

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

January 2025

A happy new year to you all. I hope you had a restful break. It is lovely to see all the children back in school.

Staffing Update

We welcomed Stephanie Bazely as our new clerical staff member before Christmas. Mrs Bazely is working alongside Mrs Shaw in the office every morning. Mrs Shaw is reducing her hours and will not be working a Friday from now on. Please be aware that there may be the odd occasion where the office may be unmanned whilst the ladies are delivering messages or completing tasks around the school.

We welcome two new staff to our ELC team. Claire Binns joins us full time and Daniella Taylor joins us part time. Mr Champion will become a dad later this term with Baby Champion due early March. This means that arrangements will be made for paternity leave. Once we know more specifics, we will let P5C parents and carers know about the cover arrangements. The paternity leave dates are likely to coincide with the planned parent evening consultations. We will let you know the arrangements for rescheduling as soon as we can.

Mrs Jennifer Kelly, our Woodwind IMS teacher, left West Lothian Council in December. We are joined this week by Miss Roxanne Benezra who will be supporting our wind instrumentalists from now on.

School Improvement Update

In December we were delighted to receive the We Make Music Gold Award from Education Scotland. You may have seen this in the West Lothian Courier. We are the first school in West Lothian and only the second school in Scotland to achieve this level of award. The We Make Music School Award scheme recognises and celebrates the rich variety of music-making activity taking place in primary and ASN schools in Scotland. We held a celebration event with musical performances from our brass and woodwind bands, our choir and our whole school singing "You are a star". The award was presented by Mae Murray from Music Education Partnership Group (MEPG), Ian Mills, the Chair of the MEPG Board and Neil Miller Senior Education Manager Education Scotland. Instrumental Music Service Teachers Andrew Shaw and Jennifer Kelly also supported us. This was an exciting culmination of all the work our school and nursery have been doing across expressive arts but especially music. Look out for the award in the reception area!

Rights Respecting School Update

Thank you all for your kind donations to the Foodbank. The boxes were collected on the last day of term and the staff from the foodbank were overwhelmed with your generosity.

During January, we will be exploring:

Article 42 -all children, young people and adults should know about the Convention.

Your children will be teaching you all about the Rights that they have and what they have been learning about them in school. Look out for a school app message from each class at the start of February where the children are going to become the teachers!

We will also be exploring:

Article 14 - Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

Classes will discover the religions that are followed in our school community and we would love to invite pupils to share their experiences.

Next week we will be training up some P6 and P7 pupils as Peer Mediators. These playground leaders will use restorative approaches to help younger children to express how they are feeling, talk about their problems and work out a solution for themselves. We cannot wait to see them in action.

In March, we are being assessed by UNICEF to see if we are ready to be accredited as a Gold Rights Respecting School. We are very excited to share the journey that we have been on and will be asking for parents to share their experience of being part of a Rights Respecting School community. Watch this space.

HWB mini-champs article of the month

Water

Why is it important to drink water?

It is important to drink water because 70% of the human body is made up of water and it also forms the base of blood. Water prevents dehydration. Dehydration causes unclear thinking, mood changes, overheating, headaches, constipation and kidney stones.

Drinking water can reduce the risk of heart disease

Water forms the basis of your digestive system. It also delivers oxygen to your body.

Water brings nutrients to cells and helps get rid of waste.

How does drinking water help in school?

There is a number of reasons why drinking water in school can help, for example

drinking water in school can help with increasing energy levels so you can focus more on your work. You will feel less tired, it can reduce headaches if you are hydrating and it helps you concentrate.

These are all good reasons to keep drinking water in school!

Why is water better than juice?

Water does not have any sugar but juice has LOTS of sugar, for example fruit juice has 20-26 grams of sugar per cup.

Did you know juice can cause tooth decay because the sugar can get stuck in your teeth?

Juice can cause type 2 diabetes.

Sugar free juice can still contain some sugar however it does not have any more added to it.

When water spills your jotter, it does not get sticky.

By, Anna, Lily, Zehn and Chloe

Health and Safety

NUT FREE SCHOOL REMINDER

We have a number of children and staff who have severe allergies to nuts and any nut based products. As a result, we are a NUT FREE school. Please can you ensure that any snacks or packed lunches provided from home are nut free to enable us to ensure the safety of all. We regularly remind all children not to share snacks at all and it would be most helpful if this could be reinforced at home.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe.

Winter Ready Arrangements

In the event of snow or severe ice the following arrangements are put in place as part of the Winter Ready plan –

- In the event of snow and ice, the car park should be avoided where possible. If you do decide to use it, please ensure you are parking in a safe space around the outside drop off point only. Where cars are parked not in this area, this can impact on the school bus being able to safely get out of the school car park and getting quite stuck in the ice. No vehicles should be left in the flow of traffic, near the bin cages or in the areas marked for bus or yellow hatched.
- FM Assistants clear one safe route into the school via the breakfast club entrance/main office and one safe route to the nursery. The other access areas and playgrounds will be risk assessed daily for safety for all. It

may be if there is severe ice, as there has been this week, that we need to limit the entrances and exit points for safety.

- All communication will be sent out as soon as a risk assessment has taken place via the app and Groupcall.
- In the event of a school closure, this will be sent out via Groupcall text and email. West Lothian Council also post this on their Facebook page. Please ensure your contacts are current on the Parent Portal so that you receive these updates.

Parent Body News

The next Parent Council and PTA meeting will be held on 21 January at 7pm. All are welcome.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 15 January	Building resilience assembly 2
Tuesday 21 January	Parent Council and PTA 7pm
Wednesday 29 January	P4 assembly – parents and carers welcome 9am-9.45
Thursday 30 January	Current P7 Camp Meeting – large hall 6pm
Thursday 6 February	P6E in house trip 1-2pm
Friday 7 February	All break for February week
Monday 17 February	In service day – staff only
Tuesday 18 February	Pupils resume
Tuesday 25 February	P5 Creative Connections at JYHS
Wednesday 26 February	P5 assembly – parents and carers welcome 9am-9.45
Tuesday 4 March	P5 Creative Connections at JYHS Gold RRS visit
Wednesday 5 March	P3 assembly – parents and carers welcome 9am-9.45
Tuesday 11 March	P5 Creative Connections at JYHS
Wednesday 12 March	P6 assembly - parents and carers welcome 9am-9.45
Friday 14 March	P7 classroom at JYHS P6 Euroquiz
Monday 17 March	Parent Council and PTA 7pm
Tuesday 18 March	P7 Science Fayre at JYHS
Friday 21 March	P7 classroom at JYHS
Tuesday 25 March	Parent consultations 4.30-7.30pm (P5C to be rescheduled and TBC)
Wednesday 26 March	Parent consultations 4.30-7.30pm (P5C to be rescheduled and TBC) Building resilience assembly 3
Friday 28 March	P7 class at JYHS
Monday 31 March	P7 school camp all week
Friday 4 April	P7 camp return All break for Easter – return Tuesday 22 April

Thank you for your continued support.



Jane Livingston and Williamston Staff Team

