



Westerton Primary News

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Special Points of Interest

- Scottish Assembly
- Tea with Miss T
- Wider Achievements
- P6 and P6/7 Assembly
- School Improvement Update
- Staffing
- PTA and Parent Council Update



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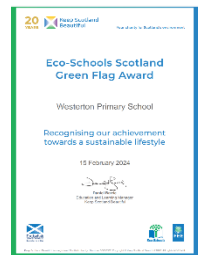
Follow your child's class on Seesaw – please contact the school office if you need login details.



Happiness - Believe - Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the February edition of our school newsletter. As we delve into the second month of the year, we have many exciting updates and events to share with you. Firstly, we are delighted to announce we are an Eco School! Miss McNeill and our Eco Committee have been working hard to achieve their green flag award and are looking forward to a community litter pick in April! Over the coming weeks we are also looking forward to a sponsored walk, World Book Day, writing workshops, school trips as well as new extra-curricular activities. We will be holding a non-uniform day on February 23rd for bottle donations to support the PTA Quiz Night on March 1st. We would like to thank you in advance for your support and hope all who attend have a fantastic evening.



There will be a visit from the oral health team who will be promoting good oral hygiene to our children. Science Week is fast approaching, and in the run up to it we will be visited by Scottish Charity Make It Happen who will be launching their design an app competition across the school. The winning app design will be built and published!

<https://makeithappen.club/what-we-do>

As scheduled, parents evening will be taking place in school on Thursday 14 March, providing you with the opportunity to meet your child's teacher to discuss progress and achievements. Please mark your calendar with this important date and we encourage you to set a reminder for 7pm on Thursday 29 February when the parents evening booking system opens. Any booking issues please call us to ensure you get an appointment that suits. During parents' evening please take the time to visit the Book Fair, the internet safety stands and the Rights Respecting stand. We look forward to welcoming you.

I appeal to parents to come and join us as we lace up our walking shoes for a great cause! Miss Deans and our sports committee have organised a sponsored winter walk to raise funds for Yorkhill Children's Charity. Everyone is encouraged to wear something purple to raise awareness of the work of the charity. Please get in touch if you can come along. Friends and family all welcome - the more the merrier!

We will be celebrating World Book Day on 7 March. Instead of dressing up, our reading reps have requested we come in our jammies bringing along a favourite book! There will be reading themed activities and, weather permitting, we will be going outside for DEAR time (Drop Everything and Read). In the run up to World Book Day our P5-7s have a special treat with an author visit from Lindsay Littleton.

I would like to thank you for your continued support for the many events and initiatives thus far. Please find further information from both our PTA Chair and Parent Council Chairs regarding their work in support of the school and how you can join in. Together, we can continue to make a difference to the opportunities and experiences for our pupils.

Yours sincerely
Kate Turnbull, Head Teacher

School Improvement Progress

We are making excellent progress towards our school improvement priorities. Please find a brief summary of recent activities.

Priority 1 – Raise attainment in Writing

- All teaching staff have participated in professional learning relating to our focused genre this term, persuasive writing. The sessions, led by PT Mr Campbell, have culminated in teachers collaboratively planning innovative and engaging lessons designed to persuade – so beware!
- Macastory will be delivering persuasive writing workshops with all classes on 22 and 29 February. We look forward to seeing some super writing following this input.
- Our P4 and P7 teachers have participated in moderation of first and second level writing with 16 other schools across East Dunbartonshire. Teachers report greater confidence and skill in assessing writing against the benchmarks.
- We are focused on improving tools for writing and are continuing to roll out our active spelling programme. We have invested in grammar and handwriting resources and P7 teacher Mrs Brown has developed new planning formats to ensure there is a clear progression of skills across the school.

Priority 2 – Raise attainment in Reading

- With a focus on developing reading comprehension across the school we are implementing interventions focused on tools for reading and comprehension strategies. We have identified resources to support our approach including Comprehension Strategies boxes which are now in use in from P2-P7.
- Teachers have participated in bespoke professional learning from Education Scotland's literacy team who came to deliver a session on reading comprehension strategies and differentiation.
- All classes have now visited the local library and have participated in librarian directed sessions. We fully expect classes to visit the library in the future for self-directed visits as this is a fantastic community resource right on our doorstep.
- Volunteer Mrs Morton has been working hard to organise our school library and will be our librarian on Wednesdays to provide opportunities for classes and groups to explore and to read.
- Mrs Berry, Miss Dignon and Miss Queen will begin after school book clubs starting on 6 March for P2-7 year groups. I am sure participants will enjoy talking about and sharing their reading in these after school sessions.
- Spotted in Milngavie - We have displays of pupil's work up in the community including a display in Tesco Milngavie and Gavin's Mill. Pop in and have a look if you are passing.
- World Book Day is on 7 March, pupils are invited to attend school in their jammies and bring a book. We look forward to having a fun book-themed day.
- Supporting a reading culture at home is important. Please refer to the seven simple top tips on how you can do this within this newsletter.
- We have purchased resources to support children with literacy differences including dyslexia friendly novels, phonic books and C-pens. These will support independent learning and improve confidence where needed.
- We will be launching a Rainbow Reading programme designed to enhance reading skills and literacy by providing regular tailored support. Our Classroom Assistants Mrs Purdie and Mrs Cunningham will be leading the Rainbow Reading programme. We will be in touch soon, should we feel your child would benefit.



Priority 3 – Rights based learning and the UNCRC

- Our Rights committee have been busy working towards our silver accreditation this term. We are creating lunch hall, playground and toilet charters. These will be shared with all pupils at assembly. We have also been linking our lessons to Rights and have started to display these alongside our work.



Help Needed!

There has been a bit of storm damage to our P1 play house. If you think you can help fix it, please get in touch. Many thanks.



7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Scottish Assembly

Congratulations to everyone who learned their Scottish poem and created Scottish themed art work. We had a fantastic Scottish assembly at the end of January. The performances were excellent and the standard of artwork exceptional. Well done everybody.



Continued...



Tea with Miss T



A gloomy Monday afternoon was brightened up with a chat and a cuppa with this fabulous bunch, all having been nominated for Tea with Miss T.

Well done to all, for embodying Westerton values every day, we are very proud of you.

Wider Achievements Assembly

Congratulations to everyone who received a certificate in recognition of their wider achievements. Certificates were given for a range of skills and talents from charity fundraising, drama, dance, gymnastics and so much more. What a talented bunch, keep up the good work! Our final wider achievements assembly is on 31st May, we look forward to hearing more of our pupils' achievements outside of school. A week in advance would be most helpful.



P6 and P6/7 Class Assembly – Rock Band on Tour

Our primary sixes from P6 and P6/7 gave an outstanding performance in their Rock Band on Tour assembly. Thank you for supporting our children to learn their lines, songs and dances. Thank you also to the teachers and support staff for making it so fabulous!



PTA News

The PTA finished 2023 with some fabulous fundraising. Our 100 Club has been a massive success and our lucky prizewinners are receiving a cheque every month!! The 100 club is open to the school community, including friends and family. Anyone who wants to get involved in the draws between March and June, can contact the office for an entry form. You have to be in it to win it!

The Santa Dash was a fun way to kick off the festive season and allowed us to give a cheque of £300 to East Dunbartonshire Food Bank as well as the wonderful food donations collected by the House Captains. So far this year alone, our fundraising has allowed us to do the following for the school community;

- Over £4,500 worth of iPads and covers purchased
- Purchase of new outdoor play equipment for outdoor learning (just in time for the nicer weather)
- £1,000 ring-fenced towards transport costs for class trips in order to bring the cost per child down
- Local Business Sponsor secured along with PTA funds for new kits for the school netball team
- Two boxes of Kapla boxes have been ordered so they are available to all classes

This is an amazing effort on everyone's behalf and it is wonderful being able to enhance our childrens' learning environment. All your help and support throughout the year is very much appreciated.

Looking ahead, we have lots of fun events coming up, including our BYOB Quiz Night on 1st March. As always our events are posted on Twitter, Facebook and across the year group chats. All are most welcome and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Going forward, PTA updates will be available on the school website, these will include a summary of funds raised and expenditures.

Should you wish to help at any of the upcoming events, please contact the school office or the PTA Chair directly (katy_allan@hotmail.com).



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

Update from the Parent Council

The Parent Council work together with the school on any issues or concerns. It is our role to effectively represent parents' views and ensure the school takes these into account.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns you would like the parent council to discuss with the school please do not hesitate to contact your year group representative or email the council on: westertonpc@gmail.com

Primary 1: Jennifer Leiper
Primary 2: Scott Walker
Primary 3: Linn Olsen (Co-Chair)
Primary 4: Caroline Smith
Primary 5: Scott Walker
Primary 6: Susan Johnston (Co-Chair)
Primary 7: Reema Nayak

The next Parent Council meeting is on **Monday 4th March at 1800 on Teams.**

The Parent Council would like to offer our warmest congratulations to Miss Turnbull on her successful appointment as permanent Head Teacher at Westerton Primary. We look forward to continuing working together.

Staffing

Having been Acting Headteacher at Westerton for over two years, I am delighted to hold the post on a permanent basis. I look forward to continuing to lead Westerton towards our improvement priorities. It is an honour and a privilege and I would like to thank all of our families for their kind words of encouragement, congratulations and support.

Recently, Mrs Louise Nelson was appointed as clerical assistant in the school office. The school office is an integral component to ensure the smooth running of the school and we are very pleased to have Mrs Nelson back. Administration Assistant Mrs Pauline Cumming is in the process of a phased return to work following surgery. She hopes to return to her role full time very soon.

I would like to congratulate our P1 teacher Mrs Katie Taheny who is expecting a baby in June. I would also like to congratulate Miss MacLaren who had a baby girl in November 2023.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February

22 February	World Thinking Day (club uniform or extra-curricular activity may be worn) Writing workshops (Macastory) P7 Netball/football at Bocclair (4-5.30pm) P4 after school knitting club begins
23 February	P3/4 Class Assembly 2.15pm PTA bottle donation and dress down day
26 February	P4 trip to Vikingar
28 February	Make It Happen app competition class visits
29 February	Writing workshops (Macastory)

March

1 March	PTA Quiz Night
4 March	Parent Council Meeting (6pm on Teams)
6 March	P2-7 after school book clubs begins
7 March	World Book Day (Non-uniform/ jammies) P4 Forest Schools after school begins
8 March	P4 Class Assembly 2.15pm P3 trip to Amazonia
11 to 15 March	Science Week
11-22 March	Big Walk and Wheel
13 March	Active Schools after school sessions (TBC)
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 for pupils (AM) School closes 2.30pm
28 March – 14 April	Holiday (inclusive)

April

15 April	P1 Forest Schools after school begins
17 April	Tempest photography class groups
24 April	P2 trip to Mugdock
25 April	PTA Spring Disco (P1-P3 6 – 7.10pm, P4-7 7.15-8.30pm)
26 April	Clean Up Scotland – whole school community litter pick

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 Class Assembly 2.15pm (note change of date)
23 May	Sports Day (Weather permitting)
24-27 May	Holiday (inclusive)
31 May	Wider Achievements Assembly (all information no later than 29 May)

June

7 June	P1/2 Class Assembly 2.15pm (note change of date)
11 June	Junior Duke Garden Party
21 June	P7 Leavers Assembly Reports issued
25 June	P7 Leavers 'Westerfest'
26 June	End of Term - School closes 1pm

Useful Contacts

Occupational Therapy <https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/kids/healthcare-professionals/paediatric-occupational-therapy/#Children'sOccupationalTherapyAdviceLine>

Physiotherapy <https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/kids/healthcare-professionals/paediatric-physiotherapy/#Children'sPhysiotherapyAdviceLine>

Speech and Language <https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/kids/healthcare-professionals/paediatric-speech-and-language-therapy/#AdviceandSupportHelpline>

Supporting Families parenting@eastdunbarton.gov.uk