



# Newsletter

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

ISSUE 2



@NewtongrangePS



School app

Sept 2020

Our start to the new school session has been very different this year. We are now on our 6<sup>th</sup> week back in school and the children and staff have all adapted well to our new way of working. It has been lovely to see all the children in and enjoying being back at school, reconnecting with their friends and getting involved with their learning.



With new regulations in place since Monday regarding the meeting up with other household it's very important that we all continue to follow the procedures for school drop off and collection.

- Please arrive at school as close to your child's start time/ pick up time, spending as little time in the playground as possible and avoid gathering with other households.
- Please follow the one-way system.
- During this time, we continue to request **that only one** parent or carer brings their child to school.
- Please keep playground access points clear so children can make their way safely to their lines.
- On entering the playground, **ALL** children are required to dismount from their bikes and scooters and push them up to the bike/ scooter racks.
- Staff will continue to be in the playground during these times to ensure the safety of your children before the school days starts and they are picked up.
- Please ensure you continue to maintain 2m social distancing from all adults and children out with your household.
- Please continue to make any requests to speak to staff via phone or email and an appointment will be made.

## Meet the Teacher

Normally in September, we would invite you into school to meet your child's new class teacher, see their classroom and learn more about the year ahead for your child. Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions on adults being in schools we are not able to do this. Instead, we have shared information on school website. Please check out the 'Sharing the Learning' section on our school website and refer to appropriate stage for your child.

## Upcoming Dates

18.9.19 Holiday  
21.9.20 Holiday  
22.9.19 All resume  
25.9.19 Wider Curriculum Class Experience  
28.9.20 Homework Issued  
28.9.20 Maths Week Scotland  
02.10.20 Assembly  
09.10.20 Assembly  
14.10.20 Wider Curriculum Class Experience  
16.10.20 End of Term

Within the stage pages you will find the following documents, Meet the Teacher, Welcome letter and Termly Overview. We will soon be posting pictures of your child's classroom.

Unfortunately, it also means that the Senior Leadership Team are unable to talk to you about our whole school plans for the coming year and to reflect on last session.

We have produced a family friendly version of our School Improvement Plan for 2020 – 2021 (attached with this newsletter) and a full version of our Standards and Quality and Improvement Plan will be on our school website soon.

### Supporting every learner's health and wellbeing with two programmes – Zones of Regulation and Building Resilience

We recognised that learners would feel all kind of emotions when they started back. All classes from Nursery to Primary 7 have been using two resources that are helping them try and make sense of their emotions, feelings and support them in dealing with reconnecting with school.

We are focusing on '**Zones of Regulation**'. This is an approach used to support the development of self-regulation in children. The different ways children feel and emotions they experience are categorized into four coloured zones. Teachers are using the framework to support learners in self-regulation strategies. This will then allow them to become more aware of and be independent in controlling their emotions and impulses, managing their own sensory needs and improving problem-solving abilities.

Our other programme to support learners is called '**Building Resilience**'. 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. This year we will focus on 'Take a Moment', 'Talk Things Over', 'Get Active' and 'Make a Difference.' Each theme is introduced with a launch assembly and the key messages are followed up in class activities, home learning tasks and sharing the learning assemblies.



### Maths Week Scotland

This year Maths Week Scotland will be from 28th September – 4th October 2020. During this time we want to promote a passion for maths through a fun and exciting problem solving theme. In school, we are going to have a variety of engaging activities, alongside a maths mile in the playground and outdoor learning opportunities. More information will be shared nearer the time – watch this space!

### Sumdog

This year we are excited to offer Sumdog to support numeracy learning at home and in school. Sumdog is an online learning resource that automatically adapts to each learner's individual needs and uses engaging, fun games to motivate learners to build confidence and accuracy in numeracy skills.

After the September weekend you will receive your child's login details along with a Parent Leaflet informing you how to download and access Sumdog at home. The leaflet will share key information, including how to set up a 'Parent Account' which will enable you to keep track of what your child is learning in school.



## Home School Practitioner

Lee Grieve our **Home School Practitioner** is also to help support you. Lee can also help with the following:

- 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 changes i.e. children having to stay with another carer or family separation
- Bereavement, coping with family illness or disability.
- Family substance misuse or addiction.

If you think Lee might be able to support you and your family, please do not hesitate to contact her for more information on the school telephone number, by email: 07990 136 849 or [Lee.Grieve@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.Grieve@midlothian.gov.uk)

## Free School Meals and Clothing Grant

Under the Education Committee's policy, children in attendance at schools under the management of the Authority are entitled to free school meals, free milk and a clothing grant. Families may be eligible for free school meals if they are in receipt of any of the benefits noted below:

- Universal Credit (where your monthly earned income is not more than £610)
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, but **not** Working Tax Credit, **and** your annual income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit **and** maximum Working Tax Credit, **and** your annual income is less than £6,900

The meals award provides a pupil with one free school meal each day they attend school. Children in P1 to P3 across Scotland can take a free school meal every day, however, won't automatically receive free milk or a clothing grant; this would need to be applied for separately. The clothing grants are £100 for both primary & secondary school children.

### How to apply:

To apply online go to [www.midlothian.gov.uk](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk) - Free school meals and clothing grants and complete the application form and email it with any supporting documents to [fsmawards@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:fsmawards@midlothian.gov.uk). Further information and application forms can also be obtained from the school or you can contact our Home School Practitioner, Lee Grieve on 0131 271 4645 or alternatively on 07990 136 849 who is happy to support.

## 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.

