

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/September 2025

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. Our new pupils have settled into their classes and new routines very well indeed – it is lovely to see new friendships and relationships blossom.

Staffing Update

Classes for 2025-2026 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 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.

Some Changes Within the School, including Entrances, Exits and Playgrounds

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

At our in-service day, all staff attending renewed their annual update training, as well as focusing on school improvement priorities for this session; preparing learning environments to support inclusive classrooms; digital learning and teaching approaches.

Our School Improvement Plan that identifies our priorities for this academic session 2025-2026, and our Standards and Quality Report that reflects our progress made last session 2024-2025, 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.

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.

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 and support children in their learning. These are outlined on the attached parent calendar of dates. Most of the sessions will start with a brief input about how we teach aspects of learning, such as reading, followed by seeing learning in action with a shared finish. We have tried to link the family learning aspect with the shared start/finish where we can.

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

- P1 and new families in P2 and 3 - literacy and numeracy
- Technology in schools development work – a series of sessions for a working group of parents to help us review the use of technology in schools.
- Trauma informed practice and how we support learners with regulation/health and wellbeing

Exciting News to Share!

Last session I shared that we had achieved our Emotionworks Bronze award and were working towards our Silver Award. Emotionworks is our core health and wellbeing programme that we use in school. We were awarded our GOLD award in July! We are delighted that the work we have undertaken to support the wellbeing of our children has been recognised.

We continue to support all classes with Building Resilience as we enter year 3 of this programme.

Sharing our Learning

Please find attached to this first newsletter of the year a list of key dates for session 2025-2026 you may find useful for the school session ahead for opportunities for sharing learning with you. These include class assemblies, parent evenings and key events such as sports day, nativity, P7 leavers dates. 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, Wider Achievement Celebrations, newsletters and assemblies. We have been developing online profiling through Seesaw for our nursery age children to P3 and My World of Work profiling 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 copy can be found on our website. The car park line is used for drop off and pick up only using the gate beside the drop off area. This is manned by support staff from 0830-0850 and 1515 to 1530. If you wish to collect your child from the classroom door, for example the P1 door, we ask that you park outwith the school car park and walk in.

Office Update

We are currently experiencing printing issues to be able to issue Ipayimpact logins for new parents and P1s. As soon as this is rectified, we will issue these to you all. A message will be sent on the app for parents to check school bags for your own unique log in.

Should you phone the office and the answerphone clicks on, please leave a message. There are occasions where staff may be away from their desks. The answerphone is checked at key points during the day.

Uniform

This is a plea to PLEASE ensure uniform is labelled clearly with your child's full name. We already have a box almost full of items lost just from this week with no name at all! We have managed to track down most items that are only initialled. However, with over 425 pupils it can take some detective work to find who owns a jumper only by initials!

Williamston Primary runs our Winted uniform where we can reuse and recycle nearly new uniform. This is free. All we ask is that you complete a Form so we can allocate the correct size for your child. This can be accessed at any time during the academic session. The link to the form and a QR code to take you there are below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/FbEfnXjzev>



Parent Body News

We welcome parent helpers to support classes with practical activities in school and trips outwith school. 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. There are changes within Disclosure Scotland relating to Parent Councils. Parent Councils need to be registered with Volunteer Scotland. In order for Williamston Primary to do this, we need to identify someone in our Parent Council who will be a signatory for all PVGs. We need to have an online verification of this person ahead of all other Parent Council members. Please contact the school office where Mary Shaw can assist anyone who wishes to be involved in the Parent Council, PTA or volunteer as a parent helper in school or for trips.

Parent Council/PTA meetings will be held on the following dates –

Monday 1st September
Tuesday 18th November
Monday 19th January
Tuesday 16th March
Monday 11th May

Diary Dates

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.



Jane Livingston and Williamston Staff Team

