

Harrysmuir Primary School
Willowbank
Ladywell
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6HW
01506 434501

November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school this term. It has been a busy term with lots happening. I look forward to meeting many of you at our forthcoming Christmas events.

School Holidays

The

Christmas Holidays are from after lessons on **Wednesday 21st December** and the pupils resume on **Wednesday 4th January 2017**.

Pudsey Bear - Children In Need

We will be having a Pudsey Dress Down Day on Friday 18th November, the theme this year is 'Spotacular'.

Parental Concerns

If any parent feels that they have an issue with a particular pupil, I would ask that you raise any concerns through the School Office and any issues will be investigated by the Management Team.

Respecting Staff

All our staff are here to help you and your child. They should be treated with respect. We do not tolerate violent, intimidating or abusive behaviour towards staff.

West Lothian Council

School Hours

There has been an increase in pupils arriving late, after 9.00am in the morning and also an increase in pupils not being collected at 3.20pm Monday - Thursday & 12.15pm on a Friday. It is the parents responsibility to collect children at the correct time.

Christmas Gifts

Parents and staff have been making Christmas gifts on Friday mornings these will be available to purchase from Monday 28th November. There will be variety of gifts.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch will be served to the children on **Wednesday 7th December**. Please return the order slip by **Friday 18th November**. Just a reminder that this is just for the kitchen staff and meals for this day will still be ordered through ipayimpact.

School Milk

West Lothian Council have set the milk cost for the next term, if you would like your child to receive mid-morning milk please pay the stated amount to the School Office.

Jan - Apr

£11.40



Panto

The P1 - P4's are going to see the Red Riding Hood at Howden Park Centre on

Wednesday 14th December: the cost of this is £9.00, please make sure that your child's EE2 and money is handed into school.

Vue Cinema

The P5 - P7 are going to see 'Trolls' at the Vue Cinema on **Monday 19th December.** The cost of this is £8.00, please make sure that your child's EE2 and money is handed into school.

Nativities

Nativity Show - P1 - 8th December at 9.30am

Nativity Show - P2 (P2G & P2McC) - 8th December at 11.15am

Nativity Show - P3D & P3/2's and P3's from P4/3 class - 8th December - 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Parents are invited to come along to their child's show, tickets will be on sale from 1st December at £1.00.

Parties

All parties will be in the afternoon:

P4's & P4's from P4/3 class - Wednesday 14th December

P5 - Tuesday 13th December

P3D & P3/2 and P3's from the P4/3 class - Thursday 15th December

P2 - Monday 19th December

P1 - Tuesday 20th December

P6 & P7 Party - Tuesday 20th December

All parties will be £1.00



Christmas Raffle

We are once again holding our very popular Christmas Raffle, tickets are available at the School Office at £1.00.

1st prize - 32" television

2nd prize - 7" tablet

3rd prize - Luxury Hamper

Plus lots of more prizes



The draw will be held on Friday 16th December



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs Monday to Friday from 8.00am and 8.40am - we stop serving food at 8.30am.

P1

Primary 1 have all settled in well and are now becoming familiar with the routine of the school day. We have had a busy term and we are already rehearsing for our Nativity play. We are enjoying learning new sounds during our Literacy programme and have started to write some stories. We are learning new words each week and have been practising how to form letters correctly.

In Numeracy we have been learning about money, how to count forwards and backwards, and counting in 2's. We have also been learning about doubles and will be moving on to symmetry soon. We also had fun looking at creating our own patterns.

We had a visit from Mrs Brown who told us all about Harvest Festivals and are looking forward to another visit from NYCOS, we will be learning some new songs.

Can we please remind parent/carers to make sure their child brings their reading book/diary every day.

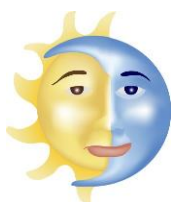


Mrs Meek, Mrs Carr & Mr Lund

P2

Over the past few weeks we have been learning how to tell the time on analogue and digital clocks using o'clock and half past. This links with our Sun and Moon topic, where we have been looking at the differences between day and night. We've been learning about nocturnal animals and have had a focus on owls - we even wrote a report on what we found out about them, and made hedgehogs and owls by printing various shapes onto card! In the next few weeks we will be taking part in lots of experiments to find out more about the Sun and Moon.

We are currently busy practicing our Nativity!
Miss Gorman, Mrs McCluskey



Primary 3/2, 3 and 4/3 are coming to the end of their Romans topic. Pupils, staff and parents have all thoroughly enjoyed following Marcus' journey from Rome to the Antonine Wall in Caledonia. We have found out lots of interesting facts along the way - some more pleasant than others. Did you know for example that ancient Romans would burp to show that they had enjoyed a meal? When they had eaten too much, they would tickle their throat with a feather so they would be sick allowing them to start eating all over again! The pupils also loved the fact that the Romans did not have toilet paper and would use a sponge on a stick instead - yuck! We also discovered that we have a lot to thank the Romans for such as central heating, flushing toilets, straight roads and hot baths. The pupils loved taking part in the many craft activities and developing their artistic and technology skills. A scary Roman soldier called Decimus Gaius came to visit and brought along lots of Roman artefacts and equipment. The pupils practised their marching and making a defensive "tortoise" formation. The children were keen to share their learning with their families so we invited them along to our classrooms to see what we had done. To finish our topic we dressed as Roman soldiers to parade around the school. We enjoyed showing off our fantastic helmets, daggers and shields.



Mrs Stewart, Mrs Duff & Mrs Russell

P4

So far it has been another busy term in Primary 4. We have been enjoying learning all about the Scottish Wars of Independence and can't wait to go to Stirling Castle at the end of November. Keep your eyes peeled for some photos on the blog! We have been focusing on learning our times tables and have been taking part in group challenges including Ladywell Campus Parksmart. We are looking forward to lots of fun Christmas activities including our party and pantomime.

Miss Docherty & Mrs McDermott

P5

This term Primary 5 are focusing on time and fractions within their maths lessons. For time we have started looking at how long tasks take and estimating how long we might need to do them. We have also been revising how to tell the time on an analogue clock and we need to ensure that we are practising this all the time, so that we get even better at it. In Literacy we have been really thinking about the elements of a story such as setting and character. We have been working on trying to build a picture with our words, when we are writing. Primary 5 also enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Bibleworld truck in Dedridge last week, where we got to take part in lots of fun and informative tasks, to help us learn more about the bible.

P6

This term P6 have started to learn about World War 1. We have been really interested to find out about some of the key events and are creating our own books to showcase our learning. Next, we will be finding out about the Christmas Truce and the Battle of Somme (did you know this took place 100 years ago this year?).

We have been working with Livingston Cricket club to develop our skills and we will be taking part in a Cricket festival with other schools in our cluster.

We are focusing on the Reciprocity aspect of BLP with a particular focus on collaboration. We want to get better at working together which is an important skill that can be transferred across all aspects of our learning.

Our new homework grid has been uploaded to our blog. A range of activities linked to our topics are available - please choose a new task each week along with your compulsory spelling, reading and maths. We have seen some fantastic poppies, evidence of autumn walks and some great research tasks. Keep it up!

Mrs Fairley & Mrs Craske

P7

Last term the P7s were learning about 'Wolf Brother'. It was a topic around a boy called Torak who lived in Mesolithic times. As part of the topic we looked at Scottish maps, produced a time-line to show how long ago the Mesolithic period was. We also had great fun building dens in the woods and used the knot tying skills we had learned.

During money week we learned how to budget, calculated salaries and looked at payslips to see what happens to the money you earn. We also used currency calculators to work out how much houses cost in different countries around the world.

In literacy we used instructional writing to create recipes, design games for our P1 buddies and record how we built our dens.

We are still trying to create a positive learning environment in class by trying to chat less.

Mrs Carder & Mr Docherty



Harrysmuir Netball Club

The netball club has started once again. We have a great mix of experienced stalwarts and enthusiastic new members. They are mixing really well and those who were in the club last year are keen to share their skills and knowledge with the newer ones. We have been practising passing, defending and shooting over the past three weeks in preparation for our first league meeting on Thursday 17th November. This will take place at Parkhead Primary where we will play four other schools. Unfortunately, we can only take a squad of ten players to each meeting. However, every member of the club should be able to take part in at least one meeting over the year. Watch this space for updates.

Mrs Duff



Fundraising

We are always looking at ways of fundraising for our School to keep the cost of excursions, sporting events, parties etc to a minimum. The easyfundraising link is a simple way of the school receiving donations from companies without any further cost to parents/carers.

Once you have registered every time you shop online just go through the easy fundraising page and shop as normal from many popular stores.

We have now registered for a new fundraising website. Our cause page is

1. www.easyfunding.org.uk
2. Support a Good Cause
3. Type in Harrysmuir Primary School
4. Support this cause
5. Create an account

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Yours

Susan Mackenzie

Susan Mackenzie

Head Teacher

CAR PARKING - REMINDER

I understand that parking whilst dropping off and collecting your child is not the best in this area, but also because we have a lot of Schools within a small space it is hoped that more care and consideration is taken to help alleviate this ongoing situation.

NO PARKING areas for parents are:

- On the drop off roundabout
- In front of the double gates to the staff car park - this is an emergency entrance/exit for the school and MUST be kept clear.
- In Harrysmuir PS staff car park

I would also like to remind parents and children NOT to use the School Car Park as a walk way, I am quite concerned that a serious accident might occur. There are designated paths to and from School.

Harrysmuir Children & Parent Council

The next meeting is November 30th at 3.30pm. All parents/carers welcome.

| DECEMBER 2016 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Christmas Lunch | 8 P1, P2 & P3 Nativity <i>Timings listed above</i> After School Clubs - last day | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 Bubble Gum & Fluff - P6 P5 Party Cluster Carol Concert | 14 P4 Party P1 - P4 Panto @ Howden Park - AM | 15 P3 Party | 16 Christmas Raffle Drawn | 17 |
| 18 | 19 P2 Party P5 - P7 Cinema Trip | 20 P1 Party P6/7 Party | 21 Last day of term | 22 Holiday | 23 Holiday | 24 Holiday |
| 25 Holiday | 26 Holiday | 27 Holiday | 28 Holiday | 29 Holiday | 30 Holiday | 31 Holiday |

| JANUARY 2017 | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|----------|--------|----|
| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | |
| 1 Holiday | 2 Holiday | 3 Holiday | 4 School Resumes | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

