

BELLSQUARRY PRIMARY SCHOOL –NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



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Our website: <https://bellsquarryprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>

“Learn, Believe and you will Succeed”

Article 28: Children have the right to learn and to go to school

Our Vision and Values

At Bellsquarry Primary School and Nursery Class we are committed to providing a safe, happy and nurturing environment for our children to learn and feel valued. We include others and each individual's uniqueness is celebrated. We endeavour to ensure our children develop life-long skills which are meaningful, relevant and enjoyable. We aspire for our children to be the best version of themselves and try their very best every day.



Author visit

As part of our 'Building a Reading and Writing Culture' at Bellsquarry, Mrs Walker has organised an author visit for P4-7 on Tuesday 22nd October, from 1.30-2.30pm in the hall and then 45 minutes for Q & A and time to buy books. The author is Philip Caveney, who specialises in motivating reluctant boys. Philip writes under the name Danny Weston and his new book is called 'Inchtinn - Island of Shadows'. We look forward to welcoming him.

Madrid Marathon – P7 transition event

This is a great opportunity for P7 pupils to experience the Spanish language and culture as well as find out what it will be like to study languages at the high school. Bankton and Bellsquarry will take part in the afternoon session on Thursday 24th October. They will walk to and from school, accompanied by their class teacher and parent helpers.

Brass Evening for new starts

Your child may have embarked on an exciting journey by learning to play a musical instrument. Mrs Poynter, our brass instructor would like to introduce herself by meeting up with all the parents and carers of children who have recently started to play a brass instrument within our cluster schools. The meeting is taking place on Thursday 24th October at 6pm at Bellsquarry Primary School and will last for approximately an hour.

All the children who have just started should attend with their instruments and you will be able to hear them play their first sounds. Mrs Poynter will answer any questions and give you information on how to contact her in the future.

We hope you will be able to attend but if for any reason you are unable to do so, could you please email the school inbox to let Mrs Poynter know

Library Visits

As part of our ongoing literacy development work, building a reading and writing culture, we have arranged for P4-7 pupils to visit the Lanthorn library every 8 weeks. The first visit will be an introduction and following that the children will take part in activities and then borrow a book. The books stay in school and each teacher keeps a record of who has borrowed each book. Sessions start at approximately 11am. Classes will have an early break and leave around 10.30am, spend about 40 minutes at the library and then return to school in time for lunch.

P1-3 will receive outreach lessons from Eileen Campbell, the head librarian. The lessons will start at approximately 2pm and last around an hour.

Drama Workshops

Glyn from Helen O'Grady Drama Academy will be visiting us on the 8th November to deliver drama workshops to P4-7 classes.

P7 Sports Hall Athletics – 7th November

As part of our Active Schools programme, our Primary 7 children have been invited to attend the annual Sportshall Festival at Craigswood Sports Centre. The event will take place during the school day and form part of their Health and Wellbeing education. Further information to follow.

Parents Portal

West Lothian Council introduced the Parents Portal before the summer break. We would like to encourage all P1-7 parents to register if you have not already done so.

Medication in School

If your child requires medication to be administered in school please obtain a form from the school office. Medication cannot be administered unless a completed form is received. Further information and forms are available on the link below:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/8865/Individual-Health-Care-Plans-and-Forms>

Educational Excursions

In accordance with West Lothian Council Excursion Policy parents are required to complete an EE2 Parental Consent form. ***We would be grateful if parents could adhere to the 'return by date' requested by the school office.*** If the forms are not returned, children may not be able to accompany the class.

Lost Property

Can we please remind parents to label clothing as we continually have items going astray and left in the playground at breaks and lunch time. Items without labels are put into our lost property box.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Article 15: Your right to meet with friends and join groups and clubs

P1 Forest School Visit

West Lothian College have recently established a Forest School area which is fully enclosed for children. It is run by lecturing staff who have already attended Forest Skills training.

Forest School helps to enhance learning, increase self-esteem, independence, risk taking, language and much more.

Our Primary 1 children will visit Forest School on 29th October in the afternoon. Pupils will travel by coach leaving school at 1.00 pm and return at approximately 3.00 pm. School uniform should be worn. We would be grateful if parents could donate £3.50 towards the cost of transport. A fund has been set up on IPayimpact

Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you for supporting the above event in school. We raised £155.55 for this charity.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who came along to join our Macmillan Coffee Morning. We raised £80 in support of this charity.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Article 42: The government must let children and families know about children's rights

Halloween Disco – Tuesday 29th October 2019

Our Parent Council are organising Halloween Disco's for children from nursery – P3 and P4-7. Places are still available and can be booked on www.bookwhen.com/bellsquarrypc

Parent Council Meeting – Monday 28th October – 7 pm

All parents are members of our Parent Forum and are invited to attend our next Parent Council meeting to be held in school on the above date. We value your contribution to school improvement and fundraising events.

Flu programme

This will take place on Wednesday 30th October in school. The uptake by Bellsquarry last session was 83.1%.

Interim Report

The report forms part of the profiling process which is a tool to allow learners to set targets and engage in recognising their own improvement in learning and achievement. The interim report allows parents to engage in the process and receive information during the session about their child's progress.

This session it has been decided that parents will receive an interim report in November and then an end of session report in June, with summative statements on your child's progress.

The interim report allows for your child to self-evaluate with the support of their teacher. There is a section for the class teacher to make a comment about your child's progress in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. There is a section for parents to make a comment following the parent consultation and the back page allows for parents to discuss and note any achievements out with school. This provides an opportunity for class teachers to celebrate your child's achievements in and out of school.

When you have attended your child's appointment with their class teacher, please complete the parent section and clubs/achievements section on the interim report. Please hand the completed report back to school by Thursday 14th November. This will then form part of your child's profile.

Parent Consultations – 6th and 7th November

Parent Consultations will take place on Wednesday 6th November from 5.00 – 8.00 pm and Thursday 7th November from 4.00 – 7.00 pm. P1-7 parents should book appointments online. Further information will be issued over the next few days.

Road Safety

We continue to receive complaints around unsafe driving and parking at Bellsquarry Primary School and Nursery. The subject of safe driving and parking has previously been on the agenda at Bellsquarry Parent Council meetings over time. Staff, pupils and parents have worked hard and have tried various initiatives in a bid to try and ensure the safety of our children is paramount whilst dropping and picking up at school.

The problems we have outside school are:

- Double parking and parking across white lines
- Carrying out three point turns in the middle of the busy road outside the school
- Parking in areas which restrict a child's view when crossing the road
- Parking where a resident's driveway is blocked
- Congestion on the pavements

One of the other problems we have found is that extended family members, child minders and friends involved in transporting children to and from school are not aware of the driving and parking regulations in and around the school and nursery. We politely ask parents to keep them informed and welcome their support. As the school is situated in a small village and the school capacity has increased over time, creating enough parking has been difficult. We appreciate that not all parents can walk their children to school and as the school role has increased, we are faced with trying to find ways to alleviate congestion at busy times.

Some of the current road safety solutions in place are:

- An agreement with the Elm Tree Inn to use their car park at drop off and pick up
- We try to encourage a 'Park and Walk' scheme where parents/carers park further away from school, in a safe spot, and then walk to school for pick up. This has proven to alleviate congestion at the school gate.
- We are a 'Safer Routes to School' school, where there are routes to school which do not require a child to cross a busy main road. We have Nicola, our school crossing patrol attendant on Bellsquarry South Road
- We organised for white lines to be painted in areas which were deemed the most dangerous to park e.g. on corners, areas where pupils cross
- We have had lots of opportunities in school for educating our children about road safety.
- P1-3 staff escort their class to the gates at the end of the day.

Some of the methods we have tried but which have not been so successful were:

- We looked into having yellow zig zag lines painted immediately outside the school however, advice was that parking regulations governing zig zag lines are far from clear and unless they are enforceable then not all drivers will pay heed.
- We had a system of setting out cones at the front and side of the school. However, we are unable to do this now as it is not permitted.

We politely ask that all members of our school community adhere to the Highway Code and consider the safety of our children. Many thanks.

Dates for your Diary

22 nd October	All school staff and pupils resume Author visit for P4-7
24 th October	P.M. P7 to Modern Language transition event at JYHS 6.00 pm – meeting with Mrs Poynter for children starting brass
28 th October	Money Week at Bellsquarry – financial education activities P6 to library 7.00 pm – Parent Council meeting 2
29 th October	P.M. - P1 visit to Forest School, WL College Parent Council – Halloween Disco
30 th October	NHS Flu Immunisation Programme
31 st October	Drama Workshops for P4-7
4 th November	Dyslexia Awareness Week Interim reports to parents
6 th November	Nursery pre-school checks 5.00-8.00pm – Parent Consultations
7 th November	P7 Sports Hall Athletics 4.00-7.00pm – Parent Consultations
11 th November	Anti-bullying Week P5 to library
14 th November	P2/1 class to Dynamic Earth – Dinosaurs
18 th November	Road Safety Week/Scottish Book Week P6 visit to Hopetoun House Librarian visit to P1
19 th November	Tempest Photography – individual and family groups
22 nd November	Dress Down Day – Parent Council event
25 th November	National Tree Week P4 to library
26 th November	P6 to cluster assembly at Lanthorn – St. Andrew's Day
28 th November	WL Primary Gymnastics Competition – Craigswood P6/7 Open Evening at James Young
29 th November	St. Mary's Church Choir Competition
Future dates:	
2 nd December	Mrs McElhinney returns to teach P6 P7 – Homefront Histories workshop Librarian to P3 Parent council Meeting 3
6 th December	P.M. - Christmas Fayre

COMMENTS

We are very keen to hear about

- What we do well
- How we can improve

If you wish to comment on any items in the newsletter or any other matter, please complete the comments slip below and return it to the school office. Thank you.

Signed _____

Date _____