



Westerton Primary News

NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Special Points of Interest

- Junior Duke Programme
- Sharing the Learning event
- Maths Week Scotland
- Sumdog
- Staffing
- PTA and Parent Council



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School Twitter
@WestertonPri



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

Seesaw

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and rejuvenated after a wonderful Summer break. As we embark on a new school year, I am thrilled to welcome all our pupils back to Westerton Primary School for what promises to be another year filled with fun, learning and exciting opportunities. A very special welcome is extended to our new pupils and their families.



We are delighted to have our dedicated teaching and support staff back ready to inspire and guide pupils on their educational journey. Already, class charters are being drawn up across the school incorporating children's rights and interests. Westerton Primary School is now fully committed to becoming a Rights Respecting School.

This session we have enrolled 33 primary one children in August and new families moving into the area brings our school roll to 285 pupils across 11 classes. School staff have been working very hard to make the learning environment bright and welcoming and we very much hope your child has enjoyed being back at school.

As always we are committed to creating a dynamic and stimulating learning environment where each child can thrive academically, socially and emotionally. We have an array of exciting activities, events and projects planned. This year, as well as our usual committees we have a new opportunity for pupils who can now apply to join the Rights Respecting group led by Mrs Hart, Miss Olsen, Miss McNeill and Mrs Berry. We continue to offer all our pupils the opportunity to take part in the Junior Duke programme and Mrs Michie and Mr Campbell have already visited all classes and held a parent information session.

We will be offering Forest Schools after school sessions for all year groups this year starting with P5 in September. We will be in touch over the course of the year to offer more extra-curricular activities as opportunities arise. If we have any parents or carers who would like to run a club either at lunch or after school, please contact the school office to discuss. Meanwhile our P7s are excitedly anticipating their residential to Dalguise and we hope they all have a fantastic week away, learning independence, resilience and forging memories that will last a lifetime.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views on the school and your child's learning last session. This feedback has helped shape our school improvement plan for 2023-24. As well as developing our knowledge of Children's Rights, this year's School Improvement Priorities continue to have a literacy focus. We will be embedding our genre approach to writing, implementing active spelling and aiming for Reading Schools Gold. Further details of our school improvement priorities and pupil equity funding will be posted on our website very soon.

Finally, I would like to encourage parents to consider joining our Parent Teacher Association or our Parent Council. Parental partnerships have huge potential to enrich our pupil's experiences and shape our school's journey. Together let's make this year a memorable and successful one.

Welcome back and let the learning adventure begin!

Warmest regards,
Kate Turnbull, Acting Headteacher

Pupil Leadership Opportunities

Pupil Leadership opportunities at Westerton for session 2023-24 are listed below and have been shared with pupils in assembly and class. I would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to apply for a committee and if there are a few they are interested in – even better. Participation in school committees is a fantastic forum for pupil voice in school and beyond. Teachers can answer any questions and explain what the committees are and their expected contribution.

Details of Pupil Leadership Opportunities

P1-7 Junior Leadership Team - Miss Turnbull & Mr Campbell

P1-7 Rights Respecting - Mrs Hart, Mrs Olsen, Mrs Berry, Miss Holsgrove & Miss McNeill

P1-7 Class Reading Reps - Mrs Berry, Mrs Macnab & Miss Turnbull

P1-7 Eco Committee - Miss McNeill & Miss Queen

P7 Young STEM Leaders – Mrs Taheny & Mr Campbell

P6 Junior Road Safety Officers - Mrs Hart

P6 Digital Leaders - Mr Campbell and Miss Holsgrove

P4, P5 & P6 Food and Fair Trade Committee - Mrs Grant and Miss Moore

P2-7 Sports Committee - Miss Deans & Miss Crumlish

P6 Playground Leaders - Miss Deans, Miss Crumlish & Miss Boyes Active Schools Coordinator

Junior Duke

Once again all pupils in Westerton will be given the opportunity to participate in the Junior Duke programme. We were delighted with the uptake of Junior Dukes last year. Pupil feedback highlights how much our learners enjoyed taking part. Pupil comments include:

- I liked caring for others because I got to knit and feel proud that what I knitted will be part of a big blanket that will be sent to help people in Africa.
- I liked the shopping challenge, I liked helping Mummy.
- I liked all the challenges because they were all new things.
- I liked the swimming, I want to be a Marine Biologist and when I go to Skye I can go swimming.
- Probably I liked the art because we laughed a lot and had lots of fun.
- I really enjoyed the first aid because I got to learn with my friends.
- The cookery was good because it was the first time I made a full meal for my family and it was fun.
- I liked the cookery challenge because usually my Mum cooks for me but this time I did it for myself.
- Crocheting was fun, hard at first, but I learned how to do it.

Following class visits and a parent meeting Junior Duke applications should be completed and returned as soon as possible. Junior Dukes is a scheme similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards but for younger children. Junior Duke encourages participation in activities which develop life skills such as cookery, first aid, music, drama and much more. There is a charge of £10 which provides the children with a booklet and their final certificate badge and celebration event.

Maths Week Scotland

Maths week Scotland is fast approaching and we have a host of numeracy related activities lined up for all ages. Every class will be celebrating Maths Week Scotland from 26th - 29th September by participating in the EDC Maths Week Sumdog competition. Thank you to Mrs Archibald and Mrs Grant, our Numeracy Teacher Leaders and EDC Maths Champions, for coordinating this event. We are always looking for parents and carers to support maths week by delivering workshops or by sharing a mathematical puzzles or activities with the children. To find out more, please visit <https://www.mathsweek.scot/> and to volunteer please contact the School Office.



Sumdog

We have renewed our Sumdog subscription. It was agreed we would use some of our Pupil Equity Funding to subscribe to Sumdog Spelling and Grammar to support school improvement priorities in literacy. We hope you enjoy the benefits of Sumdog in home learning activities. Every pupil has full access to Sumdog and pupils have been issued with a personal log in. Please contact the class teacher via Seesaw if you need a login reminder.



Seesaw and Twitter

Communication between home and school is crucial, so please ensure your child has access to Seesaw and you follow @Westertonpri on Twitter. Teachers post at least one update per week for each child in their class and parents are encouraged to check in regularly and to comment upon Seesaw and Twitter posts. Each term pupil literacy and numeracy targets will be shared on Seesaw alongside information relating to other curricular areas including social subjects, science and health and wellbeing. Work posted will evidence progress being made towards the set targets and provides parents with insight into the learning taking place in class.

Staffing

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our two probationer teachers Miss Louise Queen, P2 teacher and Miss Eilidh Holsgrove, P6. We also have a new Support for Learning Assistant Mr Dylan Ellis. A full staff list can be found on the Westerton Primary School website.

School Staff 2023-24

Head Teacher (Acting)	Miss Turnbull
Depute	Mrs Hart
Principal Teacher	Mr Campbell
P1	Mrs Taheny
P1/2	Mrs Henderson
P2	Miss Queen and Miss Moore
P3	Mrs Berry
P3/4	Mrs McQueen Mon, Tues, Wed & Mrs Grant Wed, Thurs, Fri
P4	Mrs Macnab Mon, Tues, Wed & Mrs Michie Thurs, Fri
P5/6	Miss Crumlish
P5	Miss McLaren
P6	Miss Holsgrove and Mr Campbell
P6/7	Miss Deans
P7	Mrs Archibald Mon, Tues, Wed & Mrs Brown Wed Thurs Fri
NCC teachers	Miss McNeill, Mrs Olsen, Miss Moore
Classroom Assistants	Mrs Purdie & Mrs Cunningham
SLAs	Miss Gray, Miss Gallagher & Mr Ellis
Office Staff	Mrs Cumming & Mrs Flynn

PE guidance

It is important we keep everyone safe during PE lessons. Pupils are asked to take out their earrings and remove jewellery, watches and fitness trackers to participate physically in PE. Children who are unable to take out their earrings will be given alternative tasks relating to PE e.g. keeping scores/ timing/ etc until they are able to remove their earrings. Please take this into account if you are considering getting your child's ears pierced mid-session.

Letters and Admin

Please ensure all relevant paperwork is completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible. It is imperative that the school office is informed promptly of any changes to your circumstances and/or contact details throughout the year. If you haven't already done so, please could all parents register for Parents Portal as we are moving towards online paperless forms. All children should have a Cashless Catering account regardless of Free Meal entitlement as this is our system for registering school lunches. The office is currently processing the following items and would appreciate the swift return of any outstanding paperwork

- Annual Data Checks
- Medical information
- Administration of medicine consent forms
- Dietary Information –updates
- EV3 permission forms
- Flu immunisation consent
- Photo permissions
- P7 Health Check forms
- P7 Residential paperwork
- Junior Duke enrolment and payment

Absences and attendance

We promote positive attendance at school at all times. We urge parents to inform the school office as far in advance as possible of any planned absences. Requests for time off during term time must be made in writing/email to the Head Teacher. All absences must be communicated to the school office before 9.30am. Failure to notify us of an absence will trigger emergency procedures if we are unable to contact you.

Seasonal Flu Immunisation Programme

The seasonal flu immunisation programme is being delivered in school on the morning of Wednesday 27th September and parents will have received consent packs. Further information can be found at www.nhsinform.scot/childflu.

Christmas Nativity / Christmas Concert

This year we have made a few changes to our Christmas shows. Primary 1 and Primary 2 will be performing the Nativity at 2pm on Thursday 14th December and again at 9.30am on Friday 15th December. There will be a Christmas Concert on Tuesday 19th December at 2pm and then again on Wednesday 20th December at 9.30am for Primary 3 to Primary 7 **only**. Parents and families can attend either show and any extra tickets will be made available nearer the time.

Sharing the Learning Event and Class Assemblies

I am delighted to extend a warm invitation to parents/carers to visit the school at 2.15pm on Tuesday 20th September. This informal visit will give you the opportunity to see your child's classroom, look at their work, participate in active spelling activities and to meet the teacher. As far as possible, I ask that just one parent attends per child as it can be overwhelming for some of our pupils. To avoid congestion at the school office, please could you sign in and out at the entrance of your child's classroom.

Class assemblies will be returning this session. You will receive an invitation nearer to the time of your child's assembly and the first of the year will be on October 6th when P7 will share their residential experiences with parents/ carers and the rest of the school. The class assemblies schedule has been added to the dates section of this newsletter for your convenience.



CLASS ASSEMBLIES 2023-24

(Assemblies begin at 2.15pm)

P1	07-Jun-24
P1/2	17-May-24
P2	22-Mar-24
P3	15-Mar-24
P3/4	23-Feb-24
P4	08-Mar-24
P5	10-Nov-23
P5/6	10-May-24
P6 and P6/7 (P6's only)	09-Feb-24
P7 year group	06-Oct-23

Neighbours

I would like to thank you for your continued support in showing consideration to our neighbours when collecting and dropping off your children. I gently remind you not to park on the zigzags at the entrance to school to keep our children safe. I am also informing you dogs are not permitted in the playground. At drop off and pick up please ensure dogs are kept outside the perimeters - thank you for your cooperation. Parents may also be interested to learn East Dunbartonshire Council have removed all anti-social behaviour signage from the playground.

PTA

New in post Westerton PTA Chair, Katy Allan, is looking forward to kicking off the year with her first fundraiser and is looking forward to getting new parents on board. She would like to encourage any interested parties to contact her at katy_allan@hotmail.com.

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

Parent Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for parent volunteers to run afterschool clubs and deliver workshops. If you feel this is something you could help with, I would love to hear from you. I am open to all ideas, one-off sessions or a commitment to a

longer period. Our improvement priorities have a literacy focus so I would love to have parent volunteers for reading and/or writing sessions. We also have a focused Maths week in September and a Science week in March. Parental engagement opportunities enrich pupil experiences enormously; if you feel you have something to offer please get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you.

DATES TO REMEMBER

28 August	Junior Dukes Parent Meeting on Teams 6pm
29 August	P7 & P6 SFA after school football begins
8 September	Term 1 learning targets shared on Seesaw School Committees application deadline
11-15 September	P7 Residential to Dalguise (return approx. 4pm Friday) Hands up Scotland Survey
12 September	P5 Forest Schools after school begins
14 September	P3 Forest Schools after school begins
20 September	Sharing the learning P1-P7, 2.15pm all parents/carers welcome
22 – 25 September	Holiday (inclusive)
26-29 September	Maths Week Scotland
27 September	Flu vaccines
6 October	TBC 6pm Parent Council Meeting (Teams)
13 October	P7 Year Group Assembly 2.15pm
16-20 October	Holiday (inclusive)
23 October	Show Racism the Red Card (non-uniform/ wear red)
27 October	Hallowe'en/ non-uniform (donation to school funds)
8 November	Parents' Night
9 November	P7 Forest Schools after school begins
10 November	P5 Class Assembly 2.15pm
20 -24 November	Book Week Scotland
TBC November	Into Film Cinema Visits (more details to follow)
TBC December	PTA Christmas Fayre (10.30am – 12.30pm)
TBC December	PTA Christmas Disco (Primary one to four 6pm-7pm, primary five to seven 7.15pm-8.15pm)
7 December	Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children) and Christmas Lunch
14 December	P1 & P2 Nativity (2pm)
15 December	P1 & P2 Nativity (9.30am)
18 December	P3, P3/4, P4 Party (1.30pm)
19 December	P1, P1/2, P2 Party (1.30pm)
20 December	P3-7 Christmas Concert (2pm) P3-7 Christmas Concert (9.30am)
21 December	P5, P5/6, P6 Party (1.30pm)
22 December	P6/7 & P7 Party (1.30pm)
23 Dec - 8 January	School close at 2.30pm Holiday (inclusive)
25 January	P6 Forest Schools after school begins
2 February	Term 2 learning targets shared on Seesaw NSPCC Number Day (non-uniform, NSPCC donation)
5 February	Safer Internet week
9 February	P6 & P6/7 (6's only) Assembly 2.15pm
12 – 14 February	Holiday (14 th Inservice day)
22 February	World Thinking Day (club uniform or extra-curricular activity may be worn)
23 February	P3/4 Class Assembly 2.15pm
4 March	World Book Day (Non-uniform/ book theme outfit may be worn)
7 March	P4 Forest Schools after school begins
8 March	P4 Class Assembly 2.15pm
11 – 15 March	Science Week
14 March	Parents' evening
15 March	Red Nose Day (Non-uniform – suggested donation £1)
22 March	P3 Class Assembly 2.15pm
28 March	P2 Class Assembly 2.15pm
29 March – 14 April	Easter Service (AM) School closes 2.30pm Holiday (inclusive)
15 April	P1 Forest Schools after school begins
2 May	Inservice day (School closed to pupils)
3 May	Term 3 learning targets shared on Seesaw
1 May	P2 Forest Schools after school begins
10 May	P5/6 Class Assembly 2.15pm
17 May	P1/2 Class Assembly 2.15pm
23 May	Sports Day (Weather permitting)

24-27 May

7 June

11 June

21 June

26 June

Holiday (inclusive)

P1 Class Assembly 2.15pm

Junior Duke Garden Party

P7 Leavers Assembly

Reports issued

End of Term - School closes 1pm