



Mid Calder Primary Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

October 2015

As Money Fortnight draws to a close there has been a buzz around learning about money around the school. From setting up a café in the nursery role play area to costing out a trip to Japan in the upper school. The children are very excited about sharing their learning with you this afternoon (Thursday 15th October) and at home it would be beneficial if they had opportunities to apply this learning in real life contexts, information on this is included on our school blog under *homework*. I hope you all have a lovely October break and look forward to seeing you in the new term.

Nicola Thompson

Walk your Wigs Off

As part of West Lothian Walking Week all nursery and school pupils took part in a walk within the school grounds or local community. As part of the walk the school also collected for Jak's Den and raised a total of £200.06.

Thank you for your kind donations.



Parents Night

Last week parents/carers were invited to meet with their child's class teacher/ key worker to find out how their child has settled back to school and find out about their progress. We had a 95.3% parent/carer attendance over the two sessions.

A huge thank you to our Primary 7 pupils who displayed excellent interpersonal and organisational skills as they ensured the smooth running of the two evenings.

Harvest Assembly

On Friday we had our annual Harvest assembly led by Mr Povey. Thank you to all parents/carers for your food donations. These donations have been passed onto the West Lothian Food Bank. You can find out more about the food bank on:

<http://westlothian.foodbank.org.uk>



Staffing

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Findlay to the nursery and school after her operation and thank Miss Caldwell for her commitment and enthusiasm to the nursery class.

We say goodbye to Mrs Stewart as her secondment comes to an end on Friday 16th October. We would like to thank Mrs Stewart for her commitment to the school over the past term. Interviews for the Principal Teacher post will take place after the October holiday and I will notify you of the outcome of these interviews in due course.

Miss Kerr will be the Primary three teacher until the end of the school session. Mr Ramsay will be joining our team for five weeks providing Reduced Class Contact cover in all classes.

Halloween

Flyers have been issued to pupils regarding the PSA Halloween Party which takes place on Thursday 29th October 2015:

P1-3 6-7:15pm

P4-7 7:45-9:00pm

Tickets: £3 per person

Thank you in advance to the PSA for organising this event. As you know events like these require adult volunteers on the evening. If you can help out on the evening please contact the school office/ PSA member.



West Lothian Cross Country Event

Following their success at the cluster cross country event last session two of our Primary 7 boys were invited to attend a West Lothian wide cross country event. A huge congratulations to Logan who came 11th and Chiaro who came 16th, out of over sixty competitors and. A fantastic achievement for both boys.

Dinner Money

Please can you ensure that your child pays for their dinner on a daily basis. The cost is £1.90

School Validated Self Evaluation

As part of the school's commitment to self-evaluation and continuous improvement we welcomed colleagues from West Lothian Council Education Department to the school last month. During this time they observed teaching and learning in classrooms; spoke with focus groups of pupils; spoke with groups of parents and staff. The key conclusions are:

- The school is aware of its strengths and areas for development and the team is confident that the school's self-evaluation is leading to raised attainment. Improvements have been made since the last VSE a few months ago, and these are beginning to have an impact on attainment.
- The school has a positive ethos of collaboration and community. Relationships are positive and nurturing. Staff demonstrate a strong commitment to improving the educational experiences for learners. Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is central to the work of the school supporting the development of the whole child.
- Children are polite, confident, well-behaved and very proud of their school. Learners are consulted and are confident that their views are listened to.
- Pupils' leadership is a strength and they confidently carry out their roles within the various groups, delivering positive outcomes for all in their school.
- The nursery provides a breadth of early level learning experiences that develop children's curiosity, inquiry and creativity. Staff extend children's learning through quality conversations and skilled questioning.

Quality Indicators for Primary	June 2015	September 2015
1.1 Improvements in performance	Satisfactory	Good*
2.1 Learners' experience	Good	Good
5.1 Curriculum	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
5.3 Meeting learning needs	Good	Good
5.9 Improvement through self-evaluation	Good	Good
8.1 Partnership with the community, educational establishments, agencies and employers	Good	Good

Quality Indicators for Nursery	June 2015	September 2015
1.1 Improvements in performance	Satisfactory	Good*
2.1 Learners' experience	Good	Good
5.1 Curriculum	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
5.3 Meeting learning needs	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
5.9 Improvement through self-evaluation	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
8.1 Partnership with the community, educational establishments, agencies and employers	Very Good	Very Good

You can find out more about these quality indicators on:

<http://www.journeytoexcellence.org.uk/about/keydocuments/part3.asp>

House Meetings at Mid Calder Primary School

Last month we had our first House Meeting. The purpose of this meeting was for house and vice captains to develop a house logo and slogan for their house.

The house meeting went very well for Calderwood. Everyone contributed and listened well. The skills we had to use were cooperation, team work, creativity and more.

All contributions were of a good standard and overall it was a great experience. You can find our new house logos and slogans on the school blog.

By Millie and Jamie P7 (Calderwood captain and vice captain)



Gentle Reminders:

- For health and safety reasons animals should not be in the school playground
- For health and safety reasons children should only wear stud earrings (no hoops)
- For health and safety reasons parents/carers should not park in the school car park
- We are a health promoting school – please consider the type of snack that you are giving to your child for mid-day snack. A high number of our upper school pupils are bringing large share packs of crisps and fizzy sweets

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 27th October – Pupils resume

Tuesday 27th October – JRSO training at Kirkhill PS

Thursday 29th October – Halloween Disco

Friday 30th October – Achievement Assembly; (date change)

Monday 2nd November – Flu vaccinations; P7 skiing

Thursday 5th November – Pop in and Play for afternoon nursery parents/carers

Friday 6th November - Pop in and Play for morning nursery parents/carers; Modern Languages morning

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday

Tuesday 10th November – P4/5 cinema trip (permission slip to follow)

Wednesday 11th November – P6/7 cinema trip (permission slip to follow)

Friday 13th November – Morning Blether at 9.15am

W/B 16th November – P7 art project and technology project begins with West Calder High School staff

Thursday 19th November – PSA Movie Night (further information to follow)

Friday 20th November – P6 assembly at 11.10am (Parents/carers invited)

