

Dear Parent/Carer,

It was lovely to see you last week at the Parent Consultations; as always our P7 pupils did a great job welcoming and looking after parents/carers and keeping everyone to their ten minute appointment. As a school we strive to continually improve our practice and would appreciate if you could spare five minutes to complete our Survey Monkey questionnaire which can be found on: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RR5ZD56> by Friday 15th April.

I hope you are able to join us in the Kirk of Calder church on Thursday 24th March as we celebrate Easter. As always we require parents/carers to walk with us to and from church and we would appreciate if you could meet us in the infant playground at 1.10pm.

I wish you all a relaxing Spring break and I hope the sun continues to shine. I look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 11th April.

Nicola Thompson

Head Teacher

March 2016

**School Improvement Plan: Progress to date**

**Priority 1: Raising Attainment: Tracking & Monitoring**

**Aim: To develop robust tracking and monitoring systems incorporating Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), attainment and achievement.**

**Where are we now?**

The school has created a tracking and monitoring framework to support identification of possible improvements to improve attainment and achievement for all pupils. Staff meet with the Senior Management Team on a regular basis to discuss possible pupils’ attainment and achievement and next steps for pupils to ensure that children are on track to attain their expected level.

Staff continue to develop pupil profiling and target setting at all stages. Through these approaches pupils are developing their learning language and are able to talk about their learning and next steps.

**Priority 2: Raising Attainment: Maths and Numeracy**

**Aim: To raise attainment in mathematics through improved learning and teaching of mental agility and number.**

All classes complete fifteen minutes of Number Talks on a daily basis in addition to their mental maths warm up. Number Talks allows children to develop their confidence and ability to solve calculations mentally. Children are encouraged to find the most efficient strategy as well as use number relationships and the structures of numbers to add, subtract, multiply and divide. You can see a Number Talk in action on: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/category/curriculum-areas/maths-numeracy/>

This term we also had our Maths Curriculum Evening. Thank you to all parents/carers who attended and to the West Lothian Numeracy Team for their very informative presentation. Please find attached the feedback from the evening. Our next steps will be to continue to provide parents/carers with opportunities to visit the classroom linked to learning in maths. The STEM Junior Leadership Team will be developing ICT clips demonstrating approaches to completing maths calculations.

All presentations from the Curriculum Evening can be found on:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/category/curriculum-areas/maths-numeracy/>



**Jump Rope for Heart**

Please can all sponsorship money be returned to the school by Thursday 24th March.

**Active Kids Vouchers**

We are collecting the Sainsbury’s Active Kids Vouchers. If you have any vouchers please send into the school office. Thanks in advance for your support.

**School Lunch Price Increase**

Reminder: From Monday 11th April 2016 (after the Easter break) the cost of lunch will increase to **£1.97**.



**Staffing**

Mrs Mackie will be leaving Mid Calder Primary School on Thursday 24th April. We wish her and her family every success for their new life in Dubai and thank her for her commitment and dedication to her pupils during her time in the school. The post is currently advertised and I will let you know when we have appointed a new teacher. In the meantime Mrs Redmond and Miss Burton will be teaching in Primary 4.

**West Lothian Burns Competition**

Following our school Burns Competition, Lexie (P4), Cailin (P5), Luca (P6) and Abby (P7) were selected by our panel of judges to represent MCPS at the West Lothian Schools Festival 2016.

The four pupils attended the competition at St. Kentigern’s Academy and recited their poems to the judges from Fauldhouse and Crofthead Burns Club and to an audience of guests from across West Lothian.

Abby received the award for best verse speaking in the Primary 6/7 category and is now invited along to the National Burns Competition.

A huge well done to the pupils who confidently represented our school at this competition, and to their parents and teachers for supporting them.

**Session 2016-2017**

Next session we will continue to have eleven classes in the primary school as well as the nursery class. The class structure is still to be confirmed.

Please can I request that parents/carers begin to prepare your child(ren) about transition to a new class with some familiar classmates and some newer classmates.

Pupils will be organised into classes in line with the guidance set out in the West Lothian Composite Class Policy which can be found at:

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2249/Composite-Classes/pdf/Composite_Classes.pdf>

Please note that the school follows the guidance set out in this policy and ask that parents/carers respect the decision made by the school in the careful allocation of pupils to classes.

**West Lothian Euro Quiz**

On Friday 4th March four Primary 6 took part in the annual West Lothian Euroquiz competition at Howden Park Centre. Our school competed against eighteen other schools from across West Lothian and were only six points behind the overall winners.

Well done to Cole, Ayla, Jamie and Sean for doing so much preparation and studying for this event.

**P6-7 Highlands Residential**

Fifty-five pupils from Primary 6 and Primary 7, along with six members of staff recently went on a five day residential to Loch Insh.

 As part of the trip they visited Culloden Battlefield and Blair Castle and completed workshops linked to their current Jacobites Interdisciplinary Learning context.

 At Loch Insh they had the opportunity to take part in skiing, canoeing, sailing and other outdoor activities. We were lucky to have access to Wi-fi so we could share our adventures through our blog and Twitter.

The children all displayed a positive have a go attitude and demonstrated our school values.

Thank you to everyone who left comments on the blog and Twitter as well as the staff who made the residential a memorable and enjoyable experience for our pupils.

**Pupil Assessments**

Over the course of this term and next term all pupils will be completing online assessments in language and maths called *Incas*. The results from these assessments help staff to inform the next steps for your child’s learning to inform the priorities in the school improvement plan. You can read more about these assessments on:

http://www.cem.org/primary

 **Junior Leadership Teams – highlights from this term**

**Pupil Council & Technical Troopers**
As discussed in previous newsletters a number of classes will be trialling Bring Your Own Device next term. The classes involved will be P3/2, P4, P5/4, P5, P6, P7/6 and P7. More information will be issued to these classes in the new term and parents/carers of pupils in these classes are invited along to an information session organised by the Pupil Council and Technical Troopers on **Thursday 21st April at 3:15-4:00pm**. It is anticipated that Bring Your Own Device will commence on Monday 25th April.

**Book Lions**
Our Book Lions recently organised a whole school bake off to celebrate World Book Day. Pupils and staff from across the school read a recipe and brought the finished products into school. This event raised ??? which will go towards our school library. A huge thank you to our very own Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood (our judges) – Mrs Pendreigh, Mrs, Miss, Mrs Storey, Mrs Shields and Mrs Sherlow. Also a huge thank you to all pupils, parents and members of the community who supported this event and made it a great success.

**STEM Science Fair**
Our STEM (Sciences, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics) Team recently organised a Science Fair to link with British Science week. All the classes had an opportunity to visit and take part in STEM experiments and challenges. A big thank you to our STEM Team for organising.



**Dates for your diary**

Thursday 24th March: Church Service at 1.30pm; End of term

Tuesday 29th March: Blood Service in school

Monday 11th April: New term begins; P6 to Edinburgh Castle

Wednesday 20th April: P3 Multisports Festival at East Calder Sports Centre

Thursday 21st April: School Photographer – classes and brass group; Bring Your Own Device Drop-In Meeting

Friday 22nd April: P3/2 assembly at 10.50am

Wednesday 27th April: P7 trip to Glasgow science Centre

Thursday 5th May – Primary school closed to primary pupils

Friday 6th May: Primary 2 assembly at 10.50am

Tuesday 10th May: Rag Bag Collection

Friday 20th May: P1a assembly at 9.15am; PSA Spring Fayre at 12.30pm

Monday 23rd May: School holiday

**Thursday 23rd June - Primary school closed to primary pupils**