



Bellsquarry Primary School

“Learn, Believe and you will Succeed”

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

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



 @bellsquarryPS

Term 3 January Newsletter

Here we are at the end of January already. It has been an eventful few weeks for me as Acting Head Teacher but I have loved my time so far. I want to thank the whole school community for being so welcoming and supportive. At the moment, we don't have a timescale for Ms McMaster's return but I will be here for as long as I am needed to lead, manage and support the school, along with Mrs Robertson who currently covers on a Wednesday. As soon as we have more information or are aware of further developments we will let you know. Kind regards, Mrs Louise Delargy.



Aldi—Health and Wellbeing

As you will already be aware, Bellsquarry PS won the £20,000 for Health and Wellbeing 'Kit for Schools'.

This is an incredible achievement, one you should all be exceptionally proud of. Thank you to all of the families who helped us achieve this!

The news can now be shared and you can see our smiling faces on the [Get Set Eat Fresh](#) website as well as on a poster in our local Aldi store. There was a story in the [Daily Record](#) earlier this week too.

When Aldi came, they asked us to share what we had planned to do with the money and this is what we came up with:

- Outdoor All Weather Classroom—to provide more opportunities for outdoor learning and mindfulness
- Space to grow our own produce
- Playhouse for the nursery

These ideas are not set in stone and we are happy to listen to any further suggestions. We will be asking the children about their thoughts in school but please [click here](#) to share your views and ideas.



Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support

Some Policy & Procedure Reminders



EE2s & Excursions

West Lothian Council Policy states that children require to have an EE2 completed for any excursions to allow them to attend. Please ensure you complete, sign and return any EE2 forms **before the date of the excursion** as these need to be checked and processed. We realise that it is time consuming and often these things can be overlooked. We will continue to send a reminder if forms are missing but if children do not return their EE2 following this reminder they will be unable to attend the excursion and will need to remain in school.

Medications in School Policy

WLC policy states that we cannot administer medication without a completed medication form. We ask that you bring any medication to the school office and complete the relevant form. Please do not send your child to school with medication or leave this in the school office in the morning. If you are dropping your child off at breakfast club, please speak to Mrs Jones or another member of staff in the Breakfast club and they will issue the appropriate form and will pass this and the medication on to the office staff.



Clothing

It is our policy to ensure children have access to outdoor play at break and lunch times unless the weather is extremely inclement.

Due to the current wet and windy weather children may get wet and muddy. If possible, we would appreciate if parents could send additional tights, socks and trousers in schoolbags to change into if needed. We do have some spare items of clothing but this stock is limited. Thank you for your help with this.



Burns Supper

We had the most fantastic Burns Supper last Thursday night. The effort put into making the evening a success and the quality of the children's performances was so impressive. You should all be exceptionally proud of the children who took part and represented the school so well!



Scottish Poetry Competition

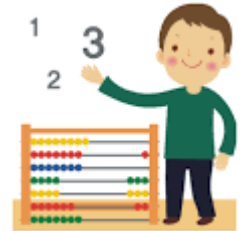
The Scots theme doesn't end there because our annual Scottish Poetry competition will be taking place on **12th February**. Children were all sent home with their poems to choose from and will be heard in class by Thursday 6th February. This will enable us to choose finalists to go forward to perform in front of our invited guests. Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick and Darren Phillips, Youth worker from the local church, will be attending as judges.

Bellsquarry Learning Update

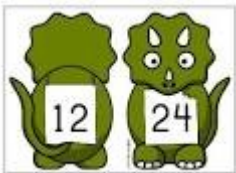
Two of our Primary 7 children were given the responsibility of collating some information about learning taking place in classes across the school.

Primary 1

In Literacy, the children in P1 have been learning about the 'ee' sound and practising their tricky words. They have been learning about their number bonds to 10 and counting in twos. They have also been very busy practising for their Scottish assembly.



Primary 2/1



In Numeracy, P2/1 pupils have been learning how to half and double numbers using near doubles to help them. They have been learning how to plan their writing, using their plan to write a narrative text about life on a deserted island. They have also been learning about how to use coordinates and legends to draw and read maps in their Katie Morag topic.

Primary 3/2

The children in P3/2 have been using similes in their sentences as well as focusing on their handwriting and presentation. In Numeracy & Mathematics the children have been learning about time, multiplication and some have even been tackling division. They are learning about Scottish Castles and have been enjoying learning about different the parts of a castle.



Primary 3

The children have been busy in P3 learning about measure, shapes, subtraction and division as well as their times tables. In Literacy they have been looking at Scots language through 'The Gruffalo'. They have been learning French vocabulary and have been enjoying learning about Robert Burns and tartans in their Scottish topic.



Primary 4

P4 writing has consisted of writing fairy tales. They have been learning about when to double a consonant in words (e.g. hopping) and when to use speech marks and speech bubbles. They are working hard at more complex times tables such as 7, 8 and 9 and using their knowledge of times tables to learning about division. They have been reading non fiction texts, taking notes and sharing them with their reading groups.

Primary 5

In Numeracy, the children in P5 have been building upon their subtraction skills. In mathematics the children have been weighing using standard metric units. In literacy they have been reading and writing Scottish poetry. They have been improving their research skills by researching the saints. In Health and Wellbeing they have been learning about regulation strategies and resilience.



Primary 6

In Numeracy, P6 pupils have been learning mental and written methods for multiplication. They have been learning about Scots language and writing narrative texts: imaginative writing and poetry. They have been strengthening their research skills and using what they find out to create information booklets.



Primary 7

Primary 7 pupils have been researching and gathering information to plan and write an information report. They have enjoyed making 3D shapes using a drawn net and working through algebra equations to find the value of a letter. They have made resilience videos about the ups and downs of life (using either people or puppets!). In PE they have been learning how to dribble in hockey and football (through FUTSAL) as well as Scottish Country Dancing.



Thank you to Finlay and Aiden in P7 for collating this information to share with you.

Staffing Updates

Leadership Team Update

As previously mentioned, Ruth McMaster is currently absent and the timescale for this is unknown at present. I am Acting HT in Ruth's absence on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri. Charlette Robertson is in place as Acting HT on a Wednesday.

Colin Hunter, PT is also currently absent and hoping to return to work in the next month. Mrs England is covering Thurs and Fri in Primary 6 in Mr Hunter's absence.

Teaching Staff Update

It was Mrs McAdam's last day today (P3/2 teacher on a Mon Tues). She has secured another teaching job in the authority and we wish her well in her new post. The job has been advertised is currently live on myjobscotland with a closing date in the middle of Feb. Interviews need to be held and then the successful candidate will need to go through notice period and completion of references etc. Mrs Gilmour will continue to teach P3/2 on a Wed Thurs Fri. Mrs Smith, SfL teacher, will cover in P3/2 Mon Tues for the first 2 weeks followed by a supply teacher after the February break. The supply teacher we have arranged to cover is a retired head teacher, Joan Naysmith. Plans are in place to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Office Staff

Mrs MacDougall finished up at Bellsquarry on Friday 10th January and we have a new Clerical Assistant, Mrs Pow. She is settling in well and is being trained by Mrs Marra.

Teaching Students

We have a couple of teaching students with us at the moment. Mr Drysdale is a teaching student who is currently working with P7 until the end of February and will be working with P3/2 after Easter.

Mrs Scobie started this week in P3 and will also be with us until the end of February.

ELC Staff

Mrs Shona Todd is our new EYO who started in the ELC on 13th January. We are loving having her as a new member of the ELC team!

Mrs Anthony is still working within our ELC but in a new role as Early Years Practitioner.



Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support

Parking Issues



In case you are not already aware, parents are no longer permitted to use The Elm Tree car park to park/drop off/collect. I am told there used to be an unwritten arrangement that parents could use the car park for drop offs and collection. However, the owner has experienced various issues as a result of this and asks that the car park is no longer used by parents/carers for dropping off and collecting of children. This car park is the property of The Elm Tree and they reserve the right to limit parking to staff and customers only.

There is ample street parking around the community but we ask that all parents are mindful of our neighbours, moving their cars if they are causing an obstruction and please switch off car engines when stationary.

We do have a breakfast club open inside the school from 8:00am and supervision in the playground is available from 8:30am every morning. This provides a large window to drop children off, removing the pressure to wait in cars until 8:50am and reducing the amount of traffic at 8:45–8:50. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation with this matter.



Health & Wellbeing

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week Set up by children's mental health charity, Place2Be. The week shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. As a school we will be exploring this year's theme 'Find Your Brave'. You can find more information for parents and carers at the link below:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

The wellbeing of our pupils is extremely important to us and the Wellbeing Indicators underpin everything we do at Bellsquarry Primary School to help ensure our children are happy and healthy in body and in mind. The Wellbeing Indicators are continually referred to throughout the year and are central to our vision, values, teaching and learning. Pupils of Bellsquarry Primary School also participate in wellbeing assemblies where children identify and engage with the wellbeing indicators as well as using the indicators to self report how: SAFE they are, HEALTHY they are, NURTURED they are, ACTIVE they are, RESPECTED they are, RESPONSIBLE they are, INCLUDED they are and how well they are ACHIEVING.

As a cluster we are looking at the ways we support children's wellbeing in our schools. In a separate email there will be a link for parents to complete a survey as part of this self evaluation process. As always, we value your feedback.

ELC (Nursery) Snack Important Info!

From the 6th January there is no longer a requirement to contribute towards to cost of snack as this will now be funded centrally. This covers all nursery snacks but for full day children, a lunch will still need to be provided.



Diary Dates

Wed 5th Feb	P4-7 Kids Gone Wild After School Club Begins
Fri 7th Feb	Movie Night 6:00pm organised by PTAG (ticketed event)
Tues 11th Feb	ELC visiting Five Sisters Zoo—(1/2 AM children and FD children—speak to ELC staff to find out if your child is attending this group)
Wed 12th Feb	ELC visiting Five Sisters Zoo—(PM & FD children—Speak to ELC staff to find out if your child is attending this group)
Wed 12th Feb	Scottish Poetry Competition for Finalists
Fri 14th Feb	HOLIDAY—no children in school or ELC on this day
Mon 17th Feb	HOLIDAY—no children in school or ELC on this day
Tues 18th Feb	INSET Day—Staff resume—School children absent ELC Open—Nursery children return as normal
Wed 19th Feb	All school children return Tempest Class Photos will be taken today
Tues 3rd March	ELC visiting Five Sisters Zoo—(1/2 AM children and FD children—speak to ELC staff to find out if your child is attending this group)

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 _____

Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support