



# Newsletter

[newtongrange\\_ps@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:newtongrange_ps@midlothian.gov.uk)

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



@NewtongrangePS



School app

ISSUE 8  
February  
2020

We hope everyone had a nice, relaxing and enjoyable February break despite the weather. Unfortunately, I think there is more bad weather to come. Please make sure your child comes to school prepared for the weather with a warm coat and suitable footwear.



## Upcoming Dates

17.2.20 All return to school  
17.2.20 Homework Issued  
21.2.20 P1-P4 Assembly  
21.2.20 PTA Bake Sale  
24.2.20 Extra Curricular Starts  
25.2.20 Nursery Parent Workshop  
26.2.20 Class Photographs  
27.2.20 P1 & P2 Stay and Play  
28.2.20 Nursery Book Bug Event  
28.2.20 P6 Showcase Assembly  
4.3.20 P7 Transition Event  
5.3.20 P3/4 & P4 Trip  
5.3.20 Glee Competition  
6.3.20 Wider Curriculum  
9.3.20 Homework Issued  
11.3.20 P5 Trip  
13.3.20 Respect Yourself Assembly  
17.3.20 Nursery Parent Workshop  
20.3.20 Achievement Assemblies  
21.3.20 PTA Big Bake Competition  
24.3.20 Nursery Book Bug Event  
24.3.20 Parents Evening  
25.3.20 Parents Evening  
27.3.20 Euro Quiz  
27.3.20 Wider Curriculum  
31.3.20 P1 & P2 Stay and Play  
2.4.20 Nursery Bunny Hop Fun  
3.4.20 Easter Church Service  
3.4.20 PTA Bake Sale  
3.4.20 End of Term

## Staffing Updates

We are pleased to share with you the birth of Mrs Bonnar's little girl. She was born on 11<sup>th</sup> February, both are doing well. We can't wait to meet her! Miss Bell has joined our nursery team as an ASN Learning Assistant this week. We also look forwards to welcoming Anthony Bradley and Ellen Stephenson next week, who will be undertaking their Early Years Modern Apprentice within our nursery setting.

## FMRC

In November we launched our First Minister's Reading Challenge for this year with the theme of ... Our love for reading! We have 2 challenges we would like children to take part in with the chance of winning some of great prizes!

Challenge 1: Share with us your 'love for reading'... Where do you like to read? Who do you like to read with? What do you like to read? Take pictures and share them with the school via Twitter/ email/ print out, #myloveforreading.

Challenge 2: Our reading target - set yourself, family or class a reading target and share your progress with us via Twitter/email/print out, #myreadingtarget.

## Burns Assembly

We all had a brow time at our recent Burns assembly and Scots poetry competition where children across the school delighted us with their renditions of Scots poetry. Well done to our worthy winners Ruby P1 and Caitlin P7.

## Extra Curricular Clubs

Our next block of free extra-curricular activities will start week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> February. Further information regarding these activities will be sent home this week.

## Class Photographs

Our School Photographer will be visiting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February to take class photographs.

## Whole School Recognition Board

We currently have a whole school recognition board for recognising and celebrating 'over and above' behaviour in our playground linked to putting rubbish in the bin. The aim is fill our giant rubbish bin displayed in the school with stickers to receive a whole school reward. We are nearly there!

### 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.

### Children Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week 2020 took place on 3-9 February. Set up by children's mental health charity Place2Be, the week shined a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme was **Find your Brave**. Children spent time learning that life is all about taking small brave steps every day. Bravery can be about sharing worries and asking for help when you need it, trying something new or making the right choices.

### Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day was on the 11th February, it was celebrated globally with the theme: **Together for a better internet**. This week (as we missed the date due to our holidays) classes are going to engage in a range of activities, learning about the importance of online safety. By clicking on this link <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers> you can access a range of tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online. We have also uploaded some new parent guides on our school website.

### PTA Big Bake Competition

The PTA will be holding a Big Bake competition on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March in Newtongrange Church hall and money raised from this event will help support our School Choir going to Glee this year. Further information regarding times etc, for the Big Bake will follow.

### Sticks and Stones



Technology has brought some great things into our lives, email, texting, message boards, but it has also sadly brought cyber bullying.

On Thursday Firehorse Productions will be performing their play *Stick and Stones*. *Sticks and stones* draws attention to the fact that bullying isn't acceptable in the real world and it isn't acceptable in the virtual world. The fun script emphasizes that whether it's face to face or online, you should always treat people with respect.

We would like to thank the PTA for providing this opportunity for our learners.

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk) and local media, including the BBC, Forth 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.

## FSM entitlements

All Primary 1-3 pupils in Scotland receive free school meals. From Primary 4 onwards, 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).

It is important that children register for Free School Meals if their parent/guardian receives any of the eligible benefits. Registering for Free School Meals attracts additional funding for your school and may also qualify children for additional financial support for other activities eg: School Trips.

Parents need to make an official application to receive Free School Meals for their children. Further information and an application form can be obtained from the Lee Grieve, Home School Practitioner or the school office.