



Newsletter

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



@NewtongrangePS



School app

ISSUE 4
November
2019

We are looking forward to our learning conversations with learners, parents and carers at our parents consultations this week. When you are in school, please take the time to provide your feedback regarding the time of our 'Meet the teacher Event' and our new approaches to homework. Nursery learner progress chats with key workers will be taking place across the week, please make sure you have signed up for a slot.



Upcoming Dates

- 29.10.19 Parent's Evening
- 30.10.19 P5 Skiing starts
- 30.10.19 Parent's Evening
- 31.10.19 P5a & P5b trip to Mining Museum
- 31.10.19 P1 and P1/2 Halloween Party
- 31.10.19 Nursery Pumpkin Bash @ 2:00pm
- 1.11.19 Wider Curriculum
- 1.11.19 Nursery Bookbug Session @ 11:30am
- 1.11.19 PTA Bake Sale 12:20pm
- 2.11.19 School Gardening Day 9:00-11:00am
- 4.11.19 Loose Play Family Session (3:15-4:00pm)
- 8.11.19 P7 Remembrance Assembly @ 11:45am
- 11.11.19 Extra Curricular Block 1 starts
- 15.11.19 P2/3 and P3 Assembly @ 11:45am
- 15.11.19 Children's in Need – Dress backwards
- 18.11.19 P1 Enrolment Week
- 22.11.19 Wider Curriculum

Staffing

Mrs Patchett has decided to take a career break and we wish her well during this time. We welcome Mrs Saddler to Newtongrange Primary School who will be teaching Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the interim. I will be attending Colomba 14:00 from 11.11.19 – 14.11.19. This professional development experience will contribute to leading transformational change at Newtongrange Primary School to continually improve outcomes for all our learners. Mrs Crossan, DHT and Mr McBride, DHT will lead the school whilst I attend this event.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to all who attended our Harvest Service at Newtongrange Church and kindly donated to Storehouse.

Remembrance Sunday

Newtongrange Remembrance Sunday ceremony takes place on Sunday 10th November at the War Memorial from 10:45am. Learners from P7 will lay a wreath on behalf of the school and the choir will perform in the church at 11:30am. All families are welcome to attend.

Parent Council

Following our recent Parent Council AGM, I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Karel Lee and Tricia McNicol were co-elected as Parent Council Chair. Further elected members are detailed in the Parent Council minutes. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with the Parent Council.

The next Parent Council meeting is on Wednesday 20th November, 7:00pm at Newtongrange Primary School.

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 learners 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 endeavor to make contact with parents and carers by phone/text.

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 Grieve our Home School Practitioner is here to help support you in any way.

School Uniform Exchange

We have been very lucky to receive lots of 'nearly new' uniform for our uniform exchange. So, if you are looking for any type of school uniform, please pop along and take what you need. Even if you don't have anything to swap at the moment, you are welcome to help yourself to some uniform. We would much rather that people were able to use the uniform than it sitting gathering dust in a box.

Home School Practitioner

Lee Grieve, our Home School Practitioner is available to support families with a range of service including:

- Health & Wellbeing concerns at school including learning and development and school attendance.
- Family members feeling overwhelmed, low mood, stressed, anxious.
- Unemployment, Housing, Universal Credits.
- Family disagreements.
- Parental separation.
- Family changes i.e. children having to stay with another carer or a new partner living in the home.
- Bereavement, coping with family illness or disability.
- Family substance misuse or addiction.

If you think Lee could be of support to you and your family, please do not hesitate to contact her for more information on the school telephone number, by email: Lee.Grieve@midlothian.gov.uk or come along to the Drop-in service every week in school on a Friday morning from 10.30am to 12.20pm, where you can pop in for tea/coffee, a biscuit and a chat.



Cost of the School Day

In partnership with our Parent Council, we want to make sure that all children are able to make the most of the school day and that no child misses out on anything. Your answers to this survey will help us check whether school costs are causing any concerns for our families and children and whether there is anything that we can do to further help out.

Your voice is really important and we want to hear from as many parents and carers as possible. We promise to listen to what's been said and take action where it's needed.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and return to school by Friday 15th November 2019.

Winter ready

Please ensure that your child comes to school everyday with a coat and appropriate clothing and footwear as we do encourage children to get as much fresh air as possible. Please note that the school day starts at 08.45am and there is no supervision before that time. In extreme weather conditions we open the doors at 08.40am and the children can come into the school building via the Dining Hall entrance.

Weather Conditions and School Closures

Just a reminder of our procedure for school closures here at Newtongrange, unless there is a Midlothian Council decision to close all schools, we strive to keep the school open.

Please be aware that if we have to close the school, information will be available from Midlothian Council website at www.midlothian.gov.uk and local media, including Forth One and Black Diamond FM.

At a school level we try to keep you up to date through

- By text
- School Twitter account @NewtongrangePS

It is important the school has your most current emergency contact details.

Health Matters

As we are now into the winter months and with the seasonal illnesses that this inevitably brings, we would like to remind parents and children of the importance of good hygiene, in particular handwashing. If your child has had vomiting and/or diarrhea 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 winter months.

PE Kits

PE is a very important and valued part of our curriculum, please ensure your child has their PE kit with them on the appropriate days. Your child's gym kit should include the following:

- Gym shoes/trainers
- T-shirt
- Shorts/Tracksuit bottoms

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Newsletter Paper copy opt-out

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

We would like to opt out of receiving a paper copy of the Newsletter and will access it from the School App instead.

