



Dear Parent/Carer,

January 2016

I hope that you all had a lovely festive period and wish you all a very happy new year. We have a very exciting term ahead at the school. Every class will experience the curriculum through a topic designed to stimulate children. Primary 1, inspired by British astronaut Tim Peake, are learning about space; Primary 4 and 5 are applying key maths skills in their Grand Designs project and Primary 6 and 7 are going back in time to learn about Jacobites. Primary 2/3 are finishing their topic from last term and before starting a very exciting topic on Mid Calder. You will find more details in your child's Learning Letter and on the school blog.

Nicola Thompson
Head Teacher

Physical Education at Mid Calder

We are working in partnership with the several groups to enhance the two hours of quality Physical Education which your child(ren) receive on a weekly basis.

Futsal

Futsal are delivering football coaching to Primary 6 and Primary 5 this term. As well as developing football skills children are also developing communication and cooperation skills as they work in small teams.

West Calder Sports Leaders

Senior pupils from West Calder High School are developing their coaching skills as by leading PE sessions with our Primary 5/4 pupils.

Football Challenge

Children from Primary 3 are taking part in the Scottish Tesco Bank Football Challenge. Over six weeks coaches will be leading football coaching with these classes.

Enjoy-A-Ball

Kevin continues to deliver Enjoy-A-Ball sessions to our morning and afternoon nursery children as well as our primary one pupils. These sessions focus on developing gross motor skills.



Marvellous Music

This term we welcome NYCOS (National Youth Choir of Scotland) who are delivering a musical activities with our Primary 4 pupils. This programme will build on children's prior music knowledge.

This term our nursery pupils will work with Mrs Barber to develop rhythm and rhyme in weekly music sessions. These skills will help them to read.

Pupils from across the school are taking part in music workshops organised by the arts team at Howden Park and NYCOS.

Mr Traynor continues to give brass tuition to selected pupils in Primary 5 -7.



Loch Insh Residential

There will be an information session on **Monday 8th February at 6pm** for the Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils going to Loch Insh.

Annual Burns Competition

Last Friday we celebrated the great poet, Robert Burns. Across the school pupils learnt a Scottish poem of their choice and performed to their class. Each class picked two representatives to perform their poem to the school during our Burns assembly. Our winners recited their poems with great confidence, pronunciation and diction. Some even added actions to bring their poems to life!

Our judges – Mr McFarlane, Mrs Bokhari and Mrs Ross had a very hard job deciding who would go forward to represent the school at the West Lothian Burns competition.

Well done to Lexie (P4), Cailin (P5), Luca (P6) and Abby (P7) who have been selected. We wish them all luck for the competition in March.

Some pupils also did some Highland dancing and we celebrated our musical talent with Scottish songs performed by the nursery pupils as well as all primary pupils.

We had a great morning celebrating our Scottish culture. Thank you for your help and support by practising poems and songs at home.

PSA fundraising events

There will be a movie night on **Thursday 11th February**. Please look out for the separate flyer in your child's schoolbag.

On **Friday 12th February** we will be having a dress down day. All pupils can wear their own clothes to school in exchange for a £1 donation.

Lost Uniform

A red school polo shirt has been lost in the upper school. The child's initials were on the label. Please check your child's uniform and if you find any items with someone else's name or initials please hand it into the school office.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

Farmhouse Breakfast Club Week



This week as part of the Farmhouse Breakfast Club Week Mrs Findlay has worked with the children to organise a number of events to both promote the importance of eating a healthy breakfast and our school breakfast club.

To link with our Burns celebrations the children decided on a multi-cultural breakfast to promote that we are 'One Scotland'. We celebrated the different cultures of people who live in Scotland. The children enjoyed croissants, bagels, a selection of meats, porridge, lentil dahl and sweet noodles. Pictures are on the school blog.

On Friday (29th January) all parents/carers are invited to attend the Breakfast Club with their child(ren) to sample a breakfast and the types of activities offered at the club. We look forward to seeing you.

Morning Blether



This Friday at 8.45am we will be having our Morning Blether. The Pupil Council will lead a session on Profiling in the school. Profiling means that children will be engaged in regular, on-going discussions with all staff about their progress. Everyone is welcome so please come along and support. They will be asking how we can use profiling to help you to support your child in their learning.

Curriculum Evening

Our Curriculum Evening is on Thursday 25th February at 6.30pm. We will be looking at our maths curriculum and showing you a range of ways that you can support your child and provide them with opportunities to develop their maths skills at home (even if maths wasn't your best subject!). We look forward to seeing you at this event.

ICT to Support Homework

We have recently bought online tools (part funded by the PSA) to help your child's learning at school and at home. There's more information about them on your child's learning letter and on the blog.

School Blog

The school blog contains lots of information about school, including news, events, photos and ways to support your child's learning at home. Each class blogs once a fortnight to share their learning in key curriculum areas. Please try to look at the blog with your child and leave a comment as the children love to read them in class. You can also follow us on Twitter.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/>

https://twitter.com/@MidCalder_PS

Anytime Anywhere Learning (AAL)

“Education should prepare young people for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have not yet been invented, to solve problems of which we are not yet aware.” Richard Riley

We are now an AAL school. This West Lothian Council initiative is to connect all devices in school to the council network. **We are currently at stage one**, which means all our new handheld devices, can connect to the internet. Through our ICT refresh each class will have a teacher laptop, two laptops and two netbooks. On top of this, each class can use one of our three class in a boxes (15 netbooks), five times a week, and each area will have five iPads to share. We are also updating some of our interactive boards.

Stage two will involve bring your own device (BYOD), which will mean that pupils can bring their own devices into school if they choose to do so. Our Junior Leadership Teams, the Technical Troopers and the Pupil Council are investigating the benefits and problems this might bring and this week they're having a Glow Meet with Williamston Primary School for further information. In Term 4 some classes will be trialling BYOD and we will invite parents along to an information workshop. It will be up to you whether or not you send your child to school with a device. If you're thinking of upgrading an older device that connects to Wi-Fi such as a phone or iPod Touch, you might want to hold on to the old device as they are ideal.

Pupils and staff are very excited about AAL. We feel it will transform learning and teaching in our school and give our children the technological skills they need for learning, life and work.



Dates for your diary

Friday 29th January:

- 8.05am: Parents/carers invited to Breakfast Club

- 8.45am: Morning Blether led by Pupil Council

Tuesday 2nd February: Dental inspections for P1 & P7

Wednesday 3rd February: P5 to handball festival at East Calder Sports Centre

Thursday 4th February: Rag Bag collection

Friday 5th February: Primary 5/4 assembly at 11.10am (Parents/carers invited)

Monday 8th February: P6 & P7 residential information evening

Tuesday 9th February: Safer Internet Day

Thursday 11th February: PSA Movie Night

Friday 12th February: PSA Dress down day

Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th: Mid-term break

Friday 19th February: Primary 4 assembly at 11.10am (Parents/carers invited)

Thursday 25th February: Curriculum evening at 6.30pm

Tuesday 1st March: West Lothian Burns Competition at St Kentigern's Academy

Wednesday 2nd March: Parent Council meeting at 7pm

Friday 4th March: Primary 3 assembly at 11.10am (Parents/carers invited)

