

Woodburn News



Issue 4 February 2018

Welcome to a new year! It has already been very busy at Woodburn Primary School.

Staffing Update

We have appointed two new members of staff to our team.

Mrs Angela Welsh – Early Years Worker

Miss Dawn McKimmie – Youth Worker

Both these posts are funded through our Pupil Equity Funding, and will support our work with Children and Parents/Carers.

Pupil Equity Funding Update

In addition to the posts above, Pupil Equity Funding has been used in a variety of different ways this session. These priorities were agreed as a whole school community.

Play Therapy – We have play therapists working with children at different stages across the school and from this week Julie Sutherland joins us on a Wednesday. With a focus on Primary 5 and 6 she will lead lunchtime drop-ins, 1-1 sessions and group sessions.

Outstanding Teacher Intervention – A number of teaching staff continue to develop and improve their practice through this training programme. They have now completed two out of the three modules and are enjoying taking part. They are working with colleagues from Burnbrae PS and Hawthornden PS.

Read, Write, Inc. – This Literacy programme has been rolled out Primary 1-7, it is impacting positively on children's progress and achievement.

Participation Budget – We have set aside funds to allocate to families to ensure children do not miss out on taking part in school activities such as camp.

Reading Resources and Environment – We have continued to improve our library and class areas for reading. We have also purchased more books for borrowing and for group reading in class. The children have been able to request particular titles and authors.

PE Kit

There is an increasing number of children, particularly in the upper classes who are coming to school without their PE Kit. There is an expectation that all children participate in PE and we do try to supply spare kit but don't have enough to manage the numbers requiring it at the moment. Children should have a gym bag in school which has a pair of shorts, a plain t-shirt (house colours preferred) and a pair of indoor shoes. Jewellery should be left at home and long hair tied back for safety. If there are any concerns/queries about gym kits, please contact the school to discuss. Thank you!

Winter Weather Clothing

The weather has been very wintry recently. Whatever the weather we would like to be able to provide the children with opportunities to be outside. Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather.

Clothing Appeal

If you have any spare school uniform or PE kit we would welcome donations. We are running particularly short of boys/girls trousers and girls skirts. It's been wet and windy recently leading to a few requirements for a change of clothes following playtime accidents! Thank you.

Parent Council Funds

We would like to say a big thank you to our Parent Council who agreed to funding eight new iPads. The school has matched funding which means we now have sixteen more iPads in school to support learning across the curriculum.

In addition to the iPads, the Parent Council have also supported our work to develop our school library by purchasing three low level reading book units. These do not just enhance the reading environment but also make it easier for our younger readers to browse and select books.

Nursery Update

Our nursery classes have had a busy start to 2018 and enjoyed 'Enjoy-a-Ball' taster sessions last week.

The nursery team would like to make a plea for donations of books so we can top up our 'Big Bed-time Read' resources.

The aim of the Big Bedtime Read is that every Midlothian child under 5 will be read to by a significant adult at least 4 nights a week as part of their bedtime routine.

If you have any old books suitable for early years which your child has outgrown and are happy to donate to the school then please send them to our school office. Thank you.

Woodburn Good Citizens

We are very proud of our pupils who have been involved in 'Out of School Achievements'. Lily Diamond had her hair cut for the Princess Trust and Archie Wright collected funds and food items for local food banks. Both children appeared in local newspapers and their great efforts have been shared on our 'Woodburn in the News' board in school.



Well done to Alix Renwick who has been an Effective Contributor by independently making and selling items to raise money for a school 'Friendship Bench'. We are so impressed by Alix's enterprising skills.

Sharing our Practice

We have hosted two groups of visitors from Sweden and Norway. This is through Study Tours with Challenging Learning. The visits gave our pupils the opportunity to share their learning and all of the good work that is happening at our school. More information to follow about the visits in the next Newsletter.

Safe Travel to School



A reminder - In order to help ensure the safety of our children please use Park and Stride designated places at Sainsburys and Cowden Pavillion and **do not drop-off or pick up within the Thornybank Estate.**

We have contacted the **developer and Midlothian Council regarding gritting of walkways on icy days and are currently negotiating to ensure that this happens.**

Shared Learning – Wednesday 7th February 2018

Please come and join us in school on **Wednesday 7th February 2018** for our next **Shared Learning Session**. This is an informal opportunity to find out more about the experience your child has in school.

Join with your child as they share with you some learning activities in our classrooms and atrium.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Refreshments will be served in the dining hall following the Shared Learning Session, please also see the reverse of this letter regarding the opportunity to contribute to ideas to reduce the cost of the school day.



Reducing the Cost of the School Day Parent/Carer Drop-in

Wednesday 7th February 2018, 9.00am, 3.30pm and 6.00pm

Midlothian Communities Team have been successful in securing match funding from the Scottish Government Community Choices Fund to work in primary schools focussing on reducing the cost of the school day for families.

Woodburn has been allocated £11 000. Midlothian Communities Team aim to work with children, parent councils, teachers and the wider school community to agree on how this money may be best used. They have already been supporting P6/7 Focus Groups in gathering their views.

Please come along on **Wednesday 7th February** at any of the times above to contribute your ideas on how the cost of the school day for families can be reduced.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sharing our Learning Journey

Please see attached information regarding the launch of our Woodburn App. We are hoping that this will support communication between home and school.



We are very aware that lots of learning happens outside of the school day and as a school we want to encourage pupils to share their experiences and successes. We would like to ask parents and carers to help us keep up to date with all the incredible activities and challenges that your children have been involved in.

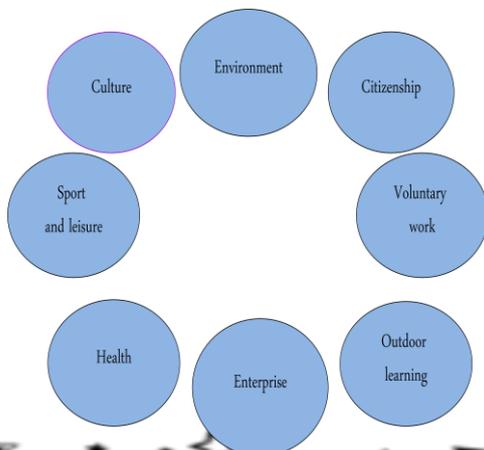
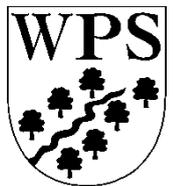
Our Aim:

To enable children to be recognised for and to celebrate successes in their wider achievement. Where children:

- Readily share their successes from outwith school.
- Have opportunities to share 'what' they learned/achieved and not just the activity they were involved in.
- Develop the vocabulary of achievement to enable them to be fully aware of what kind of success they have experienced.

If your child has an achievement they would like to share please complete the slip below and send it in to school.

In school during circle times we will encourage children to share their wider achievement experiences; these will then be celebrated and displayed in class. The slips are then taken to our special Achievement Assembly where they may be pulled out and shared with our whole school.



Name:

Class:

Achievement:

Date: