



Newfield Primary & Nursery

Newsletter



Education Resources
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Newfield Primary and Nursery
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November 2023, Newsletter No. 3



Values: Leadership, Equity, Achieving, Resilience, Nurture
Aims: We aim to develop a safe, caring and supportive learning environment where all achievement is celebrated.

We aim to equip all our learners with skills that will help them to reach their full potential.

We aim to work together and encourage each other as one school community.



Dates for your diary

- 1st Dec** - Christmas jumper day for P1-6/Elf for P7 Secret Santa
- 8th** – P7 Elf Day Room 7 Learning Showcase
- 17th** - Christmas Aid Carol Concert
- 18th** - P6/7 Christmas Party
- 19th** - Christmas show P4/5 Christmas Party
- 20th** – Christmas Show P2/3 Christmas Party
- 21st** - P1 Christmas Party
- 22nd** - School closes 2.30pm

The festive period approaches

We are fast approaching the final few weeks of term and the classes are filled with lots of learning activities as well as some festive activities and carols. We are busy preparing for our Christmas Show alongside completing tasks as we near the end of term.

Please find information in this newsletter about upcoming events and the arrangements for the last few weeks of term. Any changes to these plans will be communicated via our Twitter page, ParentsPortal and/or ParentPay. If you have any suggestions or comments please contact me at the school. Either via telephone on **01698 792084** or via email **office@newfield-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk**

Christmas cards

As a proud Eco School we always discourage the swapping of Christmas cards between children as this is a large amount of paper that is utilised for a short time and then thrown away. This year is no different. We would ask that children **do not** swap cards at school. Teachers will provide an opportunity for the pupils to make a card that will be displayed in the classroom for all the classmates to see.

Christmas Messages

We understand that children will want to wish their friends a Merry Christmas so we would encourage pupils to create a short video of themselves saying their Christmas message. If you tweet the video and tag our Twitter page @NewfieldPS we can then retweet it and share it with the wider school community.

Christmas Parties

Our Christmas parties are going ahead as normal this year and will be two-stage parties for P2-7, with P1 having their own special party, with a special guest. The parties will take place from 1-3pm so lunches will change for some classes **on the day of their party only.**
On Monday 18th P6/7 lunch will be 12.15-1pm.
On Tuesday 19th P4/5 lunch will be 12.15-1pm.
P1-3 children lunches are normally 1215-1 so no change to this.

Children **are able to go home** for a home lunch on the day of their party to get changed. Leaving from the front door and coming back through the front door also.

Children who are not going home for lunch will have the chance to get changed at lunchtime so we would ask that party clothes are put into school bags. We would ask that high heels are not worn in the gym hall as they mark the wooden floor.

Christmas Performance

Our Christmas Show will consist of our Nativity 'Lights, Camel, Action' performed by P1-3 and P4-7 entertaining us with some Christmas songs. Morning performances will take place on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th December with a 9.30am start. Parents are asked to queue at the main office, the doors will open at 9.20am. Tickets are on sale via ParentPay, starting with two per family.



Our Core Values – 2. Equity

Last year we looked again at our Visions, Values and Aims and, in consultation with pupils, parents and staff, we updated them. They continue to be proudly displayed all round our school and discussed regularly in classes and at whole school assemblies. Our second value is **Equity**.

Equity in education means that personal or social circumstances such as gender, ethnic origin or socio-economic background, are not obstacles to achieving educational success and that all individuals reach their potential.

Here at Newfield we have always tried to ensure that no pupils are discriminated against on grounds of socio-economic background and we are able to do this by using our Pupil Equity Funding money, our School Fund and money donated by the Parent Council to pay for events and subsidise outings for **all** of our children, no matter their background. We always try to keep costs to a minimum and our PEF money has allowed us to have many educational workshops and visitors we otherwise would not have been able to afford.

We have looked at school events through the lens of Cost Of The School Day to ensure that events are spread throughout the year, Parents/carers get as long as possible to pay for any events and large costs are minimised through use of fundraising and our Pupil Equity Funding.

We also ensure gender isn't a barrier to learning. All of our clubs and activities are open to Girls and Boys in the school and pupils are chosen for events outside school on suitability not gender. We are conscious of promoting all subjects and careers to all pupils and often discuss stereotypes with the pupils related to male and female dominated professions. We try to encourage all our pupils, no matter who they are, to try hard and be the best version of themselves that they can be. The sky is the limit!

Stars of the week

Room 1: Harris Edgar, Quinn Chalmers, Archie Burns, Carson Grant, Blake Douglas, Charlotte Maley, Esme Kirkwood, Robyn Kennedy, Ethan Ashbridge, Mason Boyle. **Room 2:** Jessie Falconer, Bobby Hamilton, Hollie Wilkie, Evie Little, Penny Dyer, Robbie Dickson, Hamish McIntyre, Molli McMillan, Ellie Malone, Ava Kane, Laughlan McLuckie, Cameron Park.

Room 3: Archie Thomson, Harper Reilly, Ethan Smart, Peyton Dixon, Oliver Weir, Elliot Gibb, Renae-Wynter Steele, Jaxon Thomson, Arran Clacher, Isla Coburn, Oliver Collison, Archie Gillan. **Room 4:** Lyden Biggar, Lucy Smith, Daryl Markey, Kayla Paterson, Rebecca Smith, Mikael Cuthbertson, Scarlett-Rose Dobbie, Kai Forshaw, Ema Sriebaliute-McLachlan, Rebecca Neary, Darcie Tait, Amelia Burton. **Room 5:** Lacie-Leigh McLuckie, Yvanna Holden, Noah Tindall, Adrianna Summers, Elliot Mundt, Aylah Doyle, Blair Chalmers, Kayleigh Neary, Mitchell Shand, Nieve Callan, Marcus Thomson. **Room 6:** Jayden Booker, Eevie Cunningham, Harris McReady, Aria Smith, Ian Burns, Finlay Dalziel, Renae McMillan, Anna Ross, Emily Collins, Finlay McCormick, Nieve Callan, Marcus Thomson. **Room 9:** Grace McFarlane, Logan Whiteford, Amalie Davies, Reice Snodgrass, William Hamilton, Isla Teape, Harley McLean, Joe Sankus, Lyle Burns, Madeleine McBride, David Cook, Holly Gardiner. **Room 7:** Angus Scullion, Eden Murray, Emilie Kirkwood, Ailsa Murray, Cameron Millar, Jaxx Jamieson, Blake Johnston, Logan Collins, Reece Crossar, William McCormick, Lyla Flynn, Millie Hernandez-Coakley. **Room 8:** Ellie Robertson, Arianna Gupta, Emilie-Grace Ramage, Elliot Reid, Anna Macrae, Callum Dornan, Tyler Hanlan, Stevie Gavin, Carson Mather, Aaron Ramsay, Olivia Devlin, Charlie Forrest. Well done everyone!



Welcome to the Parent Council

A huge thank you to the Parent Council for a wonderful start to the school year. They kindly bought our CTouch screen for our ninth classroom – which has just arrived! The discos have been very popular and there are more coming up after Christmas. They have also just hosted a fabulous Christmas Fayre. Thank you everyone who came along to start the festive celebrations. We are so grateful for all the hard work our Parent Council puts in and all the experiences they provide for our pupils.

I would encourage all of our parents to get involved with the Parent Council. Information about the work of the Parent Council can be found on their Facebook page or by contacting Vicki Malone. The next parent Council meeting is **Wednesday 24th January at 6pm**.

Teacher Gifts

I have been contacted by parents regarding gifts for staff. Staff are always very appreciative when given gifts, they are not expected and certainly not compulsory. With many of our families facing financial hardships during this difficult time we do not want families feeling under any pressure to buy gifts. A short note to the teacher or a picture the child has drawn is often more meaningful than an expensive gift. My staff love their jobs and the joy they get from working with the children day to day is more than enough. Teachers will not refuse a gift from a child if they bring one in but we would certainly not be expecting gifts this year, or any year.

Chromebook Grant

We are absolutely delighted that we have been awarded £6500 from Kype Muir Windfarm Community Fund to purchase 30 Chromebooks. A huge thank you goes to Karen Marshall from our Parent Council and her mum Wilma Anderson who have been instrumental in this grant success. The Chromebooks are already on order and should be with us soon!

Methods of Communication

It is important that we have effective communication with our parents/carers and there are many ways you keep up-to-date with events and let us know if you have any concerns.

Ready Steady Learn Books: Please write notes and comments in here for the teacher and we encourage discussion at home about your child's learning.

Twitter: @NewfieldPS (please send your username to the school so we can add you to this private group)

ParentsPortal Calendar

School telephone number: 01698 792084

Email: gw14newfieldpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

We are always looking for new and innovative ways of making communication with parents/carers easier. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

Switching On of the Christmas Lights

Thank you to our Primary 4-7 pupils who came to the switching on of the lights event last Sunday. I was very impressed with the singing and it was great to see so many of you there.

Thank you also to the school staff who came along to support the pupils.

Library update

There have been big changes in our school library since August. Our Primary 6 pupils have been working really hard to make our new library area a place for reading and learning about books. We have our plans all drawn up and have already started moving furniture and deciding what will be in our different areas. More updates will follow!

HMIe Visitors

We are looking forward to welcoming Inspectors from HMIe week beginning 11th December to our school. We want to share with them the brilliant work our young people are engaged in and how hard they work every day in school.

We also want to share with them how well supported the school is by the wider school community and how we work together for the benefit of our young people.

Newfield Primary and Nursery is a great place to work in and staff provide fantastic learning opportunities for our pupils.

We are sure that our pupils will shine that week and really show off their learning. We will keep you up to date with our progress and I'm sure your children will share their experiences of the week with you all.

Snapshot Jotters

A reminder to please comment on and return your child's Snapshot jotter as soon as possible. Thank you.

End of Term Service

Our End Of Term Service will be taking place on Friday 15th December at 9.30am. All parents/carers are welcome to attend. Doors will open at 9.20am. We have a limited capacity as pupils will also be in attendance and will be on a first come, first served basis.

Elf Day Friday 8th December

Primary 7 will take part in their usual Elf Day celebrations. P7s are encouraged to come dressed as elves, green or red clothing and will take part in some fun Christmas activities as well as some Elf chores! We look forward to keeping them all busy the whole day!

Participatory Budget progress

We have been very busy recently making purchases with our Participatory Budget.

The parents chose Ipads purchasing so now all classrooms have an iPad for use in the class and for taking pictures to add to our Twitter page.

Our pupil choice of painted playground games so our Young Leaders of Learning have also chosen the game they would like for our playground, measured our playground and have decided where it should go.

Parental Engagement Survey

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete our Parental Engagement Survey. We have already received some great suggestions of way we can provide events and supports that our wider school community would like to see.

- Starting after Christmas we will be inviting our parents to join our weekly running club with our senior pupils.

- Mrs Montgomery has been making plans to start up a book club for our parents/carers and more information will be shared in January.

- We are also looking into providing some Homework support sessions as requested in the survey.

The survey is still open and we would encourage all our parents to share their views with us.

The survey can be found using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/SttrSn28yv>

We are excited to introduce some new groups and support in the new year!

Christmas Support

We are again working with our friends at Stonehouse Primary and St Ninian's Church to ensure that anyone who needs extra help at Christmas gets it.

If you require any help with gifts or food in the run up to Christmas or over the festive period please get in touch with us in confidence. If you would like to donate to this appeal, please contact St Ninian's church for details.

Sanitary Products Reminder

As part of the Scottish Government's initiative to tackle period poverty and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access education, free sanitary products will be available for use in the girls' toilets. Additional supplies are also available for weekends and holidays. Anyone wishing to access these should speak to the school office in confidence.

Mrs Colquhoun's New Job

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Ruth Colquhoun has been successful in securing an Acting Principal Teacher post at Blackwood Primary School. Although we are very sad to see her go, the post is only for a year so we hope she will return to us. The new job is well deserved and a great reward for all the hard work she has done here at Newfield. We will miss her but know she's not too far away!! Mrs Colquhoun doesn't have a confirmed start date but it will probably be just after the Christmas holidays.

P6 Swimming

The P6 class have started their swimming block at Larkhall baths. A reminder to bring their kit every Thursday!

ParentsPortal

We hope that the new ParentsPortal system is gradually getting better – we thank you for your patience as we move to this and appreciate how frustrating it can be when it doesn't work the way we would like.

Sing A Song For Christmas

We have been invited to take part in the Christian Aid Concert at St Ninians's Church on Sunday 17th December. Pupils taking part should meet in the back hall at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start in the church. We would ask that **only P4-7 pupils** take part in the singing for the school. All families and pupils are welcome to attend this.

Yellow Bin

We still have a yellow recycling bin and would encourage all of our parents to consider us when they are having a clear out at home. The bin is for clothes, shoes, sheets and handbags. (No duvets please)

The school will get 40p per kilo for everything that is collected which will go towards funds. The school have been running this scheme for a number of years now and it is a great simple way to raise money!

Survey Results – Money on trips

We recently asked your opinion on spending money on school trips. The majority of you (58%) wanted money to be allowed to a maximum of £10. This will be our approach moving forward. Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey.

Outdoor Activities

Classes are going outside more to complete Outdoor Learning activities. Please can we remind parents to make sure their child is suitably dressed for these activities. As we move to the winter we would ask that pupils have their legs covered by wearing trousers, joggers, skirts with long socks or tights as going out with bare legs at playtime and lunchtime as well as during class is not comfortable. We would also ask, if possible, to bring a waterproof jacket with a hood or a waterproof jacket and a hat.

Newfield Uniform Shop

A reminder that our Uniform shop is available on Facebook. If you require any uniform items please send us a message or call the office.

We have a huge number of items - many brand new. Please help us reuse, recycle and save the planet by not buying new items.

Pick up/Drop off Parking

We would kindly remind parents to be considerate to our neighbours round the school when dropping off their children in cars. Please avoid blocking driveways and ensure that speeds are kept low for the safety of our pupils. Please do not park on or near the grass at the pitch. We operate an unofficial one-way system: up Udston Mill Road, along Muirhead (school on left side) and down Glenburn Avenue. Only Disabled badge holders may use the first space on our drop off area.

Remember to follow us on twitter to find out about the learning we have been doing in class - we hope you are also enjoying our Twitter Takeover weeks!

Labelled clothing

We have recently had a large number of unclaimed clothing items in school. None of these items have names on them. Can you please ensure names are on all pieces of clothing in order for us to return them to their owner should they become lost.

Flavoured water

A reminder that only plain water should be in class water bottles. Juice can be taken to the dinner hall.



Parents Night

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Parents night in October. 85% of our families asked for an appointment and, of them, 97% came along on the night. We really appreciate the number of parents who took time to come and speak to the staff about your child's progress.

Vaping in school grounds

A reminder that smoking and vaping is not permitted within the school grounds and we would ask that you refrain from doing so around the pupils and other parents. Thank you.