



The Lorne Phoenix



Monday 11th January 2016

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Headteacher Colin Mclean | Depute Headteacher Ellie English

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Welcome back and a huge thank you for all of the kind wishes, cards and gifts. These were very much appreciated by all staff. Well done to the children in the school choir for their fantastic performances on TV over the Christmas holidays singing on the STV Christmas Songbook programmes. We really enjoyed seeing you!

Welcome to our new acting head teacher

Welcome to Mr Bruce Murray who joins us from Craigour Park Primary School as acting head teacher. We know the whole school community will make Bruce feel welcome here at Lorne- the friendliest school in Edinburgh! Bruce will start here at Lorne on Monday 25th January.

Goodbye to Colin McLean, head teacher, who will move to James Gillespie's Primary School as head teacher on Monday 25th January.

Hellos and goodbyes

We still have not heard if Mrs Anderson, support for learning teacher has had her baby yet! We will let you know. Mr Hemingway started this week as support for learning teacher Monday to Wednesday whilst Mrs Anderson is away.

Welcome back to Mrs Hutchinson who has returned from maternity leave and is teaching Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in P3H. Mr Hemingway continues to teach Thursday and Friday in P3H.

Welcome back to Miss Younie in P1Y. It is good to have you back with us.

Reminder of next holidays

Spring Term

Monday 15th February to Friday 19th Feb Mid-term holiday.

Tuesday 22nd February- all resume.

Thursday 24th March- term ends at normal time for Easter holidays

Friday 25th March to Friday 8th April Easter holidays.

Please make every effort to avoid family holidays during term time as this will disrupt your child's education and reduces learning time. We can approve absence from school for a family holiday in certain extreme situations, for example, in traumatic domestic circumstances where the holiday would improve the cohesion and wellbeing of the family. Please discuss your plans with me before the holiday. If I cannot give permission before the holiday, it will be recorded as unauthorised absence. I can authorise a holiday if you can prove that work commitments make a family holiday impossible during school holiday times. Normally, your employer will need to provide evidence of your work commitments. Absence

approved by me on this basis is regarded as authorised absence.

Any requests for extended absence over two weeks will be referred to the Senior Education Manager who will decide if it will be recorded as authorised or unauthorised leave.

Parents from minority ethnic religious communities may request that their children be permitted to be absent from school to celebrate recognised religious events.

Absence approved on this basis is regarded as authorised absence. Extended leave can also be granted on request for families returning to their country of origin for cultural or care reasons.

A supportive approach is taken to unexplained absence. However the children and families department has legal powers to write to, interview or prosecute parents, or refer pupils to the Reporter to the Children's Panel, if necessary.

Work missed due to absence

Holidays during term time If a child goes on holiday during the school term, teachers will place the main pieces of missed maths and English work in a folder. When the child returns to school, the missed pieces of work will be given to the child to take home. Parents should supervise this missed work and return it to school once completed for teachers to check the work. Work will not be organised in advance of a child going on holiday during term time as this takes teaching staff away from preparing work for the rest of the class.

Illness (less than 1 week) If a child is absent for a week or less, teachers will save the main pieces of missed maths and English work in a folder and explain this work to the child on their return to school. This work will then be caught up in school and at home. Teachers will check this work on completion.

Illness (more than 1 week) If a child will be absent for longer than a week because of ill health, parents should contact their class teacher and request work if the parent wishes this for their child. This will normally consist of maths, English and key pieces of work in other learning areas. As a lot of school work is now activity based it can be difficult to organise this for at home. However, we will do our best to provide reading, writing and talking activities which a child can complete with an adult's supervision at home.

Illness (long term) School can organise teaching support from the Hospital and Outreach Teacher (HOTs) team for longer absences such as prolonged hospital stays and prolonged illness at home. Please contact the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher to organise this.

Temporary mobility problems e.g. broken legs

Please note that our school does not have a lift and a stair climber cannot be fitted. Children cannot be carried up and down the central stairs in school. If a pupil has a temporary mobility problem which means they cannot access their classroom on the upper floors, the headteacher will contact the Hospital & Outreach Teaching Service (HOTS) and request home tutoring for

a child. It should be noted that home tutoring is not full time and would be an agreed number of hours per week. We can make reasonable adjustments to help with temporary mobility problems (e.g. pupil is given permission to use the staff toilet on the same floor as their classroom) and we will do everything we can to avoid disruption to a child's education. Useful websites for practising skills when absent from school...

www.spellingcity.com for spelling

www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/?tab=primary for social subjects

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numera

[cy.shtml](#) for maths

<http://resources.woodlands->

junior.kent.sch.uk/games/educational/ games for all learning areas

School office

Our school administrator Mrs Young has been off school recently and Mrs Alexander is covering full time in the school office. However, there are times when Mrs Alexander has to look after children outside and the office has to close. We apologise for any inconvenience. You can leave messages on the answer phone. We will answer the front door as quickly as we can but this may be problematic during morning breaks and lunchtimes (10.30 to 11am and 12 to 1.30pm)

School front playground and toilets refurbishment

Work will begin at the end of January on refurbishing our boys' and girls' main toilets on the ground floor. These may be out of use for 4 to 5 weeks with temporary toilets installed outside by the City of Edinburgh Council. Or if this is not feasible, we will make alternate plans with the existing toilets in other parts of the building.

The front playground will also be repaired to improve the surface of this area.

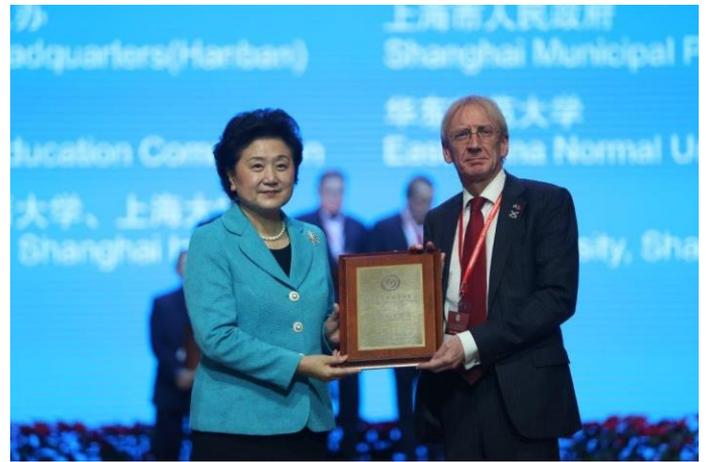
Scooter pod and bike racks

Our new scooter pod has arrived and we will install this soon. Children can then bring a lock to secure their scooters to this pod. Please note that you are responsible for removing a lock/ scooter if the key is lost so please keep a spare key somewhere safe at home.

Our bike racks will be installed later in the year and children can then secure their bikes with a lock. Again, please make sure you keep a spare lock at home as you will be responsible for removing a bike/ lock if your child loses their key. We are keen to encourage children cycling/ scootering to school and will continue our cycle training at P6 and P7 with the Council's "Bikeability" scheme. We will also continue with our own bike skills clubs P4-7 where children can choose to join this club.

Congratulations Leith Academy

The Confucius Classroom at Edinburgh City Council based at Leith Academy has been selected from among 1000s of applicants worldwide to receive Confucius Classroom of the year 2015. The Edinburgh City Confucius Classroom Hub was praised for the strength of its partnership working and its collegiate approach to sharing resources for the learning and teaching of Chinese across the local authority.



£90 for SSPCA Christmas Nativity collection.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection at the nativity. We raised £90 for the Scottish Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. The pupil council chose this charity as the one we will support this year.

Skills club now term 4

Our next skills clubs will now be in the summer term (May)



Parent Council News

Survey

Thanks to everyone who took part in the Parent Council and School Survey. Twenty five per cent of families gave helpful feedback. The results are given further on in this newsletter.

Curriculum Review Focus Group Meetings

17 parents and carers have volunteered to be part of school staff and parent working groups to review curriculum areas. The new headteacher will organise meetings as soon as this is feasible.

Next meeting Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday February 9th, 6.30-7.30pm then Tuesday May 17th 2016. We will also hold an extra meeting to discuss the best way forward for the Parent Council. Date to be advised for this extra meeting.

All meetings will be from 6.30-7.30pm with a children's activity corner and refreshments on offer. Please come along! Meet interested parents, find out what your child and school are doing and be a part of their development.

The Parent Council fundraising team, the Friends of Lorne Primary (FOLP), runs fun social events to raise much needed funds for the school and provide creative and social opportunities for pupils and families. Suggestions welcome.

www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Lorne-Primary-School

Autumn Gardening Project with Eco and Pupil Committees

Recycled and new planters in school colours can be seen in the Lorne St playground. Parents and pupils enjoyed the second annual 'lasagne' bulb planting project in November and December, restoring and planting new planters with tulips, daffodils and iris bulbs and viola bedding plants. These will flower from February to May.

[Jamieson Place Playground - excess sand](#)



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Thank you to the small dedicated group of parents who worked very hard before Christmas to clean and tidy up the playground and remove the excess surface sand. The Parent Council notes this is an ongoing issue and will prioritise efforts to eradicate the problem of sand shifting in high winds.

Nursery playground tidy up - Wed Jan 27th or Wed Feb 3rd 12.45-2.15pm TBC

Interested in some gardening? Can you help tidy up for Spring? Key jobs are removal and transplanting of some trees, plant division and planting. Please sign up in office.

Second Hand Uniform Pop Up Shop - Friday Feb 5 - 11.45am-12.30pm

Donations of uniforms Wanted! Please drop off to school office by Mon Feb 1st. The Friends of Lorne Primary (FOLP) will run a shop on Friday at the end of each term in the Lorne Street playground.

Volunteers Needed!

Parent/carers are urgently needed to support the LPC activities. Giving one hour of your time each term makes a difference. There are many ways people can do this, by attending a meeting, coming along to or helping set up or tidy up Friends of Lorne Primary Events that raise important funds for the school and are great social opportunities. An LPC sign up book is in the office for parents/carers to offer their details or sign up to help with a specific event.

Leith Community Cinema

These successful family film get-togethers continue, presented by Inspiring Leith,

AE FOND KISS (15) at Leith Community Cinema, Friday January 29th 7pm. Doors 6.30pm

SNOOPY AND CHARLIE BROWN - The Peanuts Movie (U)
Thursday February 18th. Time TBC

Donations of home baking needed! Help raise funds to keep the cinema alive. Drop off Pilrig street entrance in morning or bring along from midday.

Pilrig St Pauls Church, cnr Pilrig Street and Leith Walk, Admission by donation £3/ £2 concession.
Book at www.leithcommunitycinema.com or phone 0131 510 6662.



Lorne Parent / Carer Survey

We had 44 responses to our survey. That represents about 1 out of every 5 families. Here are the results with the most popular response in bold.

Question 1 School Uniform

Keep a school uniform from one supplier 8

Keep a uniform but parents can choose where to buy 35

School gives dress advice only 1

No uniform 2

Question 2 School Uniform

Keep uniform as it is 25

Change to one colour with P7s in black 10

Change to one colour with P7s the same 7

Change uniform completely 2

Change to colours Red 8 Blue 5 Green 2 Yellow 1

Question 2 Homework

Happy with current homework 42

No happy with homework 3

Changes requested:

More homework 2

No homework 1

Less homework 1

Homework club 1

Literacy focus 1

More help with homework 1

Question 3 Theatre Visits

Continue with theatre visit as it is 35

Change to a more affordable trip 9

Stop the theatre trip 0

Comments:

Charge according to ability to pay.

Dress down days to raise money to subsidise the cost once a month.

Regular cake sale to raise cost in advance.

Savings card.

Offer a choice of panto.

Question 4 School Excursions

Continue with one big trip a year per class 34

Stop having a class big trip 0

Arrange a more affordable option 9

Question 5 Internet access

Do you have access to our newsletters, surveys etc online

Yes - 34

No or I would like paper copies 10

Question 6 Reviewing Our Curriculum

Which area of our curriculum do you think we should review next?

Maths 17

English 14

Health and Wellbeing 10

Sciences 9

Technologies 5

Expressive Arts 3

Modern Foreign Languages 7

Religious and Moral Education 3

Social Subjects 2

Would you be interested in joining a parent group to help review the curriculum? No 26 Yes19



Early Level News (Nursery & P1)

Nursery is having music workshops with a visiting musician in January.



First Level News (P2, P3 & P4)

P4 children are having ukulele lessons as part of the national youth music initiative. They got off to a great start this week and love playing the ukulele already.

P3 (both classes) have a term of swimming (Monday mornings) and a term of national youth choir singing lessons (Thursday afternoons) from a visiting specialist singing teacher.



Second Level News (P5 to P7)

P5 & P5/6 children are having ukulele lessons as part of the national youth music initiative. They got off to a great start this week and love playing the ukulele already.

P6 children and staff are re-instating the school's traditional Burns' supper for invited members of the local community. This is something the school used to run years ago and was very valued. It is great to see the children and staff getting his up and running again! This year we have invited residents from a local sheltered housing complex.

Calendar Kalendar كينڈر

Wed 16 Mar Parent-teacher consultations 6-8.30pm

Fri 18 Mar Parent-teacher consultations 1-3.30pm

Thu 24 Mar P4s & P5s lead Easter celebration Pilrig Church 10.30-11.30

Tue 7 Jun to Fri 10 Jun P7 York residential week
PROVISIONAL- THESE DATES ARE STILL TO BE CONFIRMED.

Mon 13 Jun pupil reports sent home for parents

Fri 17 Jun sports day Pilrig Park 9.30 to 12.00. If weather is too wet we will hold sports on the first dry day available.

Tue 21 Jun to Thu 23 Jun P7 transition days in secondary schools.

Wed 29 Jun P7 Leavers Assembly 1.30 to 3.00

Tue 22 Feb- all resume

Thu 24 Mar Term ends normal time Easter holidays

Fri 25 March - Fri8 April Easter holidays

Summer Term

Mon 11 Apr 2016 all resume

Mon 18 Apr holiday Monday

Tue 19 Apr all resume

Mon 2 May holiday Monday

Tue 3 May all resume

Thu 5 May inservice day (Scottish Parliament election) staff only

Mon 23 May holiday Monday

Tue 24 May all resume

Thu 30 Jun School closes 12.00 for all children

HOLIDAY DATES

Please always check for the most up-to-date version of Edinburgh City Council school holiday dates at...

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20074/schools/20/term_dates

The following holiday dates were taken from the above website on 3/5/2015 and may have changed since then. Please check at the above website.

Spring Term

Mon 15 February to Fri 19 Feb Mid-term holiday