



Westerton Primary News

NEWSLETTER

August 2024

Special Points of Interest

- Junior Duke
- Sharing the Learning event
- Maths Week Scotland
- Sumdog
- Staffing
- Dates to remember



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@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.



Already, class charters are being drawn up across the school incorporating children's rights and interests. We are spending time reacquainting ourselves with school routines and procedures to ensure everyone is safe in school. I would urge parents to view our latest school handbook and thank you in advance for supporting your child in adhering to the school rules and in particular in wearing the Westerton Primary School uniform. Wearing school uniform creates a positive ethos and promotes equity for our pupils. Our handbook can be found on the school website <http://www.westerton.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/school-info/handbook/>

This session we have enrolled 28 primary one children in August and new families moving into the area brings our school roll to 273 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 is enjoying being back at school.

As always we are committed to creating a stimulating learning environment where each child can thrive academically, socially and emotionally. We have exciting activities, events and projects planned including pupil leadership opportunities, extracurricular activities and of course all children will be invited to participate in Junior Duke!

We will be offering Forest Schools after school sessions for P3-7 year groups and we continue to run blocks of SFA football sessions for all classes P1-7. We will be in touch over the course of the year to offer more extra-curricular activities as they 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.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views on school improvement last session. This feedback has helped shape our priorities for 2024-25. School Improvement Priorities this year have a Health and Wellbeing focus as we introduce the CIRCLE framework, learn about the Promise and introduce Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) information about which can be found on the RSHP website <https://rshp.scot/>. We continue our Rights Respecting journey and teachers are developing Play and Enquiry approaches to learning. Further details of our school improvement priorities and pupil equity funding will be posted on our website very soon.

Our P7s are excitedly anticipating their residential to Inverclyde and we hope they all have a fantastic week away, making memories that will last a lifetime.

Welcome back and let the learning adventure begin!

Warmest regards,
Kate Turnbull, Headteacher

Pupil Leadership Opportunities

Pupil leadership opportunities at Westerton for session 2024-25 are listed below and are shared with pupils in assembly and class. I would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to apply for one of these fantastic opportunities and if there are a few they are interested in – even better. Teachers will discuss the committee options with their class and distribute application forms to children who are interested.

Details of Pupil Leadership Opportunities

- **P7 House Captains** Mrs Hart (speeches/voting)
- **P7 Young STEM Leaders** Miss Davie & Mr Campbell (note of interest)
- **P6 JRSOs** Mrs Hart (application)
- **P5-7 Language Leaders** Miss Wood (note of interest)
- **P6-P7 EDC Pupil Forum** Mrs Hart (note of interest)
- **P6 Digital Leaders** Ms Devlin & Miss Crumlish (note of interest)
- **P4-P6 Food and Fair Trade Committee** Mrs Grant/Mrs McQueen and Miss Moore (application)
- **P6 Playground Leaders** Miss Dignon & Miss Crumlish (note of interest)
- **P1-7 Junior Leadership Team** Miss Turnbull & Mr Campbell (application)
- **P2-7 Sports Committee** Miss Davie & Miss McNeill (application)
- **P1-7 Rights Group** Mrs Hart & Miss McNeill (application)
- **P1-7 Eco Committee** Miss McNeill & Miss Wood (application - super hero poster)
- Deadline for most applications/notes of interest - Friday 20 September (some committees may be earlier)
- New committee members will be announced Friday 4 October

Junior Duke

Junior Dukes is a programme 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. Once again all pupils in Westerton will be given the opportunity to participate in the highly acclaimed Junior Duke programme. We were delighted with JD uptake last year and hope participation is replicated again this session. Following class visits and a parent Teams meeting (Monday 26 August at 6pm) Junior Duke applications should be completed and returned as soon as possible. There is a charge of £11 which provides the children with a booklet, their completion certificate, badge and garden party after school on Tuesday 10 June.

https://teams.microsoft.com//meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTVjYzlhNDAtYzg5Mi00MDM4LWEwMDMtZjQxZWQ4M2ZIN2Ew%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ccd32ca3-16ce-428f-9541-372d6b051929%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229845dafc-bc52-4736-a944-a9f4a3739ae4%22%7d

Maths Week Scotland 2024 - Maths Tales

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 23rd - 26th September by participating in the EDC Maths Week Sumdog competition and other maths activities. 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. 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 using Pupil Equity Funding as agreed. We are using Sumdog for Maths and Numeracy in class and at home, 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 X/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 X/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 alongside written work.

Staffing

School Staff 2024

Head Teacher	Miss Turnbull
Depute	Mrs Hart
Principal Teacher	Mr Campbell
P1	Mrs Henderson
P1/2	Mrs Berry
P2	Miss Moore
P3	Miss Wood
P3/4	Mrs McQueen Mon, Tues, Wed & Mrs Grant Wed, Thurs, Fri
P4	Mrs Macnab Mon, Tues, Wed & Mrs Michie Thurs, Fri
P5	Miss Dignon
P5/6	Ms Devlin
P6	Miss Crumlish
P7AB	Mrs Archibald Mon, Tues, Wed & Mrs Brown Wed Thurs Fri
P7CD	Miss Davie Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Mr Campbell Wed, Thurs
NCC teachers	Miss McNeill, Mrs Olsen, Mr Campbell
Classroom Assistants	Mrs Purdie & Mrs Cunningham
SLAs	Miss Gray, Miss Gallagher & vacancy
Student SLA	Ms MacAlister
Office Staff	Mrs Cumming & clerical assistant vacancy
Volunteer	Mrs Morton (Wednesdays)

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. Please be patient when calling the School Office as we are operating with reduced staffing as we recruit a new Clerical Assistant.

- Annual Data Checks
- Medical information
- Administration of medicine consent forms
- Dietary Information –updates
- EV3 permission forms
- 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 Headteacher. 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.

Sharing the Learning

We are delighted to extend a warm invitation to parents/carers to visit the school at 2.15pm on Wednesday 18th September. This informal visit will give you the opportunity to see your child's classroom, look at their work, participate in class 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. Could all visitors sign in and out upon entering and leaving the building. We look forward to seeing you soon. Parents should leave the building at 2.45pm, children will remain in class and be dismissed at 3pm as usual.



Class Assemblies

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 Friday October 25th when P7 will share their residential experiences with parents/ carers and the rest of the school. Please find the class assemblies schedule below for your convenience.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES 2024-25

(Assemblies begin at 2.15pm)

P1	Friday 6 June
P1/2	Friday 16 May
P2	Friday 1 November
P3	Friday 7 March
P3/4	Friday 21 March
P4	Friday 7 February
P5	Friday 21 February
P5/6	Friday 2 May
P6	Friday 25 April
P7 year group	Friday 25 October

Neighbours

We would like to thank you for your continued support in showing consideration to our neighbours when collecting and dropping off your children. We gently remind you not to park on the zigzags at the entrance to school to keep our children safe and for the same reasons parents should not drive into the staff car park or walk children through it. Please also note 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.

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.

Allergies

We have several children in our school who have extreme allergies and through good practice, we endeavour to keep them safe on a daily basis. We ask for whole school parental assistance in continuing to make our school environment as safe as possible for all our children and staff. It is important that pupils do not bring food containing nuts to school. Such foods include hazelnut chocolate spreads, peanut butter, cereal bars and some confectionary items. Whilst this list is by no means exhaustive, we appreciate your ongoing vigilance and support in this matter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

26 August	Junior Dukes Parent Meeting on Teams 6pm
27 August	SFA after school football begins
30 August	P1 Evening Times photograph P7 House Captain elections
5 September	Term 1 learning targets shared on Seesaw
09-13 September	P7 Residential to Inverclyde (early start 8.50am/ return approx.1.30pm)
18 September	Sharing the learning P1-P7, 2.15pm for parents/carers
20 September	School Committees application deadline
23-26 September	Maths Week Scotland
27 – 30 September	Holiday (inclusive)
Sept/Oct DateTBC	TBC 6pm Parent Council Meeting (Teams)
03 October	P5 Forest Schools begins
11 October	Teacher Inset Day (no pupils)
11-20 October	Holiday (inclusive)
24 October	PTA Hallowe'en Disco
25 October	Show Racism the Red Card (non-uniform/ wear red donations to charity)
1 November	P2 assembly (2.15pm)
6 November	Parents' Night

14 November	P4 Forest Schools after school begins
w/c 18 November	Book Week Scotland
TBC November	Into Film Cinema Visits (more details to follow)
30 November	PTA Christmas Fayre (10.30am – 12.30pm)
5 December	Christmas Jumper Day (Donations to Save the Children)
	Christmas Lunch
6 December	House Treat Term 1
	PTA Santa Dash (after school)
11 December	AM panto performance for all classes
12 December	P1 & P2 Nativity (2pm)
13 December	P1 & P2 Nativity (9.30am)
	P3, P3/4, P4 Party (1.30pm)
16 December	P1, P1/2, P2 Party (1.30pm)
17 December	P3-7 Christmas Concert (2pm)
18 December	P3-7 Christmas Concert (9.30am)
	P5, P5/6, P6 Party (1.30pm)
19 December	P7 Party (1.30pm)
20 December	School close at 2.30pm
21 Dec - 5 January	Holiday (inclusive)
6 January	Pupils and staff return
23 January	P7 Forest Schools after school begins
24 January	Scottish celebration assembly (pupils only)
31 January	Term 2 learning targets shared on Seesaw
7 February	P4 assembly (2.15pm)
	NSPCC Number Day (non-uniform, NSPCC donation)
10 February	Safer Internet week
13 February	PTA Valentines Disco
17 – 19 February	Holiday
19 February	Teacher Inset Day (no pupils)
21 February	P5 assembly (2.15pm)
	Non-uniform day for PTA donations/ World Thinking Day (club uniform may be worn)
27 February	P6 Forest Schools after school begins
6 March	World Book Day (Non-uniform/ book theme outfit may be worn)
7 March	P3 assembly (2.15pm)
w/c 10 March	Science Week
11 March	EDC Parent Forum Meeting 6.30pm online
13 March	Parents' Night
14 March	Red Nose Day (Non-uniform donations to RND charity)
21 March	P3/4 assembly (2.15pm)
	House treat Term 2
27 March	2pm RSHP Parent Presentation / 2.15pm class visit
4 April	Easter Assembly with Rev Hamilton (Pupils only).
	School closes 2.30pm
5 April – 21 April	Holiday (inclusive)
24 April	P3 Forest Schools after school begins
25 April	P6 assembly (2.15pm)
2 May	P5/6 assembly (2.15pm)
	Term 3 learning targets shared on Seesaw
5 - 6 May	Holiday
6 May	Teacher Inset Day (no pupils)
16 May	P1/2 assembly (2.15pm)
	Junior Duke Completion Date
19 May	Sports Day (Weather permitting- please note this may be rescheduled)
23-26 May	Holiday (inclusive)
29 May	PTA Spring Disco
6 June	P1 assembly (2.15pm)
10 June	Junior Duke Garden Party after school
16 June	House Treat Term 3
20 June	P7 Leavers Assembly
	Reports issued in schoolbags
25 June	End of Term - School closes 1pm