



Newsletter

newtongrange_ps@midlothian.gov.uk

<http://newtongrange.mgfl.net/>

ISSUE 1



@NewtongrangePS



School app

August 2019

We hope that you all had a lovely summer and are feeling refreshed and ready for the new session. We have had a really positive start to our session so far. The learners at Newtongrange are a credit to their families in terms of their behaviour, positive attitude, pride in their school and the wearing of our school uniform. We are delighted to welcome our new learners to our school and we hope that over the course of the year, we will continue to grow and develop as a school community.



School Improvement

All schools in Midlothian produce a School Improvement plan which is based on evidence gathered in a variety of ways over previous school sessions as well as in line with national priorities. This session we will be focusing on 4 main priorities:

Raising attainment, particularly literacy and numeracy.

Closing the attainment gap through targeted Interventions.

Cultivate a nurturing approach to meet the needs of all learners.

Improving Wellbeing Systems.

Progress and actions towards these priorities will regularly be reported on over the year within further newsletters, curriculum events and on our school website and Twitter page.

Staffing

As well as welcoming new learners to Newtongrange Primary School, we are delighted to have new members join our staff team. Welcome to Mrs H Thomson and Miss H Robertson who join our teaching team and welcome to Mrs Youngs and Mrs Nalbant who join our nursery team.

Uniform

I am sure you will agree that the children look really smart in their school uniform on their first day back at school after the summer break. We believe that an important aspect of raising standards is a universal minimum level of dress and behaviour. We believe that as a school community all learners will derive a sense of identity within our community by wearing a school uniform. Please continue to support the school by ensuring that your child attends school wearing school uniform daily. We are keen to set up a nearly new school uniform bank, please donate, if you can, any good quality unwanted school uniform including shoes to the office. Thank you!

School Photographer

Coldwells Art Company will be visiting Newtongrange Primary on Thursday 5th September to take individual and sibling photographs of learners in the school and nursery.

Information Updates and Permission Forms

Annually we are required to get parental permission for various aspects of school life. Please complete and return the permission forms ASAP.

Communication with School Staff

We recognise that good lines of communication are important and essential for ensuring that every child's learning and wellbeing needs are being met. If you require to speak with a teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) please contact the school to arrange an appointment. Often a quick query can be addressed through the homework diary between yourself and class teacher who knows your child well.

Please note that the SLT have pastoral responsibility for the following classes:

Nursery, P1 and P1/2 – Miss V Morgan (HT)

P2, P2/3, P3, P3/4 and P4 – Mrs D Crossan (DHT)

P5, P6 and P7 – Mr S McBride (DHT)

Decision Making Groups

Learner participation is something we continue to develop at school. Children's opinions and ideas are sought through Class Council meetings, surveys, class discussions, learning visits and the many decision making groups we run. These groups also provide learners with opportunities to lead school improvements and develop skills for life, learning and work. They take on challenges and organise events, talk at assemblies and produce displays. Classes will be selecting their DMG representatives over the next few weeks.

Attendance, absence and late procedures

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential and for them to have the best possible start in life. Midlothian Council have an expectation that all children of primary school age's attendance should be at least 96%. Schools have the responsibility to work in partnership with families to ensure children attend school regularly.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school regularly. It is important that pupils are punctual and parents and carers must ensure that their child is at school by 8.45am each morning. In cases of unsatisfactory attendance or persistent lateness the school follows guidance from Midlothian Council. When a child's attendance falls below 96% the school will seek cooperation with parents and carers to work in partnership to improve attendance.

Our school expectation is for all children to arrive on time and enter the school via their class line each morning. Children who are persistently late miss a significant amount learning. Where there have been persistent incidents of lateness, co-operation of the parents and carers will be sought by the school to work together to improve punctuality.

If your child is unable to attend school or is going to be late to school parents should telephone by 09:30 a.m. If no phone call is received we will endeavour to make contact with parents/carers by text and/or phone.

If there is anything that we can do as a school to support you with your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact us. Lee Crieve our Home School Practitioner is here to help support you in any way.

Building Resilience Programme

This session we are using the Building Resilience Resource as part of our core Health and Wellbeing Curriculum. Resilience is a key factor in protecting and promoting good mental health. This whole-school programme aims to look at ten different things that can help support children to develop resilience.

The programme will run over a three-year period. Each theme is introduced with a launch assembly and the key messages are followed up in class activities and at follow-up assemblies.

A parent and carer information leaflet will be provided for each theme.





Whole School Project

At the beginning of the new school year, all classes spend time on building positive classroom community where everybody feels safe, valued and respected. Activities will include:

- Exploring our school values
- Discussing what makes an excellent learner and an excellent teacher
- Reviewing our school's positive behaviour expectations
- Develop class routines, responsibilities, visible consistencies.
- Select Decision Making Representatives.

Sharing the Learning

Over the year, classes will continue to have **Sharing the Learning** events in their classrooms and **Showcase Assemblies** which parents and carers will be invited to. After the positive success of our Maths Basic Facts morning and PEEPs groups within the nursery, we are planning to provide more family learning events linked with our school improvement priorities.

Our first family event will be 'Welcome to the new school year' on Wednesday 11th September from 9:00 – 9:45am which is an opportunity for parents and carers to come into school to:

- Learn about our school priorities for this session.
- Visit your child's new classroom.
- Meet your child's new teacher.
- Find out key information about the year ahead for your child
- And finally an opportunity for your child to share some of the learning within the first few weeks of their new stage.

Please note we are trying a different format to our previous Meet the Teacher event and welcome your feedback on the new approach.

New Playtime Structure

We have reviewed our current break times to reflect the class structure for 2019-2020. All classes will have morning break time at 10:30am for 15 minutes. P1 – P4 classes will have their lunch time break between 12:15pm and 1:00pm. P5 – P7 classes will have their lunch time break between 12:30pm and 1:15pm. This will allow the children in P1 – P4 classes to enjoy their break time with their class mates and friends across the year group.

After the summer, children will be able to play within the whole playground area and will not be restricted by the historical P1-P3 and P4-P7 playground areas. We will continue to have zoned areas and rotas for basketball and football and the current P1- P3 area will be used to offer loose parts play – more information to come! We will initially encourage P1 children to play within the current P1-P3 area who will be supported by their buddies whilst they get used to break times.

P.E./ Fitness

Please ensure that your child has a P.E./ gym kit including gym shoes, T-shirt, shorts and/or tracksuit bottoms in school as they have P.E. on various days across the week. Please remember, no football strips/ colours and please remove jewellery, including earrings. If your child has long hair, then please send them to school with their hair up or with a band for their hair on P.E. days.

Water Bottles

It is important that learners drink throughout the day to stay hydrated. They are allowed water bottles in classroom. Please ensure that water bottles are only filled with **water**, have your child's name on it and brought to school daily

School Lunches/ Snacks and Free School Meals

School lunches cost £2.10 per day. The latest menu will be issued this week. Please remember, P1-3 pupils receive a free school meal daily. Snacks are available daily, from the school Catering Services, costing from 10p - 60p.

If you have still to apply for free school meals, you may request a form from the office.

Health Guidance

Please be reminded, if your child has had vomiting and/or diarrhoea please do not send them back to school until 48 hours has elapsed following their last bout. We appreciate your support with this and hope this helps to prevent the spread of germs and keeps us all healthy over the coming months.

Working together to prevent headlice

Unfortunately, headlice are a very common part of primary schools; nearly one in ten primary school children could have headlice at any one time. We know what a hassle it is to treat head lice and just how frustrating it can be when your child comes home scratching their head yet again. But by working together we can fight the spread of head lice.

We ask parents to:

- Check your family's hair for lice regularly - once a week is ideal!
- Visit your local pharmacist for guidance on the various treatments available.
- Get treatment for you or your family as soon as you find live lice.
- Let school, friends and family know as soon as you've found live lice.

At school we are vigilant in looking for the signs of headlice. We will contact parents if live lice are noticed and recommend treatment as soon as possible to help prevent the spread of lice. Having headlice is not a reason to be absent from school. We ask that you inform us if your child has headlice so that we can monitor the situation in school.

Mobile Phones/ Electronic Devices

The school has a mobile phone policy for learners. If a mobile phone is brought to school it must be switched off and kept in school office until the child leaves the school at the end of the day.