

# 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

November/December 2024

### School Improvement Update

At our October In-Service day, staff were working in two improvement groups. One is leading on UNCRC and the other is auditing our interdisciplinary framework and resources with a focus on building racial literacy. Staff also shared the work they have undertaken through their distributive leadership roles. We also worked on differentiation to meet learning needs as well as equitable classroom approaches. We ended the day with finalising our mindfulness training. Classes will formally begin the planned lessons on mindfulness in the new year, with teachers piloting elements of this between now and Christmas.

In case your child mentions any new adults working in their classes, we have a number of students working with classes at different stages across the school and ELC as part of their training.

During the week beginning 11 November, all classes will have the chance to have their pupil voices heard around playground opportunities at Williamston – what this looks like and feels like, what this involves, resources and opportunities. This will inform playground developments.

### Sharing our Learning

We welcomed a large number of P3 and P4 parents to our literacy and numeracy event recently, with some very positive feedback following the visit.

Our next parental engagement/family learning event is planned for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November for a P5-7 Health and Wellbeing event. We would welcome all families to come and see the range of health and wellbeing supports we have across school as both universal supports and interventions. This will then be followed by visits to classes P5-7 to see health and wellbeing in action. We tried to run this as an evening event last session. Feedback from those who came was very positive however this was not a well-attended evening event which is why we are running it during the school day.

### Wider Achievements

#### Cross Country

Our P7 X Country runners went to the West Lothian Championships just before the holidays and I am really pleased to announce that our Girls Teams came 1<sup>st</sup> place out of 7 Schools and our boys came 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 8 schools.

A fantastic achievement for both teams!

#### Football

*On Tuesday our school football team played at James Young High School for the first time. There were 8 schools taking part in total but we only played against 4 teams, Bankton, East Calder, Calderwood and Addiewell. In total we won 2 games, lost one and drew twice so overall we did pretty well.*

*Oliver*

### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Sustainable Development Goals and Well being Indicator focus.

Throughout October, we explored:

**Article 13** – Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

**Article 17** - Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand.

## **SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

### **Wellbeing Indicator – Safe**

We thought about the concept of “fake news” the reliability of sources, media and social media etc. In the early years this could be as simple asking “Could this really happen?” at story time and discussing the differences between fiction and non-fiction or looking at a photo-shopped image and asking questions. Further through the school we have explored the media and how to search for information safely and how to spot if a piece of information is accurate.

We also explored the conflict going on in the world at the moment and how the Rights of children in these countries are being affected and how safe they are.

In November and December we will be exploring:

**Article 27** – Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

### **SDG 2 – Zero hunger**

#### **Wellbeing Indicator – Healthy**

Our main focus here is **POVERTY** and how this does not just affect children in other countries and the link between poverty and not having the right to “a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development” met.

This month we will be learning about this within the context of **celebration meals**. Please speak with your child about celebration meals that are important in your culture or religion as we will be exploring these in school. We will also be exploring healthy eating and how celebration meals are often a time where we can treat ourselves.

We will also be asking for donations to the foodbank to help families in poverty. Look out for a home learning task all about celebration meals and more information on donations to the foodbank.

### **Health and Safety**

#### **Parent Contact Details for Being Winter Ready**

We would ask that parents and carers keep in mind that any changes to contact details are updated on the parent portal. We only use Groupcall for urgent messaging. The system uses the primary contact from Seemis to send the alert.

In the event of a snow day/bad weather, we open one entrance in the morning via breakfast club with a safe path being cleared from the lane to the entrance here. The car park is often not cleared until later and we would advise a park and stride for safety in the event of snow, especially given the incline to leave the exit. Should the school be closed, we would use Groupcall email/text to share with all parents/carers as soon as we know this is the case.

In the event of a school closure, P1-3 learning is posted on Seesaw and P4-7 learning is posted on Teams.

### **Parent Body News**

The next date for PC and PSA is 18<sup>th</sup> November. All are welcome.

#### **PSA Fundraising**

The PSA has been doing a power of work with book and tombola stalls at parent evenings and a hugely successful Halloween disco. Thank you to everyone involved in the organisation of these. So far around £1000 has been raised towards more technology equipment for all classes and ELC. The next event is a Family Bingo/Quiz night on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Look out for information from them about this event.

We continue to be registered as a school on the Asda Cashpot – see the school app for details. So far £300 has been raised which will all go towards the children choosing items for the playground.

### **Cost of the School Day**

Our Winted stalls were very successful at parent evenings with many items being reused and recycled. This is something we are keen to continue. Should your child grow out of any school uniform, fleeces, winter coats, Christmas jumpers, Halloween outfits, puddle suits, etc we would gratefully receive these for our Winted project.

At our Christmas lunch day, all children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper or something Christmassy to get in the spirit of the season. Please do not feel the need to buy anything new for this.

### **Extra Curricular Clubs**

Our extracurricular clubs have started for this term, with next term already planned. If your child is not attending on a set date, please let the office know. Also we would ask that all parents/carers collect their child promptly at the end of the club time.

### **Christmas**

As stated in the last newsletter, the nativity will be a ticketed event due to the capacity of the hall, with P1 performing and P2 singing. Both performances will be in the morning, with an initial 2 tickets per family available with a wait list for any spare tickets. There is a music event on Wednesday 11 December from 4-5pm with wind, brass and choir performing. Further details of these events and ticketing arrangements will be sent out in due course.

There will be parties for all stages as well as a pantomime 'in house trip' for all classes and the annual Christmas lunch organised by the kitchen. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper or something Christmassy for all of these. Dates for parties are outlined below. Christmas lunch date is now confirmed as Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Diary Dates**

Please refer to parent calendar sent out in August and also –

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Mon 4 Nov         | P6 and P7 Bonfire talk – in house visit  |
| Wed 6 November    | Building Resilience assembly<br>ELC vision session for ELC parents 5.30-6pm                          |
| Thurs 14 November | P7 Risk Factory trip   |
| Fri 15 November   | Pupil leadership groups  |
| Mon 18 November   | Road Safety Week<br>Parent Council and PSA meeting   |
| Tues 19 November  | P5 cluster expressive arts visit to JYHS 1   |
| Wed 20 November   | P5-7 Health and Wellbeing event 9am  |
| Thurs 21 November | Sky Academy visit for P6E AM   |
| Fri 22 November   | Choir Event at Dalmahoy  |
| Tues 26 November  | P5 cluster expressive arts visit to JYHS 2   |
| Wed 27 November   | Special Award assembly – Gold Music Award Presentation!  |
| Tues 3 December   | P5 cluster expressive arts visit to JYHS 3   |
| Wed 4 December    | Chaplain visit assembly<br>P2 theatre performance – in house trip. Details TBC                       |
| Thurs 5 December  | Christmas lunch day<br>Family Bingo and Quiz night 6-8pm   |
| Mon 9 December    | Nativity dress rehearsal<br>ELC singalong PM   |
| Tues 10 December  | Nativity 1 (Time estimated to start at 9.15am but TBC)   |
| Wed 11 December   | Nativity 2 (Time estimated to start at 9.15am but TBC)<br>Instrumental Music and Choir Concert 4-5pm |
| Thurs 12 December | ELC singalong AM   |
| Mon 16 December   | P6 party AM and P5 PM  |
| Tues 17 December  | P4 party AM and P3 PM<br>Bubblegum and Fluff – in house visit for P6<br>ELC party 1                  |
| Wed 18 December   | Pantomime In House Trip AM<br>P7 party PM  |
| Thurs 19 December | P2 party AM and P1 party PM<br>ELC party 2   |
| Fri 20 December   | All break for Christmas holiday, all return on 6 January.  |

**Thank you for your continued support.**



**Jane Livingston and Williamston Staff Team**

