

Seafield Primary School Newsletter September 2023



We have had a busy start to the new session so far. Thank you to those parents, carers and family members who took the time to come along to our “Family welcome breakfasts” which were held at the beginning of September. These were well attended and it was lovely to have the chance to share our improvement priorities with you. Class teachers enjoyed the opportunity to meet with parents and carers and we hope that you found this a positive experience, feedback provided at the sessions certainly seemed to indicate that you did!

Our next in school activities are Parent Consultations, which take place on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th October for school. Appointments can no longer be booked online, if you require an appointment please contact our school office. We are looking forward to seeing you in school over these 2 sessions and will have a some stations set up in our school hall which we would encourage you to take time to visit.

You will be aware that HM Inspectors from Education Scotland are visiting our school week beginning 23rd October. We are looking forward to the opportunity to showcase our children who are a credit to families and the wider community.

School Uniform

A polite request that children should wear school uniform as detailed below on the days where they do not have outdoor learning or PE activities. We are seeing a small number of children who are wearing jumpers and hoodies which do not follow our uniform code and we would ask for your support in ensuring that these are kept for wearing at home. Our uniform code is shared below.

School uniform consists of:

- Navy or red jumper (with or without school badge)
- Red or white polo shirt or white school shirt and tie
- Black or grey skirt/trousers

On PE days, children can come to school wearing active uniform. This is not a dress down day, children should wear:

- navy or red jumper (without or without school badge);
- a plain white t-shirt or polo shirt and plain black, navy or grey joggers or leggings.
- Children should not wear branded tracksuits or hoodies on P.E. days and we thank you for your support in ensuring that your child sticks to our active uniform code.

Footwear – children should wear black shoes or trainers to school. If your child wears wellingtons over the winter or because it is an outdoor learning day for them, please send a pair of shoes for them to wear inside. These can be school shoes, trainers or traditional gym rubbers. For safety reasons, children should not wear crocs or slippers.

P.E. Days

Our PE days for this term are:

P1/2 PE on Mondays and Tuesdays

P2/3 PE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

P4 PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays

P5/6 PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays

P6/7 PE on Wednesdays and Fridays

Outdoor Learning

It has been great to see all classes continue to have the opportunity to take their learning outdoors this term and we will be continuing this over the coming months. We will take weather conditions into account however unless there is a safety risk, classes will be outdoors at points in the week. To support this, please find below information about clothing which is beneficial for children on these days.

- Clothing which is ok to get dirty and muddy
- Boots or wellies which can get dirty and muddy (we do have a stock of wellies in school for any children who don't have these)
- Appropriate coats/jackets for the weather conditions, again these are likely to get muddy
- When we get to the colder weather, children may need hats, scarfs and gloves
- A change of clothes (including socks) in case anyone gets especially wet!

Regular weekly outdoor learning days

P1/2 Thursdays

P2/3 Thursdays

P4 Wednesdays

P5/6 Tuesdays

P6/7 Mondays

Kids Gone Wild (KGW) sessions will take place on a Monday (in addition to class sessions)

P1/2 KGW on 13th November; 4th December

P2/3 KGW on 16th November; 11th December

P4 KGW on 30th October; 18th December

P5/6 KGW on 13th November; 27th November

P6/7 KGW on 20th November

Family Welcome Breakfasts Feedback

As part of our family welcome breakfasts, we took the opportunity to seek your views around a few aspects of the work of our school. Thank you to all those who completed our e-form. We have pulled this together along with some information around what we will do next as detailed below:

You said	We did
"Please share any suggestions that you have for how we can continue to improve communication with parents/carers"	
Having one method of communication instead of multiple	Our communication strategy is regularly shared in our newsletter in terms of what we share on the app and what is emailed. The main reason that we don't use the app more is that we don't have any data around how many parents/carers have access to this or whether these are current parents and carers within the school so we are unsure whether important information would reach all. We would like to gather some further input around use of the app/email specifically and will send out a link to an e-form to seek clarity from you.
Having one source system – either email or app	
Think there needs to be a bit of clarity with communication, some group calls, some through the app	
More combined newsletters to collect the information of events	As well as including dates in newsletters, these are all shared on the app as well as being published on our school website: https://seafielddprimary.westlothian.org.uk/

I would prefer a paper copy of information	We do send communications electronically to support our bid to be paper free however for any parent who would like a list of dates on paper, please contact our school office and this can be arranged.
Sharing the learning experiences in a class newsletter would be nice, I don't know what they are learning and how to support better	Each class uploads a weekly post to our school blog where information about classroom learning is shared for you: https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/seafieldds/
More updates about the kids learning through Seesaw	We plan to make use of Seesaw as a place where learners from P1 – P3 can upload examples of classroom learning over the course of this year. Our P4 – P7 learners will be creating their own “e-profile” where they will upload examples of their learning and we will arrange a chance for parents/carers to see these during our “Sharing the Learning” events.
An allocated person who will be responsible for dealing with parent concerns or suggestions	As detailed in our August newsletter, the initial point of contact for parents/carers is your child's class teacher as they are usually the best person to answer your questions given they spend the most time with the children. If required, P1 – P3 point of contact is Mrs Egan and for P4 – P7, contact should be made with Mr Hamilton in the first instance.
Perhaps a suggestion box for parents with children at the school	We will put a box out at parent consultations in October however, our school email address can be used at any time to make suggestions.

Reporting your child's absence

We would ask all parents/carers to contact our school office on **(01506) 6539216** or to text our Groupcall number **(07860 049745)** to report if your child is going to be absent from school or nursery. West Lothian Council policy advises that parents should contact the school to inform of an absence by **9am for school and AM or Full Day nursery pupils and by 1pm for PM children**. If no contact has been made, a groupcall message will be sent asking parents to get in touch with the school. If we are unable to contact you, Head Teachers are required to make the decision about whether to contact the council's Safe Arrivals team to seek support in contacting families to ensure that children are safe. The Safe Arrivals team have the authority to make home visits and, in some cases, involve the police.

These measures are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and it is of great importance that parents contact the school if your child is not attending. Please either state that your child will be off for a specified number of days, or contact the school on **each day** of absence. We appreciate your co-operation.

West Lothian Council have an “Attendance and Engagement at School” policy which all schools follow. If your child's attendance falls below 90% you will be contacted to advise you of this. If there is no improvement or where your child's attendance drops further, you will be invited to a meeting to discuss any supports that could help improve attendance. In most cases, schools see improvements following these steps however if attendance continues to be a concern, West Lothian Council's Inclusion and Support service will become involved. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact school to discuss.

Contact with school

If you need to speak with a member of staff, your first point of contact will nearly always be your child's class teacher or ELC keyworker, as they are the people who are regularly with the children and are most likely to be able to answer your query. If you wish to speak to a member of our School Leadership Team, ELC – P3 parents should contact Mrs Egan and P4 – P7 parents should speak with Mr Hamilton.

Our school office hours are:

Monday – Thursday 08.30am – 3.45pm (closed for lunch from 1pm – 1.45pm)

Friday 08.30am – 12.30pm

Kindness Cupboard

A reminder that we have an online order form for anyone who needs to access our school Kindness Cupboard. All forms will be treated confidentially and sensitively, we are more than happy to support anyone who needs to use this. <https://forms.office.com/e/990rR1UBPp>

Safe and Considerate Parking

We again ask that all parents and carers consider the safety of children and residents when parking at the school for drop off or collection. Please do not park on corners, zigzag lines or blocking the driveways of any of our neighbours. We thank you for your co-operation.

After School Clubs

A multisports and fitness club for P4 – P7 and a football club for P5 – P7 have now started. Multisports is full however football has some spaces, please contact the office if you wish your child to join this club. We will look to offer clubs to our younger learners in the new term.

Parent Council

Thank you to the parents who came along to the initial meeting on 27th September. We have emailed you already about their first venture which is a “Hallowe’en Swap Shop” which they are running in conjunction with our Family Health and Wellbeing Champions, Mrs Kellock and Ms Markey.

Diary Dates

2 nd October	NHS Flu Vaccinations for school pupils
2 nd October	P6/7 Kids Gone Wild session
4 th October	Rev Boyd to visit P1/2 and P2/3
4 th October	School Parent Consultations
5 th October	School Parent Consultations
6 th October	School closes for October break (12.30pm)
6 th October	Nursery Natter session at 11am
7 th October	School reopens for pupils
30 th October	ELC Parent Consultations – Mrs Roy’s key children*
31 st October	ELC Parent Consultations – Miss Greig’s key children*
1 st November	ELC Parent Consultations – Mrs Drysdale’s key children*
16 th November	Nursery Natter session at 4pm
22 nd November	School Sharing our Learning sessions 2pm and 6pm
22 nd November	Tempest Photography – ELC and school photographs

* ELC parent consultation dates have had to be changed due to our upcoming visit from HMIe, as we unfortunately don’t have space for these meetings while we have the inspection team in the school. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

