



Newsletter

newtongrange_ps@midlothian.gov.uk



@NewtongrangePS

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



School app

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First of all, Happy New Year to all our families. We hope you had a restful and relaxing break over Christmas and are glad to be back into the routine of school. We are straight back into a busy term with lots of learning and wider curriculum experiences for all the children. We look forwards to continuing to work in partnership with our families to improve our school.



Upcoming Dates

10.1.20 Respect Yourself Launch Assembly

13.1.20 Homework Issued

14.1.20 Nursery Parent's Workshop

15.1.20 Peep on the Move starts

17.1.20 Wider Curriculum

22.1.20 P1, P1/2 and P2 Stay and Play, 2:15pm

23.1.20 P1-P4 Scots Poetry Competition

24.1.20 P5-P7 Scots Poetry Competition

31.1.20 P5 Showcase Assembly

7.2.20 Wider Curriculum

10.2.20 February holiday

17.2.20 All return to school

17.2.20 Homework Issued

21.2.20 Assembly

21.2.20 PTA Bake Sale

Staffing Updates

Mrs Elaine Bonnar begun her maternity leave on Tuesday of this week. We hope she has a few restful weeks before the baby arrives. We would like to thank her for all her contributions this year. We are pleased to welcome Ms Belinda Cook to Newtongrange Primary School, who will teach P4 Monday – Thursday and Mrs Istephan will teach the class on a Friday. We are also delighted to have more new members join the staff team at Newtongrange Primary School. Laura Williams and Bryony Haddow will take up posts as CDW within the nursery until June 2020 and Miss Amy Wilson joined us in December as a new learning assistant.

Parking

We continue to receive a number of complaints from families and local residents about parking around the school. We urge you all not to park or stop on any of the road markings outside the school; they are specifically placed to aid traffic flow and for the safety of your children. Also please do not park across our neighbours' drives, or on the kerbs as pushchairs etc cannot get through. Please be courteous road users with one another.

Burns' Celebration Assembly

We will be choosing the winners of our annual Burns' poetry and song competition on Thursday 23rd January for P1-4 and for P5-7 on Friday 24th January. Winning children from each class perform on Friday and a panel of judges will choose the best poet and singer. Children are encouraged to dress with some tartan on Burns' Day. This can be a tartan scarf, ribbon, tammy or a kilt.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Our next block of free extra-curricular activities will start week beginning 24th February. Further information regarding these activities will come home in a few weeks times.

Morning Lines

The playground before school is a very busy time and also a daunting time for some children. When the bell rings and your child lines up with their class, we would ask that you please stand back from the line to allow teachers to ensure all children enter into school safely. If you are experiencing difficulties with drop off please speak with your class teacher or member of SLT. Thank for your support with this matter.

Attendance, absence and late procedures

Our attendance level is currently 95.5%. Midlothian Council's expectation is that all children of primary school age's attendance should be at least 96%. Our aim is for all learners to achieve at least 96% attendance across the school year.

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. 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 of 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/guardians by phone/text.

Uniform and Gym kit

We appreciate the support of our parents with the uniform code. The children look smart and are comfortable and ready for the day's activities. Children should wear a polo shirt or shirt and a blue school sweatshirt or cardigan. Dark trousers or skirts should be worn. Please make sure clothing, footwear and bags are clearly marked with your child's name. Children need a full gym kit in school at all times which includes shorts, t-shirt and gym shoes. We always welcome any good quality outgrown school uniform, if you have any items please hand them into the school office.

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. We are still collecting 'nearly new' uniform for our uniform exchange. If you are able to donate anything, please hand it into the school office.

Home School Practitioner

Lee Grieve, our Home School Practitioner is available to support families with a range of services 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.



Winter Bugs

Before Christmas a number of schools across Lothian had reported norovirus outbreaks. The key advice for parents and staff is that anyone with symptoms including vomiting and/or diarrhea must stay off school for at least 48 hours after symptoms have ceased. Everyone should wash their hands frequently using warm water and liquid soap, especially after using the toilet and before eating or preparing food. Further information about norovirus and its prevention can be found at: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/norovirus>

Medical Consent Forms

The school requires a medical consent form to be completed for all medicine to be administered at school. This includes inhalers, hay fever tablets, travel sickness tablets, paracetamol, Calpol and creams etc. We can only administer medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor or pharmacist and if the first dose has been administered by a parent or guardian. If your child requires medicine please bring it to the School Office to complete a medical form, it only takes a few minutes. This ensures the safety of your child and keeps staff well informed.

Adverse Weather Guidance

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Director of Education, Communities and Economy. If after taking local advice it is decided to close the school, information will be available from Midlothian Council website at www.midlothian.gov.uk and local media, including the BBC, Forth Radio, Real Radio or Black Diamond FM.

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

- Text
- School App
- School Twitter account @NewtongrangePS

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is registered as authorised absence. If children are prevented from coming to school due adverse weather conditions, there is a range of home learning experiences shared on our school website that learners can carry out. It is important the school has your most current emergency contact details. Should we experience heavy snowfall and the school remains open we will endeavor to ensure that there is one clear path into the school from the park.

ParentPay

Many parents are using ParentPay. Parents who have signed up for ParentPay are able to pay for school meals, milk and trips online and also check balances for their child's school meals. ParentPay is our preferred method of payment and we encourage all parents to take advantage of this system. If you have not activated your account and would like to do so we are able to reissue the activation letter. Please request this from the school office.

School Lunch Payments

Please make sure you pay in advance for your child's school meals to avoid any debt building up. A reminder letter will be sent home to parents and carers if debt goes over £10. Some families may be eligible for free school meals. Under the Education Committee's policy, children in attendance at schools under the management of the Authority are entitled to free school meals and milk if their parents are in receipt of Income Support or an Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance and Child Tax Credit (subject to a maximum income).

Further information and an application form can be obtained from the school or from:- Free Meals and Free Clothing Section, Education Division, Fairfield House, 8 Lothian Road, Dalkeith, EH22 3ZG.