



Westerton Primary News

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Special Points of Interest

- British Science Week
- Homework Consultation
- Pupil Voice
- House Mascot Competition
- British Science Week
- Eco/Junior Duke litter pick
- Tea with Miss T
- Wider Achievements



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www.westerton.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

School Twitter
@WestertonPri



Follow your child's class on Seesaw – please contact the school office if you need login details.



Dear Parents/ Carers,

It's been a busy term for us all, with lots of fun learning activities going on in every class. There have been trips to the Science Centre, class assemblies have taken place and we've had lots of visitors in the school to enhance learning and teaching. Visits from STEM ambassadors, MSP Rona Mackay, parent led internet safety workshops and SPCA sessions have contributed positively to the learning experiences of our pupils.



As we approach the end of term, I would like to remind you our Easter assemblies will take place on the last day of term, Friday 31st March, and we look forward to celebrating with our pupils and families. Our P1-3 classes will attend in the school hall at 9.30 am, and P4-7 will follow at 11am. Families who have children in both shows are invited to Westerton Parish Church for the interval. We look forward to seeing you there and remind you on this day school closes at 2.30pm.

We will be holding parent-teacher interviews on Thursday 16th March, where you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and discuss their progress. Please ensure that you have booked your appointment in advance, and if you are unable to attend or have not received an appointment email, please contact the school office as soon as possible. The travelling bookshop will be in the main foyer on parents' night, you are welcome to make purchases which generate funds for our library books.

We are in the process of consulting the school community regarding homework. This is a controversial subject with divided opinions relating to frequency, format, time taken and indeed if teacher and family time is better spent on other pursuits. Your input is important to us, and we will be using the feedback we receive to make an informed decision about how we approach homework at Westerton. We will be sharing the results of this survey with you in due course in partnership with our Parent Council, Junior Leadership Team and teaching staff. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey **by 24th March**, we appreciate your honest feedback. On parents' night, there will be a further opportunity to share your views on homework via a 'homework suggestion box' which will be situated in the main entrance.

<https://forms.office.com/e/9EWassuDs0>

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and restful Easter break. I hope that you are able to spend quality time with your families and enjoy some sunny Spring weather here or abroad. Thank you again for your ongoing support, and we look forward to seeing you back at school in the Summer term on Monday 17th April.

Yours sincerely
Kate Turnbull, Acting Headteacher



Pupil Voice



Children offer unique perspectives on what it is like to be a pupil at Westerton Primary School. As much as possible we involve pupils in decision-making helping create meaningful change and better outcomes, as well as facilitating a sense of empowerment, inclusion and a sense of belonging. This term we will be carrying out focused work with all classes to gain an insight into being a pupil at Westerton Primary School.

What is it and why is it important?

Pupil voice in schools means a whole-school commitment to listening to the views, wishes and experiences of our children. It means placing value on what children tell school staff about their experiences. Pupils need to be provided with meaningful opportunities to share their experiences, views and hopes about their school. They need to know that it is safe and that it is important for them to express their views on what happens at school. They need to know that what they say is valued and will be listened to and considered. Schools with a strong commitment to pupil voice have reported many positive outcomes. These include better behaviour, better relationships across the whole-school community, and improving attainment and attendance and an improved sense of belonging. Building on our 'nurture' approach and our commitment to promoting positive behaviour we are looking at ways to incorporate pupil voice in planning, teaching and learning and school improvement. This approach is in accordance with UNCRC Convention on Rights of the Child, Article 12 – Respect for Children's Views and the Right to Participation, which is now a legal right in Scotland.

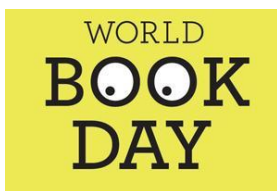
"Article 12 says that every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This principle recognises children and young people as actors in their own lives and applies at all times throughout a child's life."

(Convention on the rights of the child (1989)

accessed online <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-right-to-participation/>

The following news stories highlight just some of the opportunities our children have to participate at Westerton.

Reading Reps - World Book Day



We always make time for reading at Westerton Primary, and even more so as we gear up towards becoming a Reading School. On 2nd March, class Reading Reps helped us celebrate World Book Day. Many pupils chose to dress up as a book character, with a costume swap rail in place to ensure our impact on the planet and purse was minimised. Each class had their own book swap and everyone brought in their favourite book to read and share with friends. Peer reading opportunities saw older children reading with younger children as well as a special World Book Day

assembly delivered by primary 3. In class pupils watched World Book Day Live Lessons, held book quizzes, played book Kahoot!, read in weird places (under tables, outside), had a book scavenger hunt, designed book covers and book marks, wrote book reviews, played book Bingo, reading Jenga, book charades, book Guess Who? This list is not exhaustive! Thank you to our Reading Reps and teacher leaders who made Book Day fun.



British Science Week 2023

From 13th March we will be taking part in British Science Week and the theme this year is 'Connections'. Our Young STEM leaders will be visiting classes with cool science tricks and games they have been exploring each week in STEM club. Remember to check Seesaw and ask your child about their science related learning.

Our P7 Young STEM Leaders had an amazing experience at the STEM Activity Day run by Clyde College. They participated in three workshops, Digital Forensics, The Army and Practical Electronics. and had the opportunity to learn about lots of interesting careers in the field of STEM.



Food and Fair Trade Group - Fair Trade Fortnight



Our Food and Fair Trade Pupil Group have been supporting Fair Trade Fortnight encouraging classes to take part in lots of Fair Trade activities. This year, the focus was the uncertain future and security of some of our most loved, everyday products. Topics explored included food security and poverty and the way in which taking action to support Fairtrade can help to provide greater security for the products we love, the producers who grow them and our natural environment. We also renewed our Fair Trade School status, well done to our Food and Fair Trade pupil leadership group.



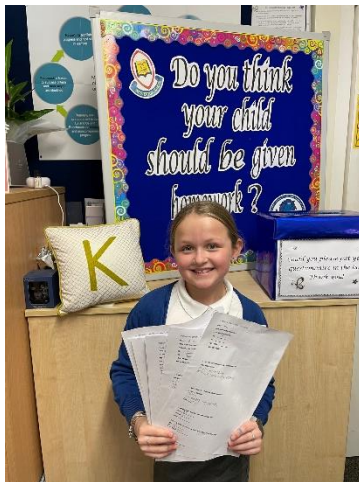
Thanks to all parents and carers who responded to the safe travel parents charter. In total 95 parents signed the pledge to commit to the charter set out by our JRSO's below.

Please do not park on the zig zags
Please remember 20's plenty
Please remember not to make three point turns near the school entrance
Please keep your eyes on the road as there are young children around
Please drive slowly in school zones
Please avoid bumping up pavements where children are walking
Please respect our local residents by leaving their driveways clear
Please remember to ask your child to get out of the car on the pavement side rather than the road side
Please hold your child's hand when crossing roads and help develop road sense
Try to walk some days or part of the journey
Remember the lollipop man can help your child have a safe journey

Don't just drive carefully near the school drive carefully everywhere!

Please remember it's your children we are trying to keep safe. 😊

Junior Leadership Team - Homework Consultation and 'Belonging' Focus group



Our Junior Leadership Team have visited all the classes in the school and have gathered the views of the people who do the homework – the pupils. The results are being collated and analysed, and ideas and suggestions have been very insightful. There will be an opportunity at parents' evening to share your views using the suggestion box pictured. The Junior Leadership Team have been using How Good is OUR School to look at what it feels like to 'Belong' at Westerton Primary School and will contribute to developing this across the school.

Eco Committee – Clean Up Scotland

This term, the Eco Committee worked with classes to improve the environment of the school and wider community. We can report that Cairnhill Woods, the local park and the school are all much cleaner after the litter pick. Tackling litter is one of the main goals on the Eco Committee action plan. The school grounds have also been massively improved with a weeding and planting morning.



House Captains – House Mascot Competition

Our House Captains launched a competition to design a Mascot for each house. Competition was tough, but here are our winning and runner-up designs. Congratulations and well done to all who entered the competition setting super-high standards.

WINNER!



Arran

Rachael P4/5

RUNNERS-UP



Rose P5



Lea P6

WINNER!



Islay

Ethan P4

RUNNERS-UP



Elliott P4



Darcy P7

WINNER!



Skye

Summer P3

RUNNERS-UP



Leia P5



Eilidh P7

WINNER!



Tiree

Lexie P5

RUNNERS-UP



Abbie P6/7



Euan P1H

Celebrating Achievements in Whole School Assemblies

Tea with Miss T

Well done to all the nominees for Tea with Miss T. So many lovely stories were shared of hard work, kindness and respectful behaviour. Keep up the good work everyone!



Wider Achievements

The pupils in Westerton are so talented and it never ceases to amaze us what they get up to out of school. From sponsored silences raising thousands of pounds for charity, to a whole host of sporting achievements. We love to hear about our pupils' wider achievements. Pictured below is a combination of Junior Duke and wider achievement certificates from our last assembly. Well done!

Tennis Talent

Congratulation to our P4 pupil who recently competed in the Lawn Tennis Association's top 16 national competition in Sutherland. James came 6th out of 16, which a very impressive achievement, congratulations!



PIC·COLLAGE

PTA Update from Mrs Cumming our PTA Chair Quiz Night - Thank you to our children and parents for donating so many bottles to support the PTA quiz prize pot. The event was well attended and a special thank you to our host and musical genius parent Mr Rasmussen. £400 was raised which will buy a new iPad.

Parent Council

This is your invitation to join the Parent Council. If you are a parent or carer with a child attending Westerton Primary School and are able to volunteer your time to help be a voice for others and help support the pupils of the school, please get in touch. We meet at least once each term and expect to have occasional extra meetings from time to time. Everyone benefits (children, parents and teachers) when parents and schools work effectively together to support learning.

For more information check out the links on the school website:

<http://www.westerton.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/parents-info/parent-council/>

Email your interests and questions to: wpspc@gaggle.email

DATES TO REMEMBER

As we are awaiting confirmation from EDC regarding the King's coronation holiday, this date has not been included.

March

Monday 13th March
 Monday 13th & Tues 14th March
 Wednesday 15th March
 Thursday 16th March
 Friday 17th March

Monday 20th-31st March
 Wednesday 29th March
 Friday 31st March

British Science Week
 SPCA class visits
 Placing requests deadline
 Parents' Evening from 3.30pm
 Red Nose Day (non-uniform)
 2.15pm P4 assembly
 Sustrans Big Walking Wheel begins
 Tempest class photographs
 P1-P3 Easter Service 9.30am
 P4-7 Easter Service 11am
 School closes 2.30pm until 17 April

April

Monday 17th April
 Friday 21st April – 23rd
 Monday 24th April

School reopens 9am
 Primary training orchestra
 Parent Council Meeting (In school)

May

Monday 1st May
 Tuesday 2nd May
 Monday 15th May to Friday 19th May
 Wednesday 17th May
 Wednesday 24th May
 Friday 26th May to Monday 29 May (Inclusive)

Holiday
 Inservice Day (school closed to pupils)
 Primary Orchestra Residential
 Parent Council Meeting (online)
 Sports Day (weather permitting)
 Holiday

June

Tuesday 13th June
 Friday 23rd June
 Friday 23 June
 Wednesday 28th June

Junior Duke Garden Party
 Progress Reports issued
 P7 Leavers Assembly (9.15am School hall)
 Last Day of Term (close at 1pm)

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/school-holidays>

ASSEMBLIES

(Assemblies begin at 2.15pm)

P1T	12-May-23
P1H	02-Jun-23
P2	05-May-23
P4	17-Mar-23
P5	21-Apr-23

P7 Leavers

9.15 am P7 Leavers Assembly (P7 parents)	23-June-23
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