



Bellsquarry Primary School & ELC

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January/February 2023

Welcome to Bellsquarry Learning Community!

A warm welcome to our new families and to Mrs. L. Cougan who joined us at the beginning of term to support as Acting Principal Teacher. Mrs Cougan is taking over Mr Hunter's remit as his absence continues. We also welcome Mrs. H. McMaster who joins us as new P1 teacher. We wish Mrs Gilmour all the best in her new post!

PATPAL

Thank you to all of our families who managed to come along to our most recent PATPAL (Pupils as Teachers, Parents as Learners) event. It was lovely to see so many family members in the school learning about how we approach literacy. Hopefully you were able to see the various ways the children learn about different genres as well as how our learners use targets to support them in a variety of text types. Naturally, we couldn't miss the opportunity to have a Scots theme as it was Robert Burns focus week. We hold PATPAL events to provide more opportunities for families to explore learning together and to give you an insight into your child's learning in the classroom. We'd like to ask if you could take a couple of minutes to share your thoughts about our PATPALs and anything you'd like to see in future sessions like these.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKUNb9FKKQ6FLiyDnXf6QmrxUMU5MSTI5WUpPNIFZOEVQOFRHQkRZSjZNNi4u>



Our School Times

It is important that your child arrives prior to the start of the school day so that they can be ready to learn and don't miss important organisational or learning time.

	Start Time	Break Time	Lunch Time	End of Day
Monday— Thursday	8:50am	10:30—10:45	12:15—13:00	3:15
Friday	8:50am	10:30—10:45	N/A	12:25

We do also have a breakfast club for all P1-7. Pupils can attend any day without booking. Breakfast club starts at 8:00am and finishes at 8:30am. The children then make their way to the playground to play before the school day begins. Playground supervision begins from 8:30am.

Struggling to cope with rising living costs?

Help with costs may be available



Quick Question We are shining the light on Quality Indicator 2.3. We'd like to seek your views about your child's learning experiences so that we can celebrate what is going well and make any changes to enable us to continue to improve. Please click here to give your feedback:

<https://forms.office.com/e/an27WiNpbd>

Rights Respecting Schools—Feedback



A huge thank you to all of our parents who responded to our last questionnaire. This feedback (along with pupil and staff feedback) allowed us to evaluate where we are as a school community and what we can add to our action plan as we work towards our Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award.

P7 Burns Supper

Last week our P7s hosted their famous annual Bellsquarry Burns supper. It was the first time with a live audience since 2020 and they put on a fantastic performance. A great time was had by all and our invited guests were very impressed with our Confident Individuals and the creativity they demonstrated. Well done, P7!



Supporting Parents Programme—Triple P

The three Ps in 'Triple P' stand for 'Positive Parenting Programme'. Triple P helps parents:

- Raise happy, confident kids
- Manage misbehaviour so everyone in the family enjoys life more
- Set rules and routines that everyone respects and follows
- Encourage behaviour you like
- Take care of yourself as a parent
- Feel confident you're doing the right thing

If this is something you feel would benefit you as a family please register your interest with Mrs Delargy at the below link: by Wednesday 8th February.



<https://forms.office.com/e/ysuL8pz0vP>

Pupil Leadership Groups

This term sees the reintroduction of our Pupil Leadership Groups across the school. Pupils across the school will have the opportunity to join one of the groups below:

- Charities/Fundraising
- Our Playground
- 1+2 Languages
- Eco Group
- Sustainability Superheroes
- Rights Respecting Group
- Wellbeing Wonders
- Junior Road Safety Officers
- Literacy Ambassadors inc. Junior Journalists and Librarians
- Mini Sports Leaders

These groups run every second Friday. If you would be interested in being a parent helper and joining our staff and pupils in any of these groups to support our developments, please get in touch by emailing wlbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk

Children's Mental Health Week—Save the date!

Week beginning 6th February is Children's Mental Health week. We are passionate about helping children build their self esteem, develop resilience and to support one another. Our dedicated One Trusted Adult Sessions begin again this term every 2 weeks on a Friday where your child can check in and build relationships with their chosen adult in an informal setting.

We know that sometimes anxieties can build in children and we have developed strategies to help with this in school. We are also looking to run our 'Supporting Children Manage Anxiety' session for parents. We have pencilled in Friday the 24th February. Please save the date and we'll be in touch soon to confirm the final arrangements.



Our ELC Vision Values and Aims and Curriculum Rationale

As we have had a number of new ELC families and staff members join us within the last year, we'd like to seek your views about what makes Bellsquarry Nursery unique and what your hopes are for your child. This will help us to ensure our vision, values and aims and the experiences we provide in nursery continue to meet the needs of our families. Please click the link or scan the QR code if your child attends our nursery to complete a short questionnaire **by Thursday 9th February**. To share your views Thank you!

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKZmAYqyTilGpue8aCZvu4hUNVdZS0pSS>



Parent Helpers

We are always grateful for an extra pair of hands in the school and the ELC setting. If you have some spare time and would like to become a parent helper then please speak to a member of the team.

You do need to have a West Lothian PVG for this but we can help you with this.



ELC Inspection

As we shared in our last newsletter, we had a very positive Care Inspectorate inspection and were graded the following:

In evaluating quality, the Care Inspectorate use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

- How good is our care, play and learning? **5—Very Good**
- How good is our setting? **5—Very Good**
- How good is our leadership? **5 - Very Good**
- How good is our staff team? **5—Very Good**



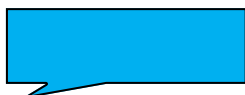
The full report has been published and available to read on the Care Inspectorate website.

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/inspection-reports?page=11>

Well done to our ELC team for their dedication and hard work in ensuring they provide a nurturing and supportive environment where our littlest learners can thrive.

ELC Communication Box

In the ELC cloakroom, we have a box that has been decorated by the children. Please feel free to leave us a note (with your name or anonymous) with anything you would like to share with us. This could be something you feel we are doing well, something we could improve on, an idea for the setting or anything else you would like to share.



Our ELC session times

	AM Session	PM Session	Full Day
Mon—Thurs	7:47—12:30	12:30—6:14pm	8:00—6:00pm
Fri	8:00—11:54	N/A	N/A

Our full day children are also entitled to an additional PM 12.45pm - 4.05pm OR Friday AM session 8.00am-11.20am

A gentle request to please try to ensure that your child is collected before the end of their AM session. If AM parents are late to collect, this impacts the beginning of the PM session. Thank you for your support with this.

ELC Door Safety

We are delighted that we are now able to invite our parents into the setting to collect their children. Please ensure that as you are leaving the ELC, you close the door firmly behind you to help keep our littlest learners safe.

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 and nut containing cereal bars.

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.



Playground Areas—Outdoor Play and Outdoor Learning

We are aware that there have been some concerns about the amount of mud children are coming home with on their clothes. This is due to the lack of drainage on our grassy area which means both the hill and the trim trail gets very muddy indeed.

We are working with the children and playground staff to expand play opportunities in the playground to ensure the less muddy ground also offers some exciting play and exploration opportunities. We aim to offer a place children can play ball games away from the muddy grass. However, we are also developing other opportunities such as 'Curiosity Cove' and 'Creativity Corner' which aim to provide high quality outdoor learning and play experiences on the less muddy areas of the playground too.

The Benefits of Outdoor Play

We continue to develop our outdoor area and the types of experiences we can provide indoor and outdoor both in the ELC and the school. Our nursery team has created a sway to share the benefits of outdoor learning.

Either click the link below or scan the QR code to view this.

<https://sway.office.com/7jgxUqcgaphGpWLI?ref=Link&loc=play>



PTAG—Parent Teacher Action Group—School & ELC

Our next meeting of the PTAG is on Monday 27th February at 7pm. At these meetings the Head Teacher and other representatives provide an update on what is happening in the school and nursery. This is an opportunity for parents to share their views and become more involved in the events and developments within the school as well as fundraising projects. All parents are welcome and we are also looking for nursery parents to join our PTAG to ensure that we have representation from the whole learning community. The meetings are usually held once per term on Monday evenings.

The ELC team is committed to representing the nursery in this group and would really like some ELC parent representation. If you would like to know more about it then please speak to a member of the team and come along to our next PTAG meeting on the 27th February at 7pm.



Diary Dates

Friday 3rd February	P5 Parent Assembly—9:15am
Friday 10th February	P1 Parent Assembly—9:15am
Mon 13th—Fri 17th February	School Closed ELC open
Monday 20th February	INSET Day—School closed, ELC Open
Monday 24th February	P6 Assembly—School pupils only to attend Supporting Children with Anxiety Parent Session 1pm—Afternoon Date and Time TBC
Friday 3rd March	P2 Assembly—School pupils only to attend
Friday 10th March	P3 Assembly—Parents Invited 9:15am
Friday 17th March	P4 Assembly—School pupils only to attend
Wed 22nd & Thurs 23rd Mar	School Parent Consultations
Friday 24th March	P2/1 Assembly—Parents invited 9:15am ELC Parent Consultations
Thursday 30th March	Easter Service—P1-3 children only
Easter Holidays	School Closed Monday 3rd—Friday 14th April inclusive ELC Closed Friday 7th April & Monday 10th April
Monday 17th April	School pupils resume
Wed 26th—Fri 28th April	P7 School Camp
Monday 1st May	Holiday—ELC and School Closed
Tuesday 2nd May	INSET Day—ELC Open, School Closed
Thursday 4th May	Parent Open Afternoon—2:15-3pm come along, let your child share what they have been learning in class and join in!
Friday 12th May	P4 Assembly—Parents invited 9:15am
Monday 22nd May	Holiday—School Closed, ELC Open
Friday 26th May	P5 Assembly—School pupils only to attend
Friday 2nd June	P2 Assembly—Parents Invited 9:15am
Friday 9th June	P2/1 Assembly—School pupils only to attend
Thursday 15th June	Sports Day PM—School option 1 (if weather allows)
Thursday 22nd June	Sports Day PM—School option 2 (if first option rained off)
Friday 23rd June	P1 Assembly—School pupils only to attend
Thursday 29th June	P7 Leavers' Assembly - Parents Invited 9:15am
Friday 30th June	Last day of school
Monday 3rd July—Monday 15th August 2023	School closed ELC Open
Tuesday 15th August 2023	School pupils resume