

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

June 2025

Staffing Update

With our staffing for 2025-2026 confirmed, we can now share that the classes are ready. All pupils will meet their new teacher today, with those requiring enhanced transitions offered an extra time to meet their teacher supported by a social story either this afternoon or later this week.

Classes for next session are as follows -

Class	Teacher
1B	Rachael Banks
1H	Lauren Hurry
2/1	Rachel Bell
P2K	Nikki Kaplan
P2L	Noreen Lytle
P3P	Eva Petkova
P3TM	Susan Trotter (Mon, Tues, alt Fridays) Jenn McMillan (Wed, Thurs, alt Fridays)
P4HDK	Lisa Hall (Mon, Tues, alt Fridays) Natalia Donnelly-Kay (Wed, Thurs, alt Fridays)
P4WM	Bethany White Rachel McConnachie
P5C	Alex Champion
P5JM	Michelle Jempson Rachel McConnachie
P6E	Kirsty Ellis
P6L	Sarah Lindsay
P7C	Laura Christie
P7W	Owen Wicksted
SfL	Sharon Blair
RCCT specialist PE	Emma Howard
RCCT	Steph Kerr (Mon, Tues)
RCCT	Sarah Hardie (Tues, Wed)

0.5	Katie MacDonald
PT	Roisin Thomson

We welcome Michelle Jempson and Bethany White to our staff team this session. We say a sad farewell to Keiran Bryce, Sophie Stewart and to Abby Liddle. We also welcome back Rachel Bell and Natalia Donnelly-Kay back from maternity leave. We have also already welcomed back Maree Young as Depute Head Teacher.

We have some movement of classrooms this session, with P3 classes moving into the main corridor area and P4 classrooms moving into the corner classes, with both stages essentially swapping areas. This is to facilitate the smooth movement of pupils at key times such as breaks, lunches and end of day. Other information about play, entrances and exits is outlined below –

- All pupils can enter the school in the morning by any of the entrances from 0840 to 0850. All entrances close at 0850 promptly. All late arrivals should enter by the main office. Please plan for your journey to ensure that your child arrives before 0850 as it can be unsettling for them to arrive late.
- If using the car for drop off, children should enter by the gate at car line and walk into school from here where the supervised access is. Parents and carers should not use car line to drop off and walk to the rear of the school as this causes congestion for drop off.
- The allocated playgrounds are P1-3 in the courtyard and P4-7 in the container area, apart from the beginning of session where P7 buddies will support P1 in the courtyard initially.
- Wherever possible and weather permitting, children from P2-7 will play on the field. P1 will access this area of the playground later in the session.
- At the end of the day, car line from P1-4 will exit from the container entrance. Car line for P5-7 should exit from the P6/7 ramp exit.
- The end of the school day is 1515 and all pupils should be collected at this time. We have some limited supervision of car line to enable pupils to be safely collected from the car line gate. However, all supervision stops at 1530 at which time the children are brought into school and family contacted.
- For walking line, P1-3 should be collected from the courtyard. P4 will exit from the container exit. P5-7 will exit from the P6/7 ramp exit.
- Bus line is supervised by a PSW for both arrival and exiting school. Please do NOT use the bus without a valid ticket, be this annual, termly or weekly.
- Simply Play collect from the school hall. They send us a list of the children they will be collecting first thing in the morning. Unless we are notified otherwise, their collection list is the one our staff follow.
- We would ask that your child is clear about their end of day arrangements before coming to school each day.
- The school day is 0850-1515 Monday to Thursday and 0850-1225 on Fridays. We have 3 lunch sittings due to the numbers in the school and the size of the lunch hall.

School Improvement Update

Our Standards and Quality Report reflecting our work from this session 24/25 will be published September 2025. We are currently formalising our School Improvement Plan (SIP) for next session. Our identified priorities for next session are –

HWB	reviewing our vision, values and aims; our positive relationship strategy; technology in schools strategy; HWB curriculum offer; embedding our anti-bullying guidance
Literacy	moderation of writing across the cluster; review of our phonics programme and grammar/spelling programmes
Numeracy	building thinking classrooms; developing consistent approaches to numeracy across the cluster; STEM space maths project P5-7
DYW	young leaders programme; creative connections cluster programme; launch of reviewed IDL programme in line with building racial literacy; roll out the pilot of profiling using My World of Work at P6 this session across P4-7. We continue to embed outdoor learning, play based approaches and languages across all stages of the school and nursery.

Parental engagement/family learning opportunities will be offered to support –

- P1 and P2 literacy and numeracy

- Technology in schools development work
- Trauma informed practice and how we support learners with regulation/health and wellbeing

A calendar of key dates for parents and carers will be issued in August for session 25-26, including class assemblies, parent evenings and key events such as sports day, nativity, P7 leavers dates.

Wider Achievements

We are VERY proud to share with you how one of our P6 pupils, Sophie, is having a significant impact on inclusive sport—not just in her own school, but across West Lothian and beyond.

Sophie was invited by *Scottish Disability Sport* to speak at the **Scottish Parliament on June 5th**, as part of the UK-wide launch of *Relay Your Way*—a celebration of young people **living with a disability** who are helping to drive greater access and inclusion in play and sport. She addressed politicians and the First Minister, sharing her own experiences and the changes she's helped bring about.

Her journey started when she asked a vital question after being unable to participate in the Junior NBA tournament: *Why can't I be included?* From that moment, a broader conversation began—bringing together **basketballscotland**, *Active Schools*, and her club *Lothian Phoenix*, all of whom have been instrumental in turning those questions into action.

Sophie has been at the centre of that work—sharing her lived experience, speaking at conferences, helping to deliver training, and demonstrating IZB in real-world settings. Thanks to her leadership and the team effort around her, **Inclusive Zone Basketball (IZB)** is now being trialled in several schools, making it possible for runners and wheelchair users to play side by side on the same court.

We're especially pleased that through Sophie's work, our school has received a set of **sports chairs from Lothian Phoenix** as part of the pilot. This offers a great opportunity to further develop inclusive opportunities in P.E. and provide more pupils with the chance to experience accessible sport.

We thank you Sophie – a future leader of change in the making!

Parent Body News

As the school year comes to an end, we also have our Parent Council chair, Andy Walker, leaving us. Andy has been an incredible support to the school and to the staff team. We would like to extend a warm thanks to him for all his hard work, support and encouragement.

Please note that all parents and carers involved in either the Parent Council, PTA or both are now all required to hold PVGs as part of the changes to the guidance. Please contact the school office where Mary can assist anyone who wishes to be involved in the Parent Council, PTA or volunteer as a parent helper in school or for trips.

Diary Dates

Staff return to school Monday 11th August

Pupils return to school Wednesday 13 August.

Please note there are 2 in service days in August

SAVE THE DATE – MEET THE TEACHER TUESDAY 26 AUGUST 2025 6-7PM (ENTER VIA THE SMALL HALL)

Thank you for your continued support.



Jane Livingston and Williamston Staff Team

