

Be the Best You Can Be!

RESPECT *for yourself, others and the environment*

RESPONSIBILITY *for all of your actions*

KINDNESS *always*

Williamston Primary School Update

August 2023

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to you all as well as a special welcome to all our new families across the school. I hope you have all had a lovely summer break. The new pupils have settled into their classes and new routines very well indeed – it is lovely to see new friendships and relationships blossom.

Staffing Update

We welcome back Mrs Kerr following her maternity leave, as well as Owen Wicksted and Briony Walker, our probationer teachers this year. Within our support staff team, Mrs McDonagh will shortly be going on maternity leave.

School Improvement Update

At our in-service day, all staff attending renewed their annual update training, as well as undertaking an Emotionworks refresher session. Emotionworks is our core health and wellbeing programme that we use in school, in which we have already received our Bronze Award and we are working towards our silver level. All classes will also begin the Building Resilience programme where we support pupils with emotional wellbeing.

Our School Improvement Plan that identifies our priorities for this academic session, and our Standards and Quality Report that reflects our progress made last session, will be published on our school website from the September weekend and will be sent out electronically to all families, as well as posted on our website.

This session we have planned for a range of family learning and parental engagement sessions where parents/carers can find out about how we deliver aspects of the curriculum. These are outlined on the attached parent calendar of dates. The sessions will start with a brief input about how we teach aspects of learning, such as reading, followed by seeing learning in action with a shared finish. We have tried to link the family learning aspect with the shared start/finish where we can.

Sharing our Learning

Please find attached to the first newsletter of the year a list of key dates you may find useful for the school session ahead for opportunities for sharing learning with you. There may be additional dates to this, but we will always try to give as much notice as we can for these. We report progress in learning to parents/carers in a range of ways, from performing at assemblies/events, to seeing learning in action through shared starts/finishes, to more formal parent consultations and written reports. If you have any questions at all about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Wider Achievements

Our learners have an extremely broad range of skills, talents, qualities and interests. We always love hearing about their achievements in school and out of school. These are celebrated in class and at whole school level through recognition boards, Pupil of the Week (POW) awards, newsletters and assemblies. We have been developing online profiling through Seesaw for our nursery age children to P3 and Glow e-portfolios for P4-7. We always welcome news about the achievements our pupils have beyond school so please do share these with us!

Health and Safety

Our car park arrangements were reviewed last year in partnership with the Health and Safety Team, West Lothian Council Roads and the Parent Council. The current arrangements separate staff parking from visitor (including parent/carers) parking. It was designed specifically so that all children can safely exit the vehicle and walk around the pavement into/out of school without any need to cross the road. Please find attached a copy of the map for the car park arrangements as a reminder. A hard copy will be sent out via bag drop next week.

Uniform

This is a plea to PLEASE ensure uniform is labelled clearly with your child's full name. We already have a box almost full of items lost just from this week with no name at all! We have managed to track down most items that are only initialled. However, with over 421 pupils it can take some detective work to find who owns a jumper only by initials!

Williamston Primary holds a range of nearly new uniform that can be taken by anyone either free of charge or for a small donation. We support reduce, reuse, recycle, so please do help yourselves.

Parent Body News

Parent Council/PTA meetings will be held on the following dates –

Tuesday 12th September

Monday 13th November

Tuesday 23rd January

Monday 18th March

Tuesday 14th May

All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

[A message from Williamston's Health and Wellbeing Family Champ](#)



Hello to all of the Williamston parents, carers and pupils!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Elaine Kinloch and I am the Health and Wellbeing Parent Champion for Williamston Primary School. This is a voluntary role, part of the wider Wellbeing Champion programme being rolled out across West Lothian schools.

I began my role as Family Champ for the school in October 2021 and have been working alongside Mrs Cameron, Mrs Banks and the wonderful Williamston pupil champions to support Health and Wellbeing for our children and families since then.

Throughout the next school session, I will be signposting you to the newly created wellbeing champion resources and will hopefully have the chance to meet many of the families through a range of Health and Wellbeing themed activities. I would love to hear your views about how best we can work together as a school community to ensure the very best for our children and families.

Please feel free to say "hello" if you see me in the playground!

Elaine

Diary Dates

Please see the attached calendar of dates for the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support.



Jane Livingston and Williamston Staff Team

