



## Bellsquarry Primary School and Nursery Class Newsletter—May 2018

"Learn, Believe and you will Succeed"



*Article 28: Children have the right to learn and to go to school*

### Welcome

Welcome to our new look newsletter for the month of May. We hope you find it informative and a great way to find out about all the fabulous work going on in our school and events coming up.

Your views as a parent are important and we welcome you to share your thoughts, ideas, opinions, child's achievements and much more. Contact us via telephone, email or popping into the office.

**School email address:** [wlbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wlbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk)

The sun has been shining and our children and staff have been taking the opportunity to explore our world outdoors. Our nursery children have been enjoying their weekly learning sessions in our local woodlands. Our Perfect Pollinators leadership group have been busy organising an event to develop our community garden. Our primary 7 children are having fun and developing new skills at PGL Dalguise camp. Please look out for updates on our social media platforms:

**Follow us on twitter:** <https://twitter.com/bellsquarryps?lang=en>

**Follow us on Glow:** <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/bellsquarrypsblog/>

Ruth McMaster, Head Teacher

### Cinderella Rockerfella

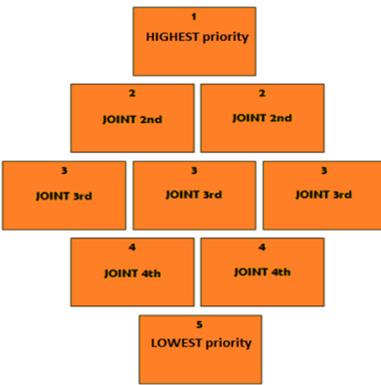
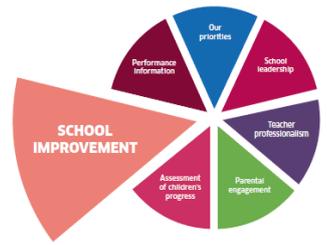
P4-7 pupils gave outstanding performances at their school show, Cinderella Rockerfella. Parents, family members and local residents thoroughly enjoyed the shows. Feedback was amazing; "Great production", "Professional", "Hilarious". Well done to all the children for their hard work in making this a great success. Thank you to parents who helped with props and costumes and also to staff for their commitment. The production team did themselves proud, for what was really a superb and memorable show.



# Our Values Consultation with Parents and Partners

Thank you for supporting our school 'values' survey. Our values are the things that we believe are important in the way we learn and they determine our priorities at Bellsquarry Primary School and Nursery Class. Your views will help us decide which of the values are important to our school community.

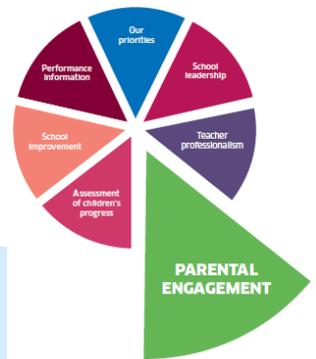
From the results of the survey we have taken the values with the highest rating and asked our children to work with their teacher discussing what the values mean to them and which are most important. The children are in the process of discussing how to arrange their top 9 values in a 'diamond 9' shape, showing their order of importance (see below):



From the 35 values listed in the consultation, those that were most important to you are listed below:

- ◆ Friendship
- ◆ Support
- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Happiness
- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Commitment
- ◆ Honesty
- ◆ Encouragement
- ◆ Kindness/caring
- ◆ Equity
- ◆ Achievement

We look forward to sharing our chosen core values with you very soon. These will help shape everything that is central to our ethos and core beliefs within the Bellsquarry community.



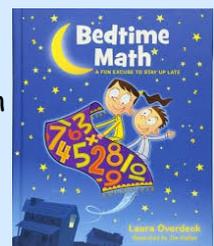
## Family Learning Event: PATPAL—Reading

Our reading PATPAL (Pupils as Teachers and Parents as Learners) will take place on Thursday 24th May at 2.00 pm. There will be a presentation in the hall about our reading journey at Bellsquarry and then parents are invited to visit their child's class/es to look at all the fabulous work that they have been doing and also be taught some new skills!

We would like to ask parents to bring along their own reading material/book of their own choice to the event. Many thanks.

## Family Learning Event: Big Bedtime App:

On the evening of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May (6.00–7.00 pm), we will be holding a family learning event, to share the Bedtime Math app with parents, carers and our learners. We will be running different maths based activities in the hall and will be providing hot chocolate and cookies too! Please come along if you can and wear your cosiest pyjamas or onesie! Please look out for the letter in your child's school bag!



## Health Week 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

We are looking forward to our annual Health Week. This is an eventful time and enjoyed by all. Children will participate in various sporting activities during Health Week. We would like to request that pupils have both an indoor and outdoor kit (tracksuit/sweatshirt/joggers) in school as some of the activities will be outside (weather permitting). We thought it would be helpful to send you a timetable of events via 'parent email' the week before the event.

## School Sports & Family Picnic— 19th June



Due to Health Week being busy we have decided to hold our school sports morning and family picnic event on Tuesday 19th June, weather permitting. We have added an alternative date of the 26th June in our diary, just in case of bad weather on the 19th. Parents, family and friends are invited to come along to our Sports Morning in Bellsquarry Park, where the children will take part in class races and enjoy a healthy picnic. Further information will be sent to parents by email.



## Pollination Week – 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018



We are part of the Polli:Nation project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the University of Stirling - <http://www.polli-nation.co.uk>

We are working as a school and community to increase the abundance and diversity of pollinating insects in school grounds and local community spaces. During Pollination Week we will be working with the local community on various projects.

We will require assistance and would be most grateful to any parents, grandparents etc. who would be willing to come along and assist the children with this project. Please contact the school office if you are available—all offers of support very much welcome.

Further information will be issued to parents over the next few days.

## Scottish National Standardised Assessments – SNSA

An information leaflet for parents on assessing children's progress was shared at the beginning of the session, providing information about the SNSA. Information can be found by following the links below:

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/parent-leaflet-assessing-progress.pdf>

<https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/parents-and-carers/>



The SNSA focus on aspects of reading, writing and numeracy. All children in P1, P4, P7 and S3 are being assessed.

P7 pupils undertook the assessments last October/November, our P4 children have recently completed the SNSA and P1 children are currently undertaking the assessments. Assessments are completed online and are marked automatically giving teachers immediate feedback to help children progress. Children do not have to revise or prepare for assessments. The assessments are used as part of routine teaching and learning to help teachers understand how well your child is progressing and to plan next steps.



## Admin Info

- ◆ A gentle reminder to parents that the cost of school lunches has increased to £2.04
- ◆ School uniform can be ordered online from *Schoolwear for Less* or *Tesco*. Unfortunately the option of free delivery to school is no longer available from *Schoolwear for Less*.

## Communication

We continue to aim to improve our practice in communicating with parents.

To ensure that important information is passed to the correct member of staff, we would like to ask parents to contact the school office directly to notify us of your child's absence or any other information which you would like to make us aware of. Mrs Marra and Mrs Macdougall will be happy to help. We politely request that information is not passed to pupil support workers on duty in breakfast club or in the playground.

If you telephone the school office and no one is available to take your call, please leave a message on the answer machine which is checked on a regular basis. Thank you for your continued support.

Please look out for our new school website which will be launched over the next few weeks. We are very excited!

## School Photographs

Class photographs were issued to pupils after the Easter break. ***We need all orders to be returned to school no later than Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.*** Any orders after this date will be required to be sent directly to Tempest and may incur delivery charges. Thank you for your co-operation and support with this.



## Staffing

Mr Hunter, our Principal Teacher is absent due to illness.

We currently do not have an indication of his return date. To support school leadership and development, Miss Hood has been appointed acting Principal Teacher until his return. Mrs Green will be teaching P6 on a Monday and Tuesday during Mr Hunter's absence. We are currently exploring options to employ staff to cover Mrs Green's PE remit.



## Health & Safety

- ◆ We've noticed that some children are bringing lollipops to school for snack. We are concerned about the possibility of injury in the event of a child falling in the playground. We politely request that lollipops are not sent as snack. Many thanks for your support.
- ◆ Parking continues to be an issue, please follow the highway code by not double parking and have consideration for local residents. Your child's safety is paramount. Thank you.

## The Wider Community

*Article 15: Your right to meet with friends and join groups and clubs*

### Community Coffee Morning - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Our next Community Coffee Morning will take place in our school hall on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Please come along for some coffee, tea and cakes from 11.30 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. All donations will be sent to our chosen charity, Sal's Shoes.

<http://www.salsshoes.com/>



### Craft Club

Nanda, our school chaplain would like to invite any interested pupils to a series of craft events on a Friday afternoon at the West Kirk in West Calder. Please contact the school office if you would like further information.

## Partnership with Parents

*Article 42: The government must let children and families know about children's rights*

### Dress Down Day – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018

The Parent Council Fundraising Committee have organised 'May the 4<sup>th</sup> Be With You' Dress Down Day on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Children can dress up, if they wish. Why not try an Out of this World outfit (or whatever they choose) and bring a £1 donation for the privilege.



### Family Fun Run

#### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018

The Parent Council Fundraising Committee have organised a Fun Run after the success of last year's. This will take place at Bellsquarry Park on the 26<sup>th</sup> May from 2.00–4.00 p.m.

More details and sponsor forms will be issued shortly.



## P6 Parent Information – PGL Dalguise – P7 Camp 2019

P6 parents and pupils are invited to school on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 from 3.15 - 3.45 p.m. to view a promotional DVD from PGL and receive further information on P7 camp 2019. Miss Hood will conduct the presentation and answer any questions you may have. Numbers for camp will require to be confirmed to PGL by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Further information to follow.



## Nursery News

Our nursery class have been enjoying their weekly outings to the Bellsquarry Woods. The staff have been working with Eilidh from the Woodland Trust to plan exciting outdoor learning activities. So far we have had a mini-beast hunt, found a huge pine tree to shelter under and had a paddle in the stream. We also enjoy having our snack under our tarpaulin.

Thank you so much to all our parent/carer helpers - we couldn't do it without you!



We are planning to build an Eco Shelter by recycling 1.5L plastic bottles. Please could you pass us your clean empties. Many thanks.



Our Nursery Newsletter will be sent out next week with all the important dates for this term.

## We welcome your feedback

We are very keen to hear about

- ◆ What we do well
- ◆ How we can improve



If you wish to comment on any items in the newsletter or any other matter, please complete the comments slip below and return it to the school office. Many thanks for your continued support.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Dates for your Diary



Date	Event	Class
30 Apr - 4 May	PGL Dalguise Camp	P7
4th May	Parent Consultations 1.00 - 3.30 p.m.	P1C
4th May	May the 4 <sup>th</sup> Be With You - Parent Council Dress Down Day	All classes
7th May	Holiday	All classes
8th May	Staff In-Service Day	
9th May	All pupils return to school and nursery	All classes
10th May	Visit to Glasgow Science Centre	P4 and P5
10th May	Parents - PGL Dalguise Camp info session 3.15 - 3.45 p.m.	Primary 6
14th—18th May	Health Week - further information to follow	All classes
14th May	Parent Council Meeting 7.00 p.m.	
16th May	Bedtime Maths Event 6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	All classes
17th May	Health Conference at the JYHS Further info to follow	Primary 7
21st May	Holiday	All classes
22nd May	All pupils and staff return to school and nursery	All classes
22nd—25th May	Pollination Week	All classes
24th May	PATPAL—Family Learning event— Reading	P1-7
25th May	P2 parent Assembly—9.15 a.m.	P2
25th May	Community Coffee Morning 11.30 a.m. - 12.25 p.m.	All welcome
30th May	Nursery Sports Day—further info to follow	Nursery
30th May	Cross Country - The James Young High School	Primary 6
31st May	Pollination Tea Party	All classes
<b>Future Dates for your diary:</b>		
1st June	P1 Lighthouse keeper Assesmbly—11.00 a.m.	P1 G & P1C
12th & 13th June	Transition Days - The James Young High School	Primary 7
4th—6th June	Nursery to P1 Transition days — further info to follow	New P1's
4th—6th June	Transition breakfast club — further info to follow	New P1's
12th June	Induction Afternoon 2.00 p.m. for Parents	Next year's P1
13th June	Nursery Induction event for Parents	Nursery
19th June	Sports Morning and Family Picnic at Bellsquarry Park	P1-7