

Mid Calder Primary Newsletter



Dear Parent/Carer,

September 2015

It was lovely to see so many of you at the recent Meet the Teacher event. Our House Captains made an excellent presentation to parents outlining the school Positive Ethos policy. This was their first House Captain duty and they delivered their key messages in an engaging and informative way and are a true asset to the school.

During this session we also shared an internet safety video created by P4-7 pupils, (which we will hopefully share on our school blog) highlighting the importance of being safe online. To find out ways to support your child in regards to internet safety, please visit our school blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/category/information-for-parents/internet-safety/>

As outlined on the evening and in the August newsletter our areas of improvement are:

Priority one: To develop a robust tracking and monitoring systems incorporating Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), attainment and achievement

Priority two: To raise attainment in maths through improved learning and teaching of mental agility and number.

More information can be found on our school blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/category/school-information/school-improvement-plan/>

Feedback received was very positive about the evening and common strengths were:

- Parents felt more informed about the school policies and improvements as well as the learning that takes place in the classroom
- Parents had a greater awareness of Interdisciplinary learning and how staff work across cluster groups to ensure consistency and progression of learning especially with our composite/ straight class composition throughout the school
- Ideas for how parents/carers can support learning at home
- Parents had a clearer understanding of how the school values are embedded in classroom practice
- Deeper understanding of the differentiated learning groups in maths in P4-P7
- Deeper understanding of what children are taught within internet safety
- Better understanding of homework expectations
- Better understanding of how children learn in class and an opportunity to look at resources
- An ideal opportunity to meet their child's teacher

Next steps for the school, which will be addressed through our School Improvement priorities:

- Provide tips on how to support child(ren) with learning
- An overview of maths expectations



As part of the school's commitment to self-evaluation and continuous improvement the school will be having a mini Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE) at the end of September. During these three days our education officer, early years local authority team, educational psychologist and two head teacher colleagues will be joining us to focus on how we develop our curriculum and meet the needs of our learners. The findings will inform our self-evaluation statement and next steps for the school community. The dates are Tuesday 29th September, 30th September and 1st October and during this time our colleagues will be observing snapshots of learning; speaking with groups of parents, staff and pupils. The VSE report will be shared with you and the Education Quality Assurance Committee later this session.

I hope you all have a lovely September break.

Nicola Thompson
Head Teacher

Nut free school

Thank you to parents/carers for your support. As you know we have a number of children in our school with extreme allergies to nuts. Please ensure that you do not give your child nuts or products containing nuts for snacks or in packed lunch boxes. **THIS INCLUDES NUTELLA.**



Harvest Assembly

As part of our Harvest celebrations please can you send in donations of non-perishable food items which will be donated to West Lothian Food bank. Please can you send in these donations between Monday 5th October – Friday 9th October. Thank you in advance for your support.

Parental Involvement

It has been lovely to see new parents come along to the PSA and Parent Council meetings this week.

These parent forums are open for everyone to attend.

Walk Your Wigs Off

As part of West Lothian walking Week the school will be taking part in a Walk Your Wigs Off. The nursery to P3 children will be walking within the school grounds and P4/P5 and P6/P7 taking separate routes around the village. If you want to come along pull on your wig and come join us on Thursday 24th September (see separate flyer). Can you ensure that the general permission slip and EE2 form issued two weeks ago have been returned so that we can take the middle and upper school children out of the school grounds.



Achievement Assembly

This terms achievement assembly is on Friday 16th October. At this assembly individuals or groups of pupils and staff are nominated for an achievement that they would like to be celebrated. We would like to open this up to our wider school community, if you would like to nominate a parent or someone in our community for an achievement award please email your nominated to the school email (wlmidcalder-ps@westlothian.org.uk) address by 6th October.

Dates for your diary

Monday 21st & Tuesday 22nd September – Pupils off

Wednesday 23rd September – Middle school zoo trip

Friday 25th September – Rag Bag collection

Thursday 27th – Walk your Wigs off (see flyer)

Monday 28th September – Three West Calder High School students work experience (one week)

Thursday 15th October – School photographer

Monday 5th October – Middle school zoo trip

Monday 5th October – Three West Calder High School students work experience (one week)

Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th October – Parents' Consultations

Friday 9th October – Harvest assembly –

Wednesday 12th October – West Calder High School Roadshow

Thursday 15th October – School photographer; open afternoon

Friday 16th October – Achievement Assembly; last day of term



Nursery News

You may be aware that we are currently having work completed to an exterior wall which leads up to the nursery entrance. Thank you for using the back entrance during this time.

The plans for the new nursery building are on display in the entrance foyer to the school – everyone is welcome to come and look at these plans. Due to the limited space in our nursery we are only displaying these plans in the school.

It is hoped that building work will be starting in the new year with a completion date of May 2016. It is hoped that the old nursery building will be demolished during the summer holidays.

Thank you to the nursery parents who completed the recent questionnaires. We are currently analysing your feedback and will inform you of this feedback with our next steps in the next newsletter.

The children are currently harvesting their crops and making soup for snack time – thank you to the parents who are supporting with this.

West Calder High School Roadshow

At the Parent Council meeting on Wednesday 19th September Mr Cargill, Depute Head Teacher at West Calder High School spoke to parents/carers about the new building work that is being planned for West Calder High School. The parents who attended found this presentation extremely informative and were impressed by the designs for the new school.

West Calder High School pupils and staff have organised a Roadshow for Monday 12th October, 5pm – 6pm for pupils and parents of children in Primary 5, 6, 7 to find out more about the life of the school as well as what learning looks like in the high school.

Parents/carers who attended last session found the roadshow extremely informative.

Open Afternoon

All parents/carers are invited to an Open afternoon on Thursday 15th October at 2.30pm. Parents are invited to come into their child's class and find out about their child's learning this term.