



Westerton Primary News

NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Special Points of Interest

- Into Film Cinema Visits
- Family Reading Afternoon
- Book Week Scotland
- P7 Residential
- Staffing
- PTA Update



School communication details:

Westerton Primary School
Crarae Avenue
Bearsden
G61 1HY

Tel: 0141 955 2261

office@westerton.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

School website:
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.

Seesaw



Dear Parents and Carers,
As we step into the heart of autumn, I wanted to take a moment to update you on the exciting events and activities happening at Westerton Primary. There's so much to look forward to in the coming weeks.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our supportive parents for their generous donations to the school - time money and supplies all very much appreciated, thank you! We are delighted to report that we have recently purchased ten new iPads to support teaching and learning thanks to PTA fundraising initiatives.

Our parent-teacher interviews are just around the corner. We eagerly await your presence and the chance to discuss your child's development. If you have not already done so, please book your appointment today. The travelling Book Fair will be on the stage throughout the evening for you to visit and purchase books. I would also urge you to take a moment to visit the Parent Post Box. We are hoping to build an information bank of parent jobs for teachers to dip into to enhance teaching and to connect learning to real-world experiences.

Book Week Scotland is another highlight on our calendar. It's a celebration of literature and reading, and we'll be engaging our pupils in reading activities and adventures including author visits for all classes. Encouraging a love for books is a cornerstone of this year's school improvement priorities (available to view on our [website](#)) and we hope this reading focused week has a positive impact.

Our commitment to improving literacy continues with our weekly library visits for all classes at Westerton Library. We believe that fostering a love for reading is a lifelong gift, and these visits are a fundamental part of our reading school journey. Children who have already attended thoroughly enjoyed their visit and many books have been borrowed.

And, of course, it wouldn't be this time of year without mentioning Christmas. We have a host of festive events and activities planned to make this holiday season special. Pantos, parties, a Nativity and a Christmas show. The PTA will also be hosting the annual Christmas Fayre again this year and they will be starting the festive fun with a charity Santa Dash. Stay tuned for more details as we approach the most wonderful time of the year.

Reflecting on recent events, our P7 pupils had an unforgettable experience during their residential trip at Dalguise House. Such experiences are integral to their personal growth and development and we were so proud of each and every one of them.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a vibrant and enriching environment for your children. We look forward to the adventures that lie ahead in the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely
Kate Turnbull, Acting Headteacher



Show Racism the Red Card

Our House and Vice Captains have worked hard to promote and raise awareness of Show Racism the Red Card. We all took part on Monday 23rd October and are delighted to have **raised over £160** for this worthwhile charity. Children also took part in lessons in class around understanding diversity and accepting everyone for who they are.



Mary Quant Exhibition

Primary 5/6 and Primary 6 had a fantastic time at the Mary Quant exhibition at the Kelvingrove. They had great fun designing their own pieces inspired by Mary Quant's work. Both classes were a credit to the school on the train and at the Art Galleries - well done everyone! Here's a summary of the day written by the pupils.

First we went on the train to Partick, we had to squeeze in because it was so busy. It took us about 7 minutes on the train and about 15-20 minutes to walk to the art museum from Partick. When we arrived we had our snack and had some free time to explore the museum. First we looked at the animals then went through to the extinct animals section and then through to the ancient Egypt room. The room next door was information and objects from the olden days and a little area all about the rainforest. When we finished exploring we had lunch outside. There were so many pigeons so we had to go inside. After lunch we went to the gift shop and bought things like bouncy balls. Once we finished our lunch it was time for the workshop, we were looking at fashion from the 1960s because that is what we are learning about. The workshop was called 'The Mary Quant exhibition'. Mary Quant is a fashion designer from the 1960s. We looked at her designs and sketched some designs inspired by her creations. We also created a 1960s outfit. It was a great trip, we had lots of fun.



Flat Stanley's Adventures

Primary 4 have been learning about Flat Stanley and have posted Flat Stanleys all around the world.

Mrs Michie was reading books about Flat Stanley to us and we enjoyed them. We learned that he got flattened by a bulletin board when he was sleeping. He used to be an ordinary boy but now he was as thin as paper.

We had the idea to make him travel around the world in an envelope. We all created our own Flat Stanley and they had great fun going to visit our relatives and travelling to lots of places. We sent them to friends, cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents. Our Stanleys went to lots of different places. One made a short journey to Partick and two had a much longer journey to New Zealand and Australia. One went to New York and saw the Statue of Liberty, one to the Rugby World Cup, to Canada and another went to Bute House in Edinburgh and met the First Minister Hamza Yousaf. Mr Yousaf even sent us a video message to tell us he read the Flat Stanley books when he was young.

It has been very exciting because Flat Stanley has visited so many places. We have looked forward to receiving our letters back at the school and hearing about all of their adventures.



INTO FILM

We are very excited to once again take part in the Into Film Festival. Following our morning at the cinema, children will take part in literacy activities linked to the film. Last year's films provided fantastic inspiration for writing with children producing creative and engaging pieces of writing.

November Cinema Visits



Tuesday 14 November
Elemental GFT P5-7



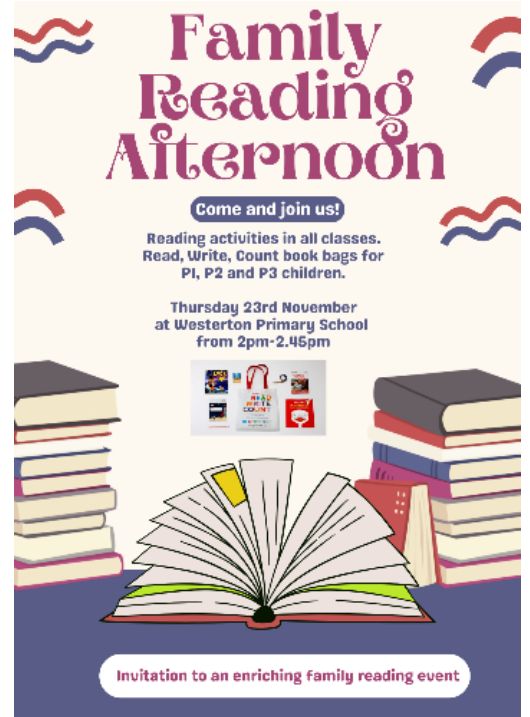
Wednesday 22 November
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile Silverburn P1-2



Friday 24 November
Chicken Run (New) GFT P3-4

P1 Registration

This is to remind you, new P1 registrations opened on 1st November running to 30th November and we urge you to apply online via the EDC website. Mrs Hart will be offering prospective parents and pupils a tour of the school on Tuesday 28 November at 4pm. Catchment and non-catchment pupils and parents are all welcome on this day.



As we work toward our Reading Schools Gold Award we have been engaging with the wider community. Classes are all scheduled to visit the local library and there will be designated displays at the library and in Tesco Milngavie. Classes have been sharing their reading recommendations in assemblies and everyone looks forward to finding out about favourite books from other classes. For Book Week Scotland we have arranged live author visits for all classes. Children will have the opportunity to purchase books from these authors with order forms sent out in advance of the visits.

Wednesday 15th November

Janis Mackay, author of the 'Magnus and the Fin' series, will conduct an imaginative writing workshop with P3, P3/4 and P4.

Thursday 16th November

Metaphrog, Comic Book creators, will conduct an interactive workshop with P5, P5/6, P6, P6/7 and P7.

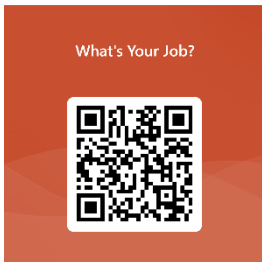
Friday 17th November

Kate McMillan, author of the 'Haggis MacDougall' books, will visit P1, P2/1 and P2 for an interactive storytelling session.

Welcome to our Family Reading Afternoon

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to parents/carers to visit the school at 2.15pm on Thursday 23rd November to attend a Family Reading Afternoon where Read, Write, Count book bags will be gifted to all pupils P1-P3. P4-7 pupils will share their reading themed learning with you. This visit will give you the opportunity to be involved in your child's learning and be a part of our Reading Schools journey. To avoid congestion at the school office, please could you sign in and out at the entrance of your child's classroom.

What's Your Job? Request for parental job information to support learning activities



We believe that the collective knowledge and expertise of our school community could greatly enhance the educational journey of our pupils. To achieve this, we would like to create an information bank of your jobs for our teachers to access to enrich their teaching and classroom activities. If you are willing to participate please take a moment to provide your details using the link below, or share via the 'Parent Post Box' at parents' night. We appreciate your support in making our school an even better place for learning.

<https://forms.office.com/e/LbH1v3CXPR>

Working Towards Becoming a Rights Respecting Schools

Our pupil Rights Committee are working together to ensure all children and staff are aware of Children's Rights. They have created an action plan and are well on the way to achieve the Rights Respecting Schools Bronze committed award. Work will then commence on setting out a plan to achieve Silver award. They have led a lesson on children's rights in each class with confidence and will be sharing updates in assemblies. Well done, we are proud of you.



P7 Residential

Primary Seven had an unforgettable time during their recent residential trip to Dalguise House, situated in Perth and Kinross. They shared a fabulous assembly with the school when they returned.



Here's what Primary 7 said

'My best achievement at Dalguise was when I was able to climb all the way to the top of the vertical challenge. I felt really happy, but it was a bit scary as it was so high up!' JP

My favourite memory of Dalguise was when I thought I wouldn't make it to the top of the Trapeze swing but I hit the ball when I thought I couldn't. I was really happy.' AR

'I enjoyed the Fruit Fusion machine which we used at mealtimes to get our drinks and my favourite activity was raft building. It was really fun when me and all my friends fell in.' SA

'My favourite activity was abseiling because I felt proud that I did it. I wasn't sure at first and then my instructor let me try hanging on the rope which made me feel safe and confident to give it a go.' LM

'The thing that I enjoyed most was the trapeze because I was able to go first in my group and managed to climb up and then jump off the platform and hit the ball. I felt a rush of excitement as I hit the ball and fell back down.' PC

Smart STEM visit to Clyde College

A group of Primary 7 pupils attended a special STEM event where they participated in workshops and activities that demonstrated the uses of STEM in work and in life. They learned about hydroponics and coding games. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, taking the opportunity to speak to experts and ask questions.



Seasonal Flu Immunisation Programme

The seasonal flu immunisation programme was postponed due to industrial action and is now scheduled for Thursday 30th November. Further information can be found at www.nhsinform.scot/childflu.

Staffing

Good luck to Miss McLaren who begins her maternity leave this month, we are in the process of recruiting and will update parents when this is complete. Mrs Cumming, our Office Admin Assistant is having a hip operation and will be absent until the start of December. We also wish Mrs Flynn, Clerical, Assistant good luck in her new post which begins on 13th November. During November and December, the school Office will be staffed mostly by School Support Coordinator, Michelle Brown and Classroom Assistant, Mrs Purdie is helping out in the mornings and after school. We appreciate your patience when calling and emailing.

Christmas Nativity / Christmas Concert

This is a reminder that we have made a few changes to our Christmas shows this year. Primary 1 and Primary 2 will be performing a Nativity at 2pm on Thursday 14th December and again at 9.30am on Friday 15th December. Primary 3 to Primary 7 **only** will perform in a School Christmas concert on Tuesday 19th December at 1.15pm and then again on Wednesday 20th December at 9.30am. Parents and families can attend either show and any extra tickets will be made available. We look forward to welcoming our families to the school.

Scrumptious panto fun for everyone!

This Christmas Macastory will be visiting the school on 13 December to perform their Bake Off themed version of Hansel & Gretel! It's a recipe for laughs galore as Gretel goes head to head with the witch, Pure Leith in a Great Christmas Bake Off... will Gretel save the day or will Pure Leith make a meal out of Hansel? Find out as the proof is in the Christmas pudding!

JRSOs Keeping You Safe

Our JRSOs have enjoyed being out at the gates at 8.50am and 3pm helping to promote safe travel. You should already have received an email with their findings. Thank you for taking the time to drive and park carefully.



PTA Update

The Westerton PTA have lots of fun and exciting things planned for the coming months. The Hallowe'en disco on 1st November got us off to a great start raising over £1,000 for the school.

100 Club - We had an incredible response to the 100 club and the first draw saw one lucky member win a prize of £50.00. Next draw will be in November, so if you want to enter, please hand £10 to the school office, in an envelope with your number and contact number. You've got to be in it to win it!!!!

To kick start the festive season, there will be a dress down day on Friday 17 November to bring in raffle donations for the Christmas Fayre. We will be holding the first Westerton Primary School Santa Dash on Friday 1st December at 3pm. Children will receive a Santa hat and prize for taking part. A donation will be made on behalf of the school to a local food bank. Information will be sent to you in the coming weeks.

Our annual Christmas Fayre is open to the whole community and we would welcome any donations for our home baking stall. There will be the opportunity to purchase crafts made by the children as well as local craft stalls. There will also be raffles, Santa's grotto, face painting and a café selling hot dogs and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you all there! Interested parties should contact the Chair at katy_allan@hotmail.com.

PTA Dates for the Diary

- Santa Dash Friday 1st December 2023 3-3.30pm
- Christmas Fayre Saturday 2nd December 2023 10-12pm
- Christmas Disco Thursday 21st December 2023 P1-P3 6 – 7.10pm, P4-7 7.15-8.30pm
- Family Shindig Friday 26th January 2024 TBC
- Quiz Night Friday 1st March 2024 TBC
- Eurovision Party Saturday 11th May 2024 TBC
- Spring Disco Thursday 25th April 2024 P1-P3 6 – 7.10pm, P4-7 7.15-8.30pm
- Summer Fun Day TBC

Facebook - To keep up to date with all the PTA news, events and 100 club winners, please follow our Facebook page Westerton Primary School PTA



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 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

November

1 - 13 November	Scholastic Travelling Book Fair
8 November	Parents' Night
13 November	Anti-Bullying Week
9 November	P7 Forest Schools after school begins
10 November	P5 Class Assembly 2.15pm
13 November	Book Week Scotland
14 November	Into Film Cinema Visit P5-7
17 November	Dress down day (Children in need themed if you wish) for PTA raffle donations
22 November	Into Film Cinema Visit P1 & P2
23 November	Family Reading Afternoon
24 November	Into Film Cinema Visit P3 & P4
28 November	New start prospective P1 school tour
30 November	Flu immunisation

December

1 December	PTA Santa Dash (3pm)
2 December	PTA Christmas Fayre (10.00am – 12.00pm)
7 December	Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children) and Christmas Lunch
13 December	Panto- Hansel and Gretel (Macastory)
14 December	P1 & P2 Nativity (2pm)
15 December	P1 & P2 Nativity (9.30am)
	P3, P3/4, P4 Party (1.30pm)
18 December	P1, P1/2, P2 Party (1.30pm)
19 December	P3-7 Christmas Concert (1.15pm- note the earlier start time)
20 December	P3-7 Christmas Concert (9.30am)
	P5, P5/6, P6, P6/7 Party (1.30pm)
21 December	P6/7 & P7 Party (1.30pm)
21 December	PTA Christmas Disco (P1-P3 6 – 7.10pm, P4-7 7.15-8.30pm)
22 December	School close at 2.30pm
23 Dec - 8 January	Holiday (inclusive)

January

25 January	P6 Forest Schools after school begins
26 January	PTA Family Shindig (details TBC)

February

2 February	Term 2 learning targets shared on Seesaw
	Wider Achievements Assembly
	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 In-service day)
22 February	World Thinking Day (club uniform or extra-curricular activity may be worn)
23 February	P3/4 Class Assembly 2.15pm

March

1 March	PTA Quiz Night
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 to 15 March	Science Week
14 March	Parents' evening
15 March	Red Nose Day (Non-uniform – suggested donation £1)
	P3 Class Assembly 2.15pm

22 March	P2 Class Assembly 2.15pm
28 March	Easter Service (AM) School closes 2.30pm
28 March – 14 April	Holiday (inclusive)
April	
15 April	P1 Forest Schools after school begins
25 April	PTA Spring Disco (P1-P3 6 – 7.10pm, P4-7 7.15-8.30pm)
May	
1 May	P2 Forest Schools after school begins
2 May	In-service day (School closed to pupils)
3 May	Term 3 learning targets shared on Seesaw
10 May	P5/6 Class Assembly 2.15pm
11 May	PTA Eurovision Party Night
17 May	P1/2 Class Assembly 2.15pm
23 May	Sports Day (Weather permitting)
24-27 May	Holiday (inclusive)
31 May	Wider Achievements Assembly
June	
7 June	P1 Class Assembly 2.15pm
11 June	Junior Duke Garden Party
21 June	P7 Leavers Assembly
	Reports issued
26 June	End of Term - School closes 1pm