

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

Term 3 Jan - March 2024

Staffing Update

Mrs Cameron is seconded to another post until Easter initially. Miss Gaw accepted a new post closer to home. Both left us at Christmas break, however we have been joined by Mr Bryce covering P16 full time and Miss Turner 3 days a week. Miss Hurry has accepted a permanent post with us. Mrs Thomson will cover the Health and Wellbeing role.

School Improvement

Our HMIE report was published with the school presenting at the Education Quality Assurance Committee last week. We are well on our way towards working on identified priorities as well as gathering evidence towards evidencing our next steps.

Mrs Blair and I were invited to an event in Stirling for our work around neurodiversity. We have been asked to work with Children in Scotland to pilot a primary programme for the inclusion ambassadors they already have at secondary level. This work will begin in February with a focus group of learners from P1-P7.

We have invested in new novels after consulting with pupils, as well as adding to our core reading scheme materials. This is also in line with our improvement plan priorities to review reading.

Home/School Communication and Sharing our Learning

Williamston Primary School has a communication strategy that was developed with Parent Council. We do regularly share an outline of this through newsletters, the last being May 2023, but please see below for the ways in which you can find out about our school and your child's learning.

Communication has been agreed between school and Parent Council as follows -

- Seesaw or Teams for sharing learning/home learning with the children
- the school app for any messages for parents/carers.

Twitter/X is also used to share learning in action, with classes posting a minimum of 2 Twitter posts per week. This approach has been agreed with Parent Council and in place for some time and has been the basis for informing our whole school approach to sharing home learning and parent communications. You do not need to be a Twitter/X user as the content pulls through to our website.

As a school, Seesaw or Teams is the agreed platform for sharing home learning along with the termly descriptors and home learning grid. This is in line with other West Lothian Council schools. Homework is set online as per guidance that is sent out at the beginning of each term along with termly descriptors that set the scene for learning in the term ahead. This is because Seesaw or Teams is accessible by and for the children and where we post their learning online for them. As a school, the pupils lead much of the learning with responsive planning from the teaching staff based on the views of the learners. For this reason, topics can change across the year and are not set. The nursery has now moved to Seesaw in line with all other West Lothian Council schools.

Feedback on homework may be written online or given verbally to individual pupils, but is given regularly.

A profile is a record of your child's learning and progress with latest and best examples of their work chosen by them and is uploaded to either Seesaw (ELC to P3) or to Teams (P4-7). Parents and carers may comment on the profiles or share achievements outside of school. If you require a discussion about your child's progress, then an email to the office to reach your child's teacher would be the best route to use.

A 'Reporting and Profiling' document is on our website explaining profiling and the wide range of ways in which your child's learning is reported and shared, including assemblies, shows, shared start/finishes, formal reporting and your child's profile.

Groupcall

West Lothian Council policy regarding Groupcall is as follows: - messaging will rarely be used and only if the message is critical - relating to an emergency, safety or security event within the next 24hours or is the message relating to an event beyond 24hrs.

- Events occurring within 24 hours should relate to urgent, critical and unplanned incidents of emergency, safety or security e.g. a school closure due to gas leak, weather related closure. Messaging of this nature must be sent as a Groupcall text message to **all contacts** and not only the primary contacts.
- All other communication relating to events occurring beyond 24hours should be planned in advance and therefore of a non-urgent nature e.g. notice of strike days, notice of school concerts. Messaging of this nature must be sent by Groupcall email to **all contacts** and not only to primary contacts

The increased use of email relies upon contact emails that schools hold being kept up to date. We would ask that all parents and carers ensure their most current contact details are updated via Parent Portal.

Parent Portal will shortly be used for all forms such as EE2s, permissions, etc and all families are asked to update personal details and contacts regularly.

Health and Safety

Parking

We have received complaints from local residents and neighbours surrounding the school regarding parking. May we please ask that you be safe and considerate in parking, especially at junctions and across driveways. We are aware that complaints have also been made by residents to the local Policing Team with an officer attending the area recently.

The car park for drop off and pick up has been carefully planned so that NO children should be walking across the car park, with or without an adult. We ask that all children are walked around the pavement for their safety and not walked through the car park area.

Parking in and around Williamston Primary School is problematic and while we understand your frustration, we ask for your support in this matter. We would ask that this information is passed on to other family members or people taking your child to and from school.

In emergency weather - snow and wind arrangements

In the event of severe weather, a groupcall will be sent as soon as practically possible to inform you that we will be using only the breakfast club doors for coming into school. For example, with the recent stormy weather we needed daylight to make appropriate checks to the building before letting anyone access the rear of the school. In snowy weather our Facilities Management Assistant (FMA) clears one path for staff and one for all pupils, these being to the main entrance and the breakfast club doors.

Safe Arrivals to School

We have a member of staff in the grounds from 8.30am but the doors open for children to enter the school from 8.40am. Please do not arrive before 8.30am as there is no supervision and your child will be taken to breakfast club where we do have supervision at this time. In inclement weather, please don't come too early as we cannot open the doors before 8.40am. If you arrive after the bell and the gates are shut, please go to the main office.

School Security

All parents and carers wishing to enter the school should only come via the main office. This is where the sign in books are kept and where office staff can assist you in making an appointment to see your child's teacher or to help if something has been forgotten. For security reasons and safeguarding, we cannot permit parents to enter the school via any other doors. Should any parent wish to become a parent helper, please contact the office for details on how to get a PVG to enable us to have your help.

Pupil Phones in School

As parents and carers of P4-P7 will know, we have agreements in place for devices to support learning in school. Part of the agreement is that these will only be used when directed to by the teacher to enhance learning. Recently we have had situations where pupils have been texting or using social media platforms to contact parents/carers in class during learning time, with some parents/carers trying to phone their child during class time. As you can imagine, this has had quite an impact on disrupting learning time while the teacher manages this. Please note that the only way to contact your child in an emergency is to call the school office. If your child becomes unwell at school, we will contact you or the emergency contact you have identified on the Parent Portal. Please ensure that your child is aware of their end of day arrangements before they come to school. If these arrangements need to change, the office team will pass this on to your child.

Sharing our Learning

We had a hugely successful P3 and P4 literacy event and shared start earlier this term with a fantastic turnout to hear about how we teach literacy and see learning in action. Thank you to those who came.

We offered a Health and Wellbeing event for families of P5-7 in the evening in late November which was very well received by those who came but was not well attended. We were trialling offering parent information events in the evening based on feedback given previously by our working families. Given the attendance, we plan to stick to day time events where learning can be seen in action after an input for parents/carers, which has been far more successful.

Wider Achievements

Upcoming Event - CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Hi, we are the HWB mini champs Joshua, Charlotte and Rebecca. We would like to tell you about an upcoming event. On Friday 9th February we are planning dress to express day! We are encouraging to celebrate what makes them unique. This could be dressing up to share their hobbies, wearing their favourite colour, what they want to be when their older or just coming in as themselves. No football colours please! We are not asking for any donations this fun event is to express yourself and be you.

We are looking forward to see your ideas and outfits!

Kind regards

HWB mini champs.

Prize Winners!

Williamston Primary School won the Sustrans Leg it Lapland Active Travel Winter challenge as the top scoring school in West Lothian achieving 5600 miles as a school! This was a project to help reduce traffic congestion and air pollution around the school gate by encouraging journeys to and from school to be made on foot, by scooter or by bicycle. Pupils were asked to log their journey as virtual miles, or through completing 30 minutes of other exercise outside of school. After a vote, all classes had a chance to take part in a silent disco which was VERY exciting and VERY hot!

After School Clubs

Term 3 after school clubs will start after February week and these have already been sent out. We do try to offer a range of clubs for across all stages over the school year. These all are offered by either teachers giving up their time after school or through our Active Schools Coordinator. We have some lunchtime clubs run by our P7 pupils as part of their Youth Achievement Awards too that your child can find out about in school, although these tend to be for P3-P7.

Parent Body News

Our next Parent Council meeting will be on 18th March at 7pm in the school. All are welcome.

Diary Dates

Mon 5 Feb	P6 Assembly - parents and carers welcome
Wed 7 Feb	P1 and P7 dental checks - information already sent out
Fri 9 Feb	Dress to Express day - see above message from our mini champs All break for February week
Mon 19 Feb	In service day for staff only
Tues 20 Feb	Pupils return
Thurs 22 Feb	Camp meeting for P7 parents and pupils 6pm start in school
Tues 27 Feb	Inclusion Ambassador project starts (weekly for 4 weeks)
Fri 1 March	VLG 6
Fri 8 March	P6 and P7 DYW event - families welcome
Mon 11 March	P4 assembly - parents and carers welcome
Fri 15 March	P7 classroom transition event
Mon 18 March	P6DK Sky Academy Parent Council 7pm in school - all welcome - bring a mug
Tues 19 March	P7 science fayre evening event at JYHS
Wed 20 March	Sportathon - details to follow!
Thurs 21 March	Sky Academy P6WC Euroquiz P6 teams

Fri 22 March	P7 classroom transition event VLG 7
Tues 26 March	Parent consultations 4.30-7.30pm
Wed 27 March	Parent consultations 4.30-7.30pm
Thurs 28 March	ALL BREAK FOR EASTER
Mon 15 April	All resume for term 4

Thank you for your continued support.



Jane Livingston and Williamston Staff Team

