



# 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/>

Our blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/bellsquarrypsblog/>



 @bellsquarryPS

## November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Although we are only part way through term 2 the children have been very busy reflecting upon their learning and creating new targets for the term ahead. At our parent consultations this month, you will get a chance to hear about how your child is getting on as well as their own feelings about their achievements including their skills for learning, life and work. As you won't get the opportunity to look at your child's work in school, we will be sending home copies of a few of your child's chosen pieces of work and your child's overview. We would also like to seek your views about your child's achievements and skills development. Please click [HERE](#) to provide us with your views.



Kind regards, Louise Delargy



## Coronavirus Symptoms — Important Information

Thank you to our families for helping us out by sticking to our procedures at drop off and pick up and ensuring that you are following NHS inform advice where required.

We ask all parents to be vigilant. **If your child or anyone else in your household develops any of the symptoms** which are currently:

- ◇ A fever
- ◇ A continuous cough
- ◇ Loss of smell/taste

**Please do not send your child to school.** Follow NHS inform guidelines regarding test & protect and self-isolation periods for your child and other household members.

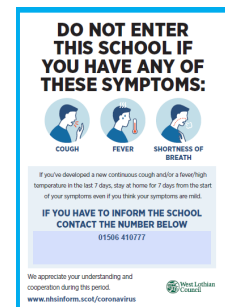
We understand that the symptoms may not be COVID19 related but we appreciate your understanding and patience with this as we must follow this process to reduce the spread of the virus in line with government guidelines.

### **Changes to Procedures**

As West Lothian is now classed as being in tier 3 we have now made some adjustments to our procedures:

- **Parents/Carers should wear a mask when entering the school and nursery grounds, this includes drop off and pick up. We recommend that you also wear a mask at and around the school gates.**

Thank you all for your support with this.





## Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland



### ELC

Our ELC children have been very busy over the last 2 weeks. We are aware that our newsletter link didn't work on twitter last week. Apologies for this. We've included the last ELC newsletter sway link as well as this one:

Previous newsletter

<https://sway.office.com/e8jgtXP3cBS3UWBA?ref=Link>

Current newsletter

<https://sway.office.com/9Qug9wrw4fOBcCgl?ref=Link>



### Primary 1

Primary 1 have been learning more letters and sounds. We have been blending sounds together to read words. We have been exploring numbers to 20 and creating graphs to show information about our class. We have been discussing why it is important to play nicely with our friends.



### Primary 2

Primary 2 have been learning how to display information on graphs and talk about the information on them. They will be constructing their own graphs next. In Literacy they have been learning the difference between common and proper nouns. Primary 2 enjoy taking their learning outdoors and have also been practising ball skills during P.E. time.



### Primary 3

In Literacy, P3 have been looking at how to write a set of instructions to tell other people how to carve a pumpkin. They have been looking at their tricky spelling words and wrote them over and over in a cauldron using lots of colour to colour it in.

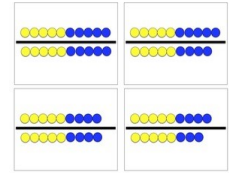
In Numeracy, P3 have been using their skip counting skills to learn counting in 3s and 4s and looking at how to identify any marvellous mistakes they make. They discussed strategies for counting on and counting back from a number to find a missing number in a sequence.

P3 created their own posters for our Emotionworks cogs to go up on the wall to remind everyone what each cog is and what it is for. They have also been investigating the yellow cog this week to see what can trigger an emotion. They discussed the emotion "relaxed" and thought about triggers for this.



## Primary 4

This month Primary 4 have been busy learning how to summarise and identify the main ideas within different texts. In numeracy and maths, they have been developing their estimating skills and their ability to use the strategies 'friendly numbers' and 'doubles/near doubles' to develop increasing mental maths skills. They have explored the route that the character 'Phileas Fogg' from the book 'Around the World in 80 Days' took and plotted this onto a world map. Also, they have enjoyed playing rounders during P.E. sessions.



## Primary 5

Primary 5 have been learning how to use and send emails. We have been learning about place value in Maths up to millions and thinking carefully about what each digit means. We enjoyed using compasses to help us draw circles when we created Venn diagrams. We are very excited about our new topic the Rainforest! Some of us who play football, basketball and gymnastics for teams have been having lots of success out of school too!



## Primary 6

P6 have been discovering the joys of skipping in PE, lots of fun had by everyone. In numeracy, we have been rounding and estimating numbers and in Literacy we began writing biographies about Queen Victoria which ties in with our topic this term of The Victorians. We also held a debate on whether children under the age of 12 should be allowed to play video games, very interesting discussion from the opposing sides.



**Primary 7** In Literacy, we have been learning about the features of procedural writing and have written our own instructions on how to carve a pumpkin. We are almost finished our class novel 'Holes' and are enjoying the plot twists in the novel at the moment.

In Numeracy, we have been learning about the partitioning strategy and how we can use this to help us solve addition and subtraction calculations. We have been playing a game called '4 in a row' to help us with this strategy and it's been lots of fun!

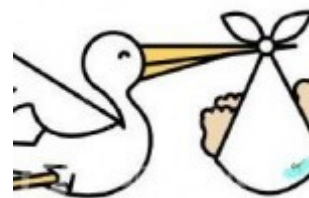
As part of our Health Emotion Works Programme, we have been learning about the red body sensations cog. We wrote an acrostic poem based on an emotion that has significant body sensations. In PE, we have started playing Team Trios which involves mini tournaments playing dodgeball, hockey and football. All pupils have been helping out with time keeping, score keeping, encouragement and organisation of resources. Well done P7!



We have been working hard to complete challenges in P7 by using lots of different skills such as: teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving, communication and editing skills. The Impossible Challenge was great fun and really encouraged us to persevere and make changes to our plan to ensure success.

## Some Lovely News

We are delighted to share with you all that Mrs McElhinney, P4 teacher, is expecting her second baby. We will be in touch nearer the time to share who will be taking over when Mrs McElhinney goes on maternity leave. Congratulations to the McElhinney family—we are all delighted to hear this exciting news.



## November 2nd-7th Dyslexia Awareness Week

This week is Dyslexia Awareness week. Your child will be issued with a blue ribbon to bring home to raise awareness of dyslexia—the challenges and the positives. We will be raising awareness in school and you can find out more information at the Dyslexia Scotland website.

<https://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/dyslexia-awareness-week>



## Community Park Consultation

It was shared with us at our most recent PTAG meeting that West Lothian Council is looking for your views about Bellsquarry park. Once we receive the consultation information we will share it with you so that you can have your say about your local park.



## SeeSaw Online Platform for P1-3 pupils

I am pleased to share with you that this school year P1-3 classes will be using Seesaw (<http://seesaw.me>), a secure online journal where students can document and reflect on what they are learning in class.

Your child will be able to add the things we work on (including photos, videos, worksheets, drawings and voice recordings) to their Seesaw journal and we can share them privately with you and other family members to view and comment on throughout the school year. P1-3 parents, please click [here](#) to provide your consent for your child to be part of this new platform. Once this goes live we will let you know as it is anticipated that Online Learning Journals will be overtaken by SeeSaw.



## School App for Parents

We have had some feedback that parents are finding communication difficult to follow with having to access information in different places. We have been in touch with a company who can create an app where you can access alerts and information from the one place. At our recent PTAG meeting we agreed that we would like to trial this to see if parents find communication more streamlined as a result. We aim to launch this in the coming weeks so please keep your eyes peeled for more info. The more parents who sign up for this, the better. We hope this will improve things for all parents.



## Parent Consultations

These will be taking place using an online system. If you haven't already booked your appointment, you can do so at <https://parents-booking.co.uk/bellsquarry>

We recommend that you log in in plenty of time before your scheduled appointment time because there is an automatic shut off time after the 10 minute slot.

You must use one of the below device and internet browser combinations for the video meeting technology to work:

Apple iPhone/iPad (iOS 11+): Safari Android phone/tablet: Chrome or Firefox Linux computer: Chrome or Firefox Microsoft Surface: Chrome or Firefox Mac computer: Safari, Chrome or Firefox Windows computer: Chrome, Firefox or Edge (Chromium)

If there are any technical difficulties during your allocated appointment time, the class teacher will call you. Please contact the school office if you are having difficulty booking your appointment on 01506 410777. We look forward to seeing you then.



## Firework Safety

This week we will be having a school assembly about Firework Safety. You can find information about how to stay safe at the following link : <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/fireworks-safety.aspx>



## Diary Dates

Wednesday 4th Nov	Virtual Parent Consultations—P1, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7
Thursday 5th Nov	Virtual Parent Consultations—P2, P3, P5, P6 P7 & ASN
Tuesday 10th Nov	Flu Immunisations in school
Wednesday 11th Nov	Virtual Parent Consultations—ELC, P2 & P4 Separate information will be sent to ELC parents regarding booking appointments.

Please get in touch if there is anything you wish to discuss or clarify either via email, telephone or by speaking to a member of the leadership team at the school gate in the morning or at the end of the day. We are always happy to help.

Kind regards,

Louise Delargy & The Bellsquarry Team.