/7 hockey festivals. We have managed to get some additional training sessions from Lewis (rugby) and Colin (hockey). Pupils will be travelling down to Kelso together with Morebattle Primary. The venue this year will be different- the hockey will take place on the astro pitches at Kelso High School and the rugby will be on the rugby pitches at Poynder. Pupils should have a packed lunch that day in case we are running late getting back (this can be booked through parent pay if you would prefer a school packed lunch). Pupils will need gum shields for hockey- they may use their own one from home or collect one from school that they will need to fit to their mouth/teeth ahead of time.



Be Ambitious; Be Nurturing; Be Respectful; Be Safe



Parent Survey

Thank you for those who took the time to complete the recent survey. One thing I have done is to create a new school website which will launch after the October holidays. Within it there will be links to some school documents that should help you to feel that you have access to the information that you feel you don't know/have at the minute.

- One of the areas which I want to work on to help improve things immediately is how to help support your child's learning. This section on the website will have the latest curriculum overviews, links to useful websites which you can access at home to support your child's learning; and documents that give some guidance for parents around subject specific expectations. On top of this we are aiming to host an information session for Primary 4 parents specifically to give them a chance to meet Miss Milne properly and to discuss how they can help their child around homework.
- Some people also indicated that they did not know how their child's progress is accessed. Within the website we have included our Assessment Approaches overview. This details what staff will be doing to assess and track your child's progress that in turn informs their teaching as well as the information we pass on at Parents Evening in November and the written report card in March.
- Please remember, if you feel that your child is experiencing bullying behaviours you should come and speak to us. This ensures it is recorded accurately and an action plan is formulated around how we can tackle any issue (if appropriate).
- Mr Wilson and Mrs Douglas are going to look at what the school can offer in the way of activities that allow pupils and parents to learn together. We have already planned to offer the Raising Children with Confidence course in the new year. Although this is not designed to include pupils it is a great opportunity for parents.

We do hope that you see the ways in which you have told us these things are concerning you so we are doing something about it. Your views matter to us and we want to help improve your experience.

Greener Gateway Award



On Tuesday 24th September Mr Wilson went along to the Greener Gateway presentation evening. The evening was organised by SBC to recognise the efforts across the Borders of schools, villages, communities and towns who are doing fantastic work on biodiversity, sustainability and food growing.

We were awarded a silver award for the work we have done within our outdoor learning on biodiversity. Our school chickens were noted for the part they play in supporting this.

A big congratulations goes out to all our pupils. Across our school from ELC to Primary 7 we all take part in outdoor learning in our beautiful surrounding environment. Our village offers us unique opportunities that other children elsewhere do not get. Thank you also to parents and carers to help ensure children are dressed ready to go, we know learning outdoors is rarely a clean job!

Swimming

I wanted to let parents know that after Christmas Primary 4-7 will embark on a block of swimming lessons. These will be at Jedburgh again like last time. We are planning a 5-week block with minimal contribution required. This will appear on Parent Pay but if anyone is struggling, please reach out to me and we can have a conversation about ways the school can support financially.

Parent Council- Shepherd's Show

This year the Shepherd's Show takes place on Saturday, 5th October. The parent council have organised a chocolate tombola which has done brilliantly over the last couple of years. In addition to this there will be a fantastic scratch card wreath so make sure you get involved on the day- a few quid and you might be the lucky winner of a jackpot!

If you are able to give up an hour on the day to help it would be very much appreciated- please let Fiona (chair) Rachel (treasurer) or the school office know.



P7 residential

The planning for both current primary 7 and current primary 6 is now well under way! We are looking forward to this again. Please remember that deposits and installments are due, payable through Parent Pay. If any help is required please contact us to discuss further.

Diary Dates

Monday 14 October - Friday 18 October 2024 – Holidays (school closed)

Monday 21 October 2024 - In service day (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 22 October 2024 - Pupils resume

Monday 2 December 2024 - St Andrew's Day (schools closed to pupils)

Tuesday 3 December 2024 – casual holiday (school closed to pupils)

Friday 20 December 2024 - Last day of term

Monday 23 December 2024 - Friday 3 January 2025- Christmas holidays

Monday 6 January 2025 - Term starts, all resume.

Friday 14 February 2025 - Last day of term for pupils

Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2025 - Mid-term break

Monday 24 February 2025 - In service day for all (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 25 February 2025 - All resume

Friday 4 April 2025 - Last day of term

Monday 7 April to Friday 18 April 2025 (Easter holidays)

Monday 21 April 2025 - Term starts.

Monday 5 May 2025 - May Day holiday, schools closed to all.

Tuesday 6 May 2025 - Staff resume, In service day (school closed to pupils)

Wednesday 7 May 2025 - Pupils resume

Wednesday 25 June 2025 - Last day of term

Important Dates:

- Shepherds Show, Saturday 5th October
- Flu vaccinations, Monday 7th October
- Rugby/Hockey festival, Friday 11th October
- Small schools' netball competition, Thursday 31st October

- Parent Council meeting, Tuesday 12th November
- Parents Consultations, Wednesday 27th/ Thursday 28th November

- Christmas show performance, week beginning 9th December.

Dates to follow for Christmas parties, lunch and church service.

