



Bellsquarry Primary School

“Learn, Believe and you will Succeed”

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



 @bellsquarryPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

September 2021

We were delighted to welcome so many of you along to our recent Meet the Team events. If you missed these, we recently sent out the slides and accompanying information via email as well as storing them on the school app for you to access at your convenience. You can download the app by looking for the following app in your app store or scanning the QR code below:



We remain in a period of recovery and our recovery curriculum involves keeping Health and Wellbeing at the core of everything that we do. If a child's wellbeing needs are not met, they may find learning difficult which can further affect their self esteem. With resilience being one of the key elements of our recovery and improvement plan, we have implemented a variety of targeted nurture/wellbeing groups as well as whole school nurturing approaches to support resilience and improve self esteem. We have also been carrying out further baseline assessments to identify any gaps in learning within Literacy and Numeracy in order to inform any required supports to address these areas.

Our Risk Assessment procedures remain reviewed regularly to ensure we have procedures in place to minimise the risk of the spread of the virus. Please continue to be vigilant and if your child or any member of the household develops any symptoms, follow NHS advice. You can read the updated guidance and FAQ here:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/60416/Back-to-School-Information>

It is really important that any necessary action is taken swiftly in order to play our part in keeping this virus under control. We would like to remind our parents/carers to wear face coverings when collecting your child, maintain distance and please do not wait at the gates in order to limit contact with other passing families.

We thank you all for your efforts in the community and around and on school grounds to stick to the rules to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can and keep our school buildings open.

We hope that you all enjoy the long weekend with your children and we look forward to seeing our school children on Wednesday. The ELC remains open on Monday and Tuesday.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Louise Delargy

Acting Head Teacher



Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support

Our Recovery & Improvement Priorities—

We remain in a period of recovery following our periods of school closure and remote learning. This means our recovery curriculum is responsive to the needs of the children, keeping their emotional wellbeing at the heart of everything we do as well as using a variety of assessments to identify any key gaps in learning to be addressed through responsive planning and interventions.

We will be providing our children with a well rounded curriculum as we develop our Agile Learning Culture through our approaches to STEM and IDL. However, importance will also be placed on developing key Literacy and Numeracy skills across the curriculum to ensure the core skills are strengthened to provide a firm foundation for future learning. Identified children will also have further interventions put in place to support them with their Wellbeing, Literacy or Numeracy.

Parental Involvement We are really keen to increase parental involvement this session in our school improvements, Pupil and Parent Action Groups, continuous self evaluation as well as fundraising. Please see below for our improvement priorities and read on to see how you can get involved.



Health & Wellbeing –
Relationships & Resilience



Building an Agile Learning Culture
– IDL STEM, thinking &
questioning skills and flexible
approaches to learning



Literacy – Spelling,
Communication & Collaboration



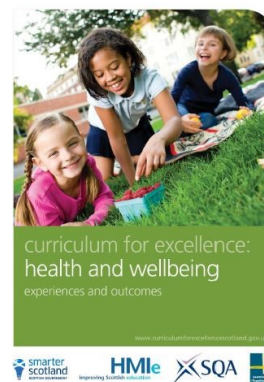
Numeracy – Developing the use of
concrete materials throughout the
school to support numeracy and
problem solving

Health & Wellbeing (HWB)

RSHP—Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) is part of the Curriculum for Excellence and Experiences and Outcomes in this area of Health and Wellbeing curriculum span from Early—Fourth level. You can view the Health and Wellbeing Experiences and Outcomes by [clicking here](#).

Last session, we introduced the RHSP resource to our P5-7 cohorts. This is now being rolled out across P1-P7. This is a widely used resource across West Lothian and parent/carers are able to view and access all of the materials and resources. This allows you to see what your child will be learning about and provides information to enable you to support your child with discussions about these topics at home. You can view the RHSP resource by [clicking here](#). You can find the resource itself, information for parents/carers and also tools to support children who have additional support needs.


Our Health and Wellbeing champion in school is Miss Easton and we will soon be appointing Young HWB champions (pupils) to drive forward ideas & improvements in our HWB curriculum and approaches. [We are now seeking a parent who would like to get involved and become our Family Champ to represent our parent voice about all things HWB and #whatmatters to them.](#) We would be looking for someone who would be willing to gather thoughts and opinions from parents and would be available to attend meetings to share ideas. If this is something you are interested in supporting us with, please get in touch via email with Miss Easton at wlbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk



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Learning for Sustainability—Climate Change

As you'll have heard, COP26 is coming to Glasgow. This is an ideal opportunity to provide the children with a very relevant learning context. They have opportunities to lead their learning and discover how they can make a positive difference in working towards a more sustainable future for future generations. Keep an eye on our twitter feed to see the different directions our pupils have chosen to go in.

 @bellsquarryPS

#WLSTEM

#BQPSBigThinkers

One of our parents is a STEM ambassador and we have been incredibly fortunate to have her support as we develop our STEM curriculum further. Here are the environmental topics our classes have chosen to explore:

P1—Litter

P2—The Future of Our Planet is in Our Hands (current interest in wildlife, habitats...and trains!)

P3—Greta and The Giants

P4—Pollution in the Sea

P5—Pollution & Deforestation

P6—Sustainable Lifestyles

P7— Energy & Our Environment

If you have an interest in/work in one of these areas and feel you could contribute to the learning of our children (even in a small way), please get in touch and we'd love to have you on board!

Our PTAG have also made 'Climate Change' their focus and theme for PTAG involvement this year as there are so many ways our parents could support with this. Please read on for more information.

Safe Routes to Schools

At our recent PTAG (Parent Teacher Action Group) meeting, we discussed the parking situation as well as the facility for children to bring their bikes to school.

We are delighted to see that so many of our pupils choose to walk or cycle to school instead of coming by car. Less traffic keeps our children safer by lowering the risk of an accident and also lowers emissions.

We know that some families have no choice but to come by car for drop off and pick up but we would like to work on reducing the number of cars at drop off and pick up time and would ask that parents/carers consider whether they really *need* to drop off and pick up by car at both drop off and pick up. E.g. Could you drop off by car but pick up on foot for example?

Our PTAG are going to be supporting us, as part of their climate change theme, to explore ways to increase safe bike storage at the school as well as identifying safe routes to school. Some of our parents have already offered some ideas and approached workplaces to find out if they can help.

We will soon be setting up our 2021-22 JRSO group with pupils in school. There are different agencies we could contact and contacts within the council who we can work with to improve this area of our school community but we need your help. If you are interested in being part of these discussions or supporting our JRSOs, please let us know so that you too can have your voice heard and be part of our developments. We value your opinions and support. [CLICK HERE](#)



PTAG—Fundraising

Our PTAG has a very active and fantastic Fundraising Committee. If you think you would be able to help out in any way –either with the organisation of fundraising events or attendance at organised events. Or even if you'd like to hear more about this and are available on a Friday, the fundraising committee are meeting for the first time this session on Friday morning 24th September. If you would like to join them to find out what it is all about please contact the fundraising committee to find out more at: BellsquarryPrimaryFundraising@gmail.com



Self Evaluation— Transitions

One of our self evaluation focuses for this term is Transitions (HGIOS 2.6). We are mindful that some of the processes we would usually carry out were not possible due to the pandemic but we aimed to ensure the children had as many opportunities as possible to familiarise themselves with the environment and meet the staff prior to their arrival. We have identified some of our own areas for adaptation. However, we would like to hear from our parents/carers who have recently had a child transition into Bellsquarry Primary School, to find out how well they settled, what helped this process as well as what you feel we could do to make that process even better. I would like to meet with parents/carers to discuss this further. If you are available on **Wednesday 29th September at 1:45pm** for a quick group chat via skype for business, we can establish key ideas and then we can consult other parents who were unable to make the session.

Please save the date and click the link here to join the Skype meeting:
<https://meet.lync.com/glowscotland/wllouise.delargy/612SEQAG>



Cyber Crime & Cyber Resilience

We are working to develop children's resilience in learning and in life. As part of that, we also have a responsibility to ensure that our children have cyber resilience. We work with our children through our digital learning programme regarding ways to stay safe online. However, we'd like to take this one step further. We are going to be running a pilot of a new approach to cyber resilience and cyber crime education in primary schools in partnership with Police Scotland and Education Scotland.



Although this type of project has been delivered at a secondary level, this is the first time a similar project will be run with primary pupils. Bellsquarry Primary School will be the first primary school in Scotland to have been involved in this pilot. Therefore, we would like to invite anyone who has a particular interest in how Cybercrime and Cyber resilience is taught to ensure the programme meets the needs of our learners and takes parental views into consideration.

This is a very exciting project to be involved in and if you would like to be part of the discussion group prior to the programme delivery in December 2021, please get in touch with me at louise.delargy@westlothian.org.uk or indicate in the form (link below). We don't have a schedule of meetings but these would usually be held out with school hours and we would aim to find a time to meet to suit the majority.

Police Scotland have indicated that they would also be willing to run a parent information session. If you would be interested in attending this to find out more about the programme and how you can help to keep your child safe online click here to allow us to gauge parental interest. [CLICK HERE](#)

Staffing Update We recently wrote to our P7 and P4 parents to let them know that Mrs Coyle had been successful in gaining a secondment to West Lothian Council as an Equity Development Officer. We wish her well in her new post but will miss her dearly here at BQPS. Congratulations, Mrs Coyle. Mrs Walker will take over as main teacher for P7 from W/B 27th September and will be joined in December by Mrs McElhinney who is returning from maternity leave. Mrs Walker will continue to support P4 however a new member of staff, Mrs Mitchell, will be joining us to take over the teaching in P4 on a Friday. Mrs Mitchell will be joining us next week to meet and get to know the class and to meet with the class teachers.



No Nuts in School or ELC Please

We would like to remind parents that we ask that **no nut containing products** are sent into school as snacks or in pupils' lunch boxes. This includes Nutella. We have several children in school with severe nut allergies and it is extremely important we all do our bit to keep these little ones safe. Thank you very much for your cooperation with this matter.



Dogs at School Gates

As much as we do love all of the beautiful dogs that form part of our Bellsquarry family, we have many children who have allergies and/or a fear of dogs. We want all of our children and families to feel safe so we ask that owners refrain from bringing their dogs into the school playground or at the school gates where other children/families have no choice but to pass by.



If you are waiting/walking past with a dog, please keep your distance and make sure the dog is kept under control and is on a lead.

We hope you understand and thank you for your support.

Diary Dates

Mon 20th September	School Staff and Pupils on holiday. ELC Open to Staff and Pupils
Tues 21st September	School Staff and Pupils on holiday. ELC Open to Staff and Pupils
Wed 22nd September	School staff and pupils resume
Mon 27th September	Scottish Maths Week
Wed 28th September 1:45pm	Parent-School & Partner Self Evaluation—Transitions https://meet.lync.com/glowscotland/wllouise.delargy/612SEQAG
Mon 11-15th October	Holiday for school pupils—ELC remains open
Mon 18th October	INSET day for staff, school pupils absent—ELC remains open
Mon 25th October	PTAG Meeting—7pm All parents/carers invited
Wednesday 3rd—Friday 5th November	Parent Consultation Appointments—information about how to book times/days for each class will follow.

Please feel free to get in touch if there is anything you wish to share with us, discuss or clarify either via email or telephone. The line manager for the ELC, P1 and P2 is Mr Hunter & for P3-7 it is Mrs Delargy but we are both more than happy to help with any enquiry you may have. We will endeavour to respond as soon as we possibly can. Kind regards, Mrs Delargy, Mr Hunter & The Bellsquarry Team

Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support