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Newtongrange Primary School
Aspire, Believe, Achieve

 @NewtongrangePS



Primary Pages Thursday 14th March 2019



Rights Respecting School

Newtongrange Primary began its journey towards being a Rights Respecting School in October 2018. We have made excellent progress so far and are delighted to announce that we have achieved Bronze Level accreditation. Learners have been made aware that they have rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

So far this term there has been a close focus on the following 5 rights:

- Article 2 – Non Discrimination
- Article 12 – Respecting the views of the child
- Article 19 – Protection from violence, abuse and neglect
- Article 23 – Rights for children with disabilities
- Article 28 – The right to education

Park Smart Update

P6b have been working on the Park Smart campaign aiming to make the journey to and from school safer for all our learners. We have carried out traffic counts, created posters and information leaflets as well as running competitions and road safety lessons across the school. Congratulations to the competition winners, Connor in P2 for a fantastic Park Smart mascot and Desandhi in P7 for her wonderful slogan 'Start your day by parking the right way'. We would like to extend a huge thank you to parents and carers who completed the pledge to park safely outside our school and hope to see continued success for our campaign in the future.

VIP visitor to Newtongrange Primary School

We were delighted and very proud to welcome Paul Dix, a renowned educationalist to visit Newtongrange Primary Schools on Thursday 28th February. Paul has been so impressed by our work on positive behaviour, that he came to see the impact for himself. Paul Dix, the author of 'When the adults change, everything changes', has been following the school's progress on Twitter, including sharing one class teacher's daily 'meet and greet' with learners as an example of good practice. He now uses the 'meet and greet' video clip in his training sessions and presentations. Paul spent time meeting staff and learners, hearing about how the focus now is on shared positive behaviour expectations, rewarding 'over and above' behaviours and positive relationships throughout the school. A key part of the new approach is making sure the adults set a positive example of how they expect everyone to behave. Learners are greeted every day, the school values are referred to in conversation, while good news notes are sent home, star learner awards are presented and the good work of the whole school is captured on recognition boards.

Extra Curricular Activities

We have had another very successful block of extracurricular activities providing learners with a range of activities to participate in after school. I would like to say a huge thank you to our teachers and to Active Schools for providing these opportunities for our learners.



Loose Parts

We are developing loose parts play in nursery and P1. Loose parts are items and materials that children can use in their play. They provide a high level of creativity and choice and the possibilities are endless for how they can be used.

We are beginning to build a bank of loose part resources to enhance the learning process initiating in the early years. It would be wonderful if you could donate any unwanted items from the list below.

Any items brought into school can be placed in the storage tubs in the nursery foyer and P1 entrance. The resources must be safe for the children to handle. The children will be shown how to use the objects in a safe and enjoyable way.

Pebbles	Plastic tubes	Bottle tops
Stones	Guttering	Sponges
Glass gems	Nuts and bolts	Crates
Cotton reels	Wooden clothes pegs	Ropes and string
Buttons	Old electrical items – key-boards, phones, hairdryers, etc	Old kitchen items such as old pots and pans, spoons, baking tins, jugs, bowls, rolling pins, whisks
Shells	Ribbon	Old CD's
Pinecones	Funnels	Wooden curtain rings
Wood scraps (must be smooth)	Cardboard tubes (not toilet rolls)	Garden equipment – plastic pots, canes, netting

Fizzy Juice

At Newtongrange, we encourage and support the concept of healthy eating. If you are sending a packed lunch with your child, we would ask you to support us in our aim to encourage healthy eating. **Please do not include chewing gum or fizzy drinks.** We are happy to provide advice and support about healthy packed lunches.

Nursery Expansion Pilot

As you may be aware the Scottish Government are committed to extending the current 600 hours per year of early learning and childcare to 1140 hours from August 2020. Midlothian Council are continuing to phase in the extended entitlement and have selected a number of schools, private and third sector providers and childminders to offer extended hours next term. Newtongrange Primary School has been selected as a pilot setting and will be offering 16 full time places and 4.0am/4.0pm places after the Easter holidays. Families currently using our nursery have received information regarding this.

Puzzle Day

We were pleased to host a visit from the Puzzle Company last week. Learners from nursery to P7 practised their problem solving skills in teams. Congratulations to all our learners who showed great determination, teamwork and a growth mindset.



Comic Relief 2019

We are all really excited to be taking part in Comic Relief 2019 this year. Comic Relief brings the entire nation together to have lots of fun, raise money and change lives. Primary 6 learners have organised a super 'Red Nose' design competition with exciting prizes and a 'Danceathon' in the playground on Friday 15th March - we look forward to you joining us if you can. Red Noses are still on sale at the office, costing £1.25 each. Thank you to our P6 learners for organising such an exciting week!

Parents' Consultations

Parents' consultations are scheduled for **26th and 27th March** when you will have the opportunity to consult with your child's teacher on their progress. Children may accompany you to these meeting for all or part of the time. Please return you appointment request slip to the school as soon as possible.

Church Service

We will be holding our Easter Service in the church hall on **Friday 5th April** at 9.30am. We welcome adults to join us at our service but due to restrictions on space this will be by ticket only. This will be a single allocated seat for one person per family group. **To allocate seats we use a ballot system. Please contact the school office on 0131 271 4645 if you wish to be entered into the ballot for a ticket for the Easter Service by Friday 5th April. The ballot will be drawn on Friday 29th March and parents and carers will be notified by Monday 1st April.**

School closes for the Easter holidays on Friday 5th April at 12:20pm (Nursery afternoon session at 3.45 pm) and opens again for the Summer term on Tuesday 23rd April 2019.

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th March at 7:00pm at Newtongrange Primary School.

Milk Payment

If you would like your child to have milk for the period 23rd April 2019 to 28th June 2019 and you have not already paid for the year, the amount of £7.99 is due to be paid by 9.00am Friday 29th March 2019. **Please make cheques payable to Midlothian Council.**

Please use the slip below using one slip per child as this makes it easier for reconciliation.

Unfortunately no orders can be accepted after this date.



Child's Name Class.....

I wish to pay for milk for the period 23rd April 2019 to 28th June 2019 and enclose £7.99.

I wish to pay for milk for the period 23rd April 2019 to 28th June 2019 via ParentPay.



World Book Day

Firstly a huge thank you to all of our families who donated books for World Book Day! This year we linked our World Book Day celebrations with our Rights Respecting Schools ethos and classes found out what it would be like to not have the resources we need to learn. We also had an assembly to share our love of reading as a school. The theme of World Book Day this year is all about sharing books with others. We would like to encourage our families to do this and remember to add them to your Reading Passports for our First Minister's Reading Challenge. Don't forget to get CAUGHT reading in unusual places too and share your photos with us! Happy Reading!

Dates for your diary

Friday 15th March

Euro Quiz, P6 learners

Friday 15th March

Comic Relief

Wednesday 20th March

Parent Council meeting, 7:00pm @ NPS

Friday 22nd March

Nursery Stay and Play

Monday 25th March – Friday 29th March

Nursery Learner Progress Chats

Tuesday 26th March

Parents Consultation meetings

Wednesday 27th March

Parents Consultation meetings

Friday 29th March

Wider Curriculum

Tuesday 2nd April

PI Stay and Play, 9:00 – 9:45am

Thursday 4th April

Glee Performance @ Brunton Theatre

Friday 5th April

Easter Service, 9:30am

Friday 5th April

End of term

Tuesday 23rd April

All resume