



Newsletter

newtongrange_ps@midlothian.gov.uk

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



@NewtongrangePS

School app



ISSUE 6
January
2022

Welcome Back!

We hope you had a wonderful and safe Christmas holiday. We look forward to our new term and all the exciting learning that will be taking place.



Staffing

We look forward to the new head teacher, Mrs Laura Cameron, joining us later in the term and will keep you informed once an official start date is confirmed. We also welcome to the ELC, Mrs Nina Dinwoodie, as our Early Years Officer. Finally, we would like to extend our best wishes to Miss Hunter who will be starting her maternity leave on Friday 21st January. Good luck!

Covid-19 Mitigation Measures

We continue to implement a number of measures to ensure the safety of our whole school community. Thank you for your ongoing support during drop-off and pick-up times by using the one-way system in playground.

Current government guidance is that children under the age of 18 years and 4 months do not need to isolate at home where another family member has tested positive for Covid provided your child is not displaying symptoms of Covid or has a fever.

School Lunches

We are pleased to inform you that Midlothian Council have given permission for school lunch halls to reopen from Monday 31st January. All children selecting a school lunch will return to using the hall. Children in P1-3/4 with a packed lunch brought in from home will also use the dinner hall. However, Children from P4-7 with a packed lunch will continue to have lunch in their classrooms.

Digital Devices Rollout

Midlothian Council's rollout of digital devices to all learners from P1 to 7 is scheduled to begin in Newtongrange Primary from 31st January. Our Digital Learners Decision Making Group will be supporting their classes to ensure all children understand guidance on how to look after their device, particularly if the device is being taken between school and home.

All parents are required to complete the online agreement before children receive their new device. Please complete this agreement if you have not already done so by clicking on the link below.

<https://bit.ly/efl-acceptance>

Scots/Burns Assemblies

As a celebration of Burns day, children will be learning a Scottish poem within their classes and as part of their homework. Learners will have the opportunity to perform this to their classes, with a winner from each being selected to perform at our Scots Assembly. Assemblies will be virtual on Thursday 27th January (P1-3) and Friday 28th January (P3/4-7).

Children's Mental Health Week 2022

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 7-13 February 2022. This year's theme is 'Growing Together'. We will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow. Our Health and Well-being Heroes will lead a special virtual assembly on Friday 4th February to introduce this for our learners.

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.

School Travel Plan

Midlothian Council would like to hear parent and carer views to support the creation of the school's new travel plan. Please email the school at Newtongrange.PS@midlothian.gov.uk with your answers to the following two questions. Please ensure your email has Travel Plan Questions in the subject/title field.

Q1. Do you have any road safety concerns regarding your child's route to school that may impact them walking, cycling or scooting?

Q2. Would you like to see anything else implemented to encourage active travel and to eliminate potential barriers?

Responses will sent onto Midlothian's travel plan coordinator as data will allow Midlothian to prioritise their road safety budget towards schools with the highest necessity.

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.

Diary Dates

27.01.22	P1-3/4 Burns' Poetry Competition
28.01.22	P4-7 Burns' Poetry Competition
31.01.22	Rollout of digital devices to all learners starts
31.01.22	Children's Mental Health Week
08.02.22	Safer Internet Day
14.02.22	Midterm break until Sunday 20.02.22
21.02.22	Learners and staff return to school
01.04.22	Achievement Assemblies
05.04.22	Parent Consultation Meetings (subject to change depending on Covid-19 measures)
06.04.22	Parent Consultation Meetings (subject to change depending on Covid-19 measures)
08.04.22	End of term