

# 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 2024

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 are already settling into their classes and new routines very well indeed!

### Staffing Update

Mrs Bell has started her maternity leave, with Miss Donnelly-Kay commencing her maternity leave mid-September. We wish both ladies well and we will keep you posted with any baby updates! Mrs Cameron continues to be seconded to another school. We welcome Miss Sarah Lindsay and Mrs Lisa Hall to our teaching team. We also welcome Miss Sophie Stewart as our probationer this session. Within our non-teaching staff team, Mrs McDonagh and Mrs McNaughton will be moving on to new posts. Both will be greatly missed and we wish them every success in their new adventures. Mrs Maree Young, our Depute, will be absent for a period of time. Any queries related to the ELC or early level can be sent to the main office or ELC team.

### Meet the Teacher Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 6-7pm

Meet the teacher is an opportunity for both staff and parents to put a name to a face and see your child's learning area. All are welcome from 6-7pm to visit the class for 15 minutes to see an overview of the year ahead. We will ring a bell at 6.15pm, 6.30pm and 6.45pm to allow parents to move to another class should you have more than one child in the school. There will be an opportunity for you to have a brief conversation with the teacher. However, if there is something specific you wish to discuss that may take longer or be of a personal nature, we would ask that you contact the office to arrange a mutually convenient time to talk to the teacher one to one. Mrs Howard will be in the PE hall, Miss MacDonald will be in the music room and Mrs Blair will be in the Den area – a real opportunity to access all areas and see what our staff team are offering!

PE and outdoor learning days will be sent home this week and we ask that your child comes dressed for PE and outdoor learning on these days. Termly descriptors outlining learning for the term ahead will be issued after meet the teacher. If you are unable to come along, we issue a Sway so that you can still have all the information shared on the night.

### School Improvement Update

At our in-service day, all staff attending renewed their annual update training, as well as reviewing inclusive classrooms and practices. All classes will continue with 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 in the classroom. We have tried to link the family learning aspect with the shared start/finish where we can.

### UNCRC Update

Williamston Primary is a Silver Rights Respecting School. This means that we place children's rights at the heart of everything that we do. We are very proud of our diverse school community and everyone is welcome here.

Each year we explore a number of rights in more depth. For August and September, we are exploring the following Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):

**Article 7** Children must be registered when they are born and given a name which is officially recognized by the government. Children must have a nationality (belong to a country). Whenever possible, children should know their parents and be looked after by them.

**Article 28** Every child has the right to an education. Primary education should be free. Secondary and higher education should be available to every child. Children should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level possible. Discipline in schools should respect children's rights and never use violence.

Look out for our home learning task which will help us to learn all about your child's name and nationality.

### Sharing our Learning

Please find attached to the overall parent calendar of key dates for the year ahead. 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 use 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 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. Please note that this is a drop off and pick up arrangement and should not be used for parking.

### Parent Helpers

We always welcome parent helpers to our school either for ongoing work with classes, sharing skills and expertise, assisting on school trips and being part of our school community working with the children. Anyone interested in this requires a current PVG to be in place. We cannot manage trips or outings without the support of our parent helpers. If you would like to help, being on a standby list for excursions, have a skill to offer or would like to help out, please do contact the office for a PVG form to complete. Please note that parents/carers do not pay for these checks.

### Uniform

This is a plea to PLEASE ensure uniform is labelled clearly with your child's full name. We already have items of lost property with no name. We have managed to track down some items that are only initialled. However, with over 420 pupils it can take some detective work to find who owns a jumper only by initials! Our lost property will be put out at key times over each term. Please check the app for when these are happening.

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 are held regularly throughout the year. Look out for these dates coming via the app. All parents and carers are welcome to attend. This session we plan to visit a theme for a focus for Parent Council meetings.

### Diary Dates

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

Please note that the first event is meet the teacher on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 6-7pm.

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON THE APP AND THE NEWSLETTERS FOR FURTHER DATES AS THEY ARISE!**

**Thank you for your continued support.**



**Jane Livingston and Williamston Staff Team**

