



Murrayfield Primary School Newsletter

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

December '17

It has been a very busy time in Murrayfield Primary this session with many classes experiencing wonderful learning opportunities such as visits to Linlithgow Palace, The Usher Hall (RSNO), Bathgate Tesco, and Vue Cinema. We have also had various groups visit our school, Destination Judo, Limelight Theatre Company, One Day Creative and Scottish SPCA. There is still more to come with all P1-7 afternoon at Howden Park Theatre on the afternoon of Thursday 21st December. Providing our learners with a wide variety of experiences helps them to extend classroom skills in a real-life context.

Reading Culture

Thank you to everyone who supported our Potato Reading Book Character challenge during book week. We were overwhelmed with the creativity and quality of all entries. Studies have found a significant link between reading for enjoyment and educational achievement, there is evidence that reading for enjoyment has a greater impact on a child's educational success than the family's socio-economic status and could be an important way to help combat social exclusion and raise educational standards (OECD 2002). So throughout this session there will be a variety of reading initiatives across the school to ensure all our learners develop a positive attitude and passion for reading. We will be investing in the development of our school library and regularly visit our community library and each class has been given a Golden Envelope containing funds to enhance their class library. Developing our reading culture will be a key focus in closing the attainment gap and an effective use of Pupil Equity Funding.

Staff News

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Mackie has given birth to a healthy baby boy on Sunday 26th November. Mrs Logan returns to our school team this session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mrs Prentice (was Miss Black) returns from maternity leave mid December. Mrs Prentice will work alongside Mrs Turnbull and Mrs Millar to provide nurture and support for learning across the school.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From everyone at Murrayfield Primary,
Nursery and Language Centre
Thank you for all your continued support*



Remember to visit our school blog for the most current information about our school:

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

Catriona Macrae (Head Teacher)

Norovirus

Unfortunately, at this time of year many pupils and staff can be exposed to various bugs and viruses. Norovirus is very infectious and high numbers of children and staff can be affected. The symptoms of norovirus include sudden onset of nausea followed by projectile vomiting and/or diarrhoea and usually lasts 12 to 60 hours. Please read the advice from the NHS should your child experience any norovirus symptoms or sickness/diarrhoea:

The key advice for parents and staff is that anyone with symptoms must stay off school for at least 48 hours after symptoms have ceased and everyone should wash their hands frequently using warm water and liquid soap, especially after using the toilet and before eating or preparing food.

Contact the school office to report any absences. Your assistance in this matter is much appreciated.

Dates for Diary Key Dates for 17/18

Christmas Concert
Thursday 14th December

Christmas Jumper Morning
Friday 15th December

Christmas Parties
18th to 21st December

Christmas Church Service
Thursday 21st December (am)

**Howden Park Centre
Pantomime**
Thursday 21st December (pm)

Christmas Holiday
23rd December to 8th January
Pupils resume - 9th January

February Break
12th and 13th February
All resume - 14th February

Easter Holidays
26th March to 8th April
All resume - 9th April

P7 Transition
Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th June

P7 Leavers Assembly
Thursday 28th June

School Sports Afternoon
Friday 1st June

Summer Fun Day
Friday 22nd June

End of Term Church Service
Friday 29th June

**Please note some dates and times are subject to change.
Visit our school glow blog for up to date information**

IPAY IMPACT

From January 2018 we will be encouraging as many families as possible to consistently use the online lunch system. This will reduce the handling of money in school, allow families to select their lunch choices and ensure teaching time is not taken up with administration tasks. Please contact the school office if you require further details on how to access IPay Impact.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION.....

We use various methods to communicate with our parents which include:

- Twitter - @wlmurrayfieldps
Currently we have 36 followers. Please join us on Twitter
- School Glow Blog - <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/murrayfieldps/>
- Groupcall - text message system. Please ensure the school office has your current mobile number. Make sure you don't miss any important communication from school
- Termly newsletter
- Open assemblies - every Friday morning 9.15am
- Biscuits and Blether - scheduled Friday mornings after assembly



Look out for our new Murrayfield Primary, Nursery and Language Centre website which will be launched early in 2018!

Murrayfield Primary
Parent Council Meetings - 6.15pm
Everyone is welcome to attend!

Wednesday 17th January
Wednesday 21st February
Wednesday 16th April
Wednesday 23rd May

For the school to have a successful Parent Council and to continue to run various fundraising events, we need volunteers. If you can spare some time please come along to our informal meetings.

Murrayfield Primary - Parent Council

Thank you to our Parent Council who are dedicated to raising funds for our school through various events such as movie nights, Christmas Fair, ceilidh and Halloween Parties.

Through the generosity of our families and friends we managed to raise over £2000 at our Christmas Fair.

Sharing Our Learning

11.00am/2.00pm

Support your child and give them feedback on their progress through our Sharing Our Learning sessions on:

Thursday 8th February
Thursday 17th May

Your child will love impressing you with their work and achievements.

Thank you to everyone who came along to our first session in November. We hope your child helped you to understand more about their learning and progress.



Biscuits and Blether

Come along and find out more about learning at Murrayfield PS. Everyone welcome!

Friday 12th January
Friday 2nd February
Friday 2nd March
Friday 13th April
Friday 4th May
Friday 8th June



Classes and pupil groups will host our Biscuits and Blether sessions. Have a cup of tea and a natter with pupils and staff, learn more about key education and school initiatives. We look forward to seeing you in school soon.

IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT OUR LEARNERS



Murrayfield Primary, Nursery and Language Centre follow us on Twitter.



MILK MONEY
£9.88
To be paid by Friday
26th January 2018

STAFF CAR PARK/TAXI DROP OFF

Parents, carers, pupils are not permitted to enter or use the staff car park or taxi drop off. Please keep our children safe and ensure you adhere to West Lothian Council policy.



Ms C. Macrae
 Head Teacher
 01506 653400

Improving Whole School Approaches - January 2018

Golden Time

Reinforcing good behaviour while discouraging negative behaviour generally produces positive results for children, it helps children to feel good about their choices and motivates them. However, following a recent review of our dedicated Golden Time we have decided to overhaul our reward time to ensure all pupils benefit. Next session the class teacher will provide regular reward slot with high quality pupil tasks at an agreed and chosen point in the school week. Therefore rewards will be timely and appropriate. Rewards will be relevant and meaningful and created in discussion with learners. Further information will be shared in the new session

Vertical Groups

We have revamped our Vertical Group sessions to ensure our learners receive creative and engaging learning experiences. Once a month P1-3 and P4-7, learners will have the opportunity to work together on a variety of tasks building skill for life, work and learning. Tasks include den building, food technology, bikeability, outdoor games and many more. Please ensure your child is appropriately dress if they are participating in any outdoor activities.

Regional Collaborative - Forth Valley and West Lothian Collaborative

Schools across Scotland will now have the opportunity work with other authorities to be able to draw on a range of expertise through six newly established Regional Improvement Collaboratives. West Lothian Council is part of the Forth Valley and West Lothian Collaborative which also includes Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils.

Each one will be led by a Regional Improvement Lead and will work with schools, using all available evidence, to provide targeted advice and support to drive improvement.

The leads have been appointed by agreement of Local Authority Chief Executives in each regional collaborative, and the Scottish Government advised by the Interim Chief Inspector of Education.

The leads will be responsible for ensuring a detailed Improvement Plan in consultation with their schools and headteachers is in place for each area by 2018. Scottish Government officials, along with Education Scotland, will meet shortly with each collaborative to support this detailed planning process. Further information will be shared throughout this session.

Scottish National Standardised Assessment – SNSA

Assessment is a central part of everyday learning and teaching for every child and young person. The Scottish National Standardised Assessments have been introduced as part of the [National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education](#) to provide teachers with objective, comparable information about progress, which will help improve outcomes for all children and young people.

These assessments have been specifically designed to reflect the way we deliver education in Scotland and are aligned with Curriculum for Excellence. Ongoing and periodic assessments are, and will continue to be, the main basis of teachers' professional judgement. Teachers continue to draw on all of the assessment information available to them when considering children's progress and planning next steps in learning. Our P7 learners have recently completed their literacy/language and numeracy/maths assessments and following robust analysis we have identified key areas for improvement:

Literacy and language

- grammar
- inferential questions – being able to read between the lines

Numeracy and Maths

- word problems – being able to select the most relevant numerical/mathematical process and to apply skills and knowledge

We will now look at our learning pathways and teaching approaches to ensure we provide learners with a depth and breadth of activities to develop the identified key areas.

