




# Bellsquarry Primary School

“Learn, Believe and you will Succeed”

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



 @bellsquarryPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

**October 2021**

I cannot believe we are at the end of our first term already. Our children have shown great resilience and determination this term, they have been setting targets, working hard and meeting the demands of their new stages throughout the school.

To give you a little insight, we set two of our Primary 7 pupils the task of asking our children what they have been learning about recently to share with you all. They took the role of ‘news reporters’ in their stride and have produced this video (completely independently) to share the learning of our pupils.

I'm sure you'll agree that the boys have put their communication and digital learning skills to the test. You'll also see that they were keen to carry out their very own ad hoc assessments and clearly share high expectations of our learners at Bellsquarry. They have certainly provided their audience with an entertaining and informative audio visual experience! I have no idea how they made it look so professional in such a short space of time but I was very impressed. Well done, Lee & Jack!

<https://sway.office.com/2twcjCX8pKikSzLC?ref=Link>

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our question to inform our Vision, Values and Aims refresh. We will be working on this during our INSET day on 18th October and will let you know what the refreshed outcome is based upon the feedback from pupils, parents/carers, staff and partner agencies. Thank you to everyone who has submitted their responses!

We hope that you all enjoy the October break and we look forward to seeing our school children on Tuesday 19th October. Please be advised that the ELC remains open during the school October break.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Louise Delargy



## PTAG—Fundraising



Our PTAG has a very active and fantastic Fundraising Committee.

They are currently organising a Halloween Trail and more information will be shared with you all very soon.

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 please contact the fundraising committee to find out more at: [BellsquarryPrimaryFundraising@gmail.com](mailto:BellsquarryPrimaryFundraising@gmail.com)

*Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support*

# Parental Involvement Opportunities

## Cyber Resilience Programme

Thank you to the parents who responded to let us know they were interested in attending sessions around the Cyber Resilience element of our curriculum this year and the input from Police Scotland. We will be in touch in due course regarding the dates/times of these meetings/input.

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](#)

## Health and Wellbeing—A plea for help!

We are still seeking a parent who would be willing to join us in being our Family Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Champion to represent our parent voice about all things HWB and #whatmatters to them. This may involve attending meetings with Family Champs from across West Lothian as well as supporting the school and Mini Health and Wellbeing Champions (our pupils) with developing and improving our approaches to Health and Wellbeing.

Each school in West Lothian is required to have a Family Champ for HWB. This work would help us tailor our Health and Wellbeing curriculum to the needs of our own unique school community. We don't have any dates of meetings as yet but we will let you know when these will be as soon as these become available. Please let Mrs Delargy know if you would be willing to be our parent representative at [louise.delargy@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:louise.delargy@westlothian.org.uk) or call the school on 01506 410777.

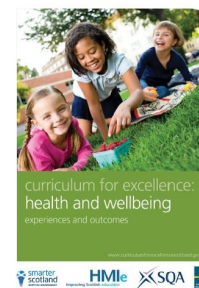


## Health & Wellbeing (HWB)

**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.



**Time Keeping** We understand that, on the odd occasion, lateness in either dropping off or collecting your child is sometimes unavoidable. However, it is important that children arrive on time to school. If children are late often, this can affect their readiness to learn. When children arrive late, they can miss registration, ordering lunches and the beginning of lessons which all affects their wellbeing and their learning.

**School starts at 8:50am** (although children can arrive from 8:35am or at Breakfast club between 8:00-8:15)

**School finishes at 3:15pm** (although P1-3 pupils will come out in a staggered manner from 3:05 to reduce the number of parents waiting outside the gates)



## Positive Relationships—Positive Behaviour



At Bellsquarry Primary School, we have high expectations for our learners. Building positive relationships is key to ensuring pupils are Ready, Respectful and Safe. These are our 3 main school rules:

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

We have refreshed our Positive Relationships—Positive Behaviour policy and after the holidays we will be officially launching our new approaches to make our high expectations clear to all members of our learning community. We want to ensure that we are helping all learners to maintain responsible attitudes towards learning for themselves and that they are respecting the rights of others. We also want to recognise our learners who go above and beyond, live and breathe our school values and consistently follow our school rules.

We shared our expectations and our plans for recognition with the children at assembly this week. You can view our policy and our summarised **Positive Behaviour Toolkit on our website**.

<https://bellsquarryprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/18044/School-Documents>

Although any small warnings will remain between the pupil and teacher, we will contact parents if improvements in effort and behaviour are required. However, we also want to let you know when your child has gone above and beyond. **Please visit our website and click on 'Positive Relationships Policy' to read our policy in full.**

We thank our parents and carers for their support in helping all of our children to maintain the highest of standards of conduct and effort in school.

## School Uniform & PE Kits After October Holidays

School uniform is an important part of a school learning community. Although we have had children coming to school in their own PE/Outdoor learning kits on PE days whilst the restrictions have been in place, we are looking forward to seeing our children arriving at school in their school uniforms every day.

Parents and teachers have both commented that they prefer having children attend a school in their PE kits on PE days. It saves time and the hassle of getting changed as well as reducing the risk of items of clothing going missing during the changing process.

I am happy to continue to allow children to come to school wearing their PE kit on PE days. However, I ask that children now only wear school colours/School PE Kit consisting of the following:

- Bellsquarry white PE t-shirt or poloshirt OR Plain white t-shirt/poloshirt\*
- Plain black jogging bottoms/shorts/leggings\*
- Black trainers\*
- Bellsquarry jumper/fleece or plain royal blue jumper/fleece\*

\*no designer logos please



We hope by asking for the above, it will not require parents to go out and buy anything new as these items are part of our main school uniform anyway. However, we will always help out any family who may need financial support to purchase uniform or PE items. *If you do require financial support to buy these items you do not need to get in touch personally unless you wish to discuss this further, if you prefer, you can simply enter your child's name by [clicking here](#) and we can arrange to send items home with your child.*

If your child forgets to wear the school PE kit, please do not worry. We have spare PE kits we can provide your child to wear whilst they are in school.

**We are all looking forward to seeing our children back in their school uniforms/school PE kits when we return after the October Holiday and I thank you for your support with this.**

*Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support*

## Climate Change

Our classes have been very busy learning about climate change and they are busy preparing some information to share with parents about what they have been learning in advance of COP26.

Watch this space!



School App for Parents

## Our School App

You can download the app by looking for the following app in your app store or scanning this QR code.



The school app renewal is due soon. This was our first year trying out the app. Do you like having this in addition to Groupcall? [Please let us know](#)

## Self Evaluation— Transitions—2.6

We recently asked for some feedback about our ELC—P1 transition process. What we were told was:

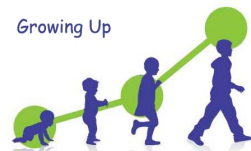
Things that went well:

- Settled in well
- Was great to have the opportunity for children to visit and use areas of the school
- Great that staff members were able to come into the nursery to get to know the children
- Curriculum/Meet the teacher events were informative
- Children were looking forward to starting school

Even better if..

- Opportunities to provide AM children (whilst still in nursery) with opportunities to go outside to play after lunch to help them understand that Mummies and Daddies or other carers wouldn't be there until the end of the school day rather than after lunch.
- ◆ More information provided about Seesaw e.g. a how to session after the introduction to Seesaw.
- ◆ More information about the lunches and the process when children go into the lunch hall.
- ◆ More information about ordering milk and when this is consumed etc.

Please get in touch via the school email address if you have any other feedback or suggestions to share.



## Communication During Restrictions

To keep everyone safe we respectfully request that parents/carers do not enter the school building or come to the school office without a prior appointment/arrangement.

If you need to speak to a member of the team, please call the school office on 01506 410777. If you need to be seen in person e.g. to drop something off, a member of the team will come outside to meet you if you call when you arrive at the school.

A reminder to please wear a face covering when on school grounds.

We thank you for your continued understanding.



## 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 co-operation with this matter.



## Quick Question—October

Our next set of quick questions will be focusing on 2.3 Learning Teaching and Assessment and we will be seeking feedback on your views about homework.

We recently made some changes to our homework processes for our older classes and we are keen to find out what your opinions are about homework, what works well for your family and your child and why. We will send out a separate homework survey in due course so please keep an eye out for this.



### Diary Dates

Monday 11-15th October	Holiday for school pupils—ELC remains open
Monday 18th October	INSET day for staff, school pupils absent—ELC remains open
Tuesday 19th October	All school children return
Thursday 21st October	P7 Madrid Marathon—JYHS
Monday 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.
Tuesday 9th November	P3 Tennis Festival—JYHS
Monday 29th November	Tempest Photography—Individual & Siblings Photos

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.

If you have any comments or questions about anything within this newsletter or you wish to get in touch about another matter please click the link below to leave your comments. We'd love to hear from you!

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKUNb9FKKQ6FLiyDnXf6QmrxUQ0E2V1QwNEpBTEdYMkNCUEtEVEM4MkxSVC4u>

Please also send in any information about your child's achievements outside of school, we'd love to hear all about them and celebrate their wider achievements with the whole school community.

Kind regards, Mrs Delargy, Mr Hunter & The Bellsquarry Team.