



Whitecross Primary School and Nursery



Aspiring - Honest - Kind

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Newsletter: April/May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a very busy return after our Easter holidays. I am always amazed at the amount of learning our pupils achieve and how much they impress me. We have a very busy last term ahead planned with lots of exciting opportunities and experiences planned for our pupils.

Nursery



A wee reminder to families to ensure that all children are being safe in school grounds, especially when arriving and leaving the nursery. All nursery staff are trying really hard to reinforce our children being safe. Children must be collected by the adult as agreed and should be encouraged to take their grown-ups hands to practice walking in/out of school/nursery safely. We don't want any of our wee people to get hurt. If you are attending a nursery event or visiting please make sure your focus is on your own child. You may think you are being kind offering to help with another child however our staff are here to do this. We will soon be sharing information with our families about the transition events for our children starting Primary 1 in August.



Our children are very interested in animals and mini beasts. Many of them have had great opportunities to be creative, making bug houses, sewing their own creatures or exploring our environment to see what they can find.

We have asked our children where they would like to go on their nursery trip. We also asked our parents to vote and as a result we have booked Briarlands Farm. There will be no costs to families for the trip. The trip has been booked for Monday 3rd June. More information will follow.

We had a very exciting workshop session from Zoo Lab who brought a range of animals for us to experience.



Partnerships with our families is so important to us, we have been very lucky to have one of our Mum's come into Nursery to share a fun dance session with our children. All our children and staff loved this very engaging, fun session.



We also had a very talented Mum who came in to share knitting skills with us. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer to come and share a special skill/talent with our children!



Whitcross Pupil Leadership Groups

All our pupils have chosen a leadership group to be part of. In their group they will be contributing to school improvements. Our children are part of the following groups:-

Green Ambassadors

Reading Group

Digital Leaders

Pupil Council

Rights Respecting School Group

Sports Leaders



We strongly believe that pupil voice is so important and have organised these groups for our children to develop their leadership, team work and communication skills. I hope to be able to include updates for you in each newsletter to see the progress our children are making.



Whitcross Reads



Our Pupil Leadership Group have set up a Parents/visitors pick up book station at our main entrance. Please take a book home with you if you are popping in. They have also set up a table for children to read if they are waiting at the front office with a variety of different books. The Pupil group will be going to visit a book shop and purchase some books for our classes. I can't wait to see what they select! I love seeing the excitement in our nursery children at BookBug sessions.



Green Ambassadors



Our Green Ambassadors have been very busy sorting our plants/seeds/potatoes into our garden. They have organised our community litter pick. Thank you so much to our Parents and families who attended to support this. We collected 28 bags of rubbish! Very impressive effort from everyone.

The park area at the side of the school is part of our school grounds and we want to be able to use this space as much as possible. We are applying for funding to try to install different things here for our children to be able to use during the school day but also at weekends and after school. Can we ask you to help us? Please spread the word that if people are walking their dogs here for them to pick up after their dogs. We want this to be a safe, accessible place for our children to play.



Pupil Council

Our Pupil Council have been creating a survey to share with their class to find out our pupils opinions about our learning and teaching. They will use this data to help to plan school improvements.



UNCRC Silver Rights Accreditation



Our Rights Respecting School Group are proud to share that we have successfully earned our Silver UNCRC Accreditation. We will be planning a special event to celebrate this within our school. Look out for our Silver banner! Our Pupil Leadership group are now working very hard with Mrs Thomson to create our gold action plan.



Sports Ambassadors

Our Sports Ambassadors have created a survey to ask pupils what after school and lunchtime clubs they would like. As a result we have been able to get a Taekwondo coach to deliver sessions on a Thursday at lunchtime. We hope to be able to get more coaches to support us. We are currently looking for football coaches, if any Parents would be interested in supporting the school to provide some training/be available on tournament days to assist us then please get in touch.



Our sports ambassadors group have been working together to deliver sports related events at school. Our group have gathered and organised data to determine which sports to offer. With our planning, we have thought about timing, number and age of pupils, equipment and skills that would be important to teach. Stay tuned for what clubs we have to offer! We have also been discussing a whole school sports event between houses. We have been planning which events and activities to run, the equipment we will need and how we are going to run the event fairly for everyone. We have been thinking of strategies so that the activities are accessible for everyone and there are opportunities to show off great sports skills.

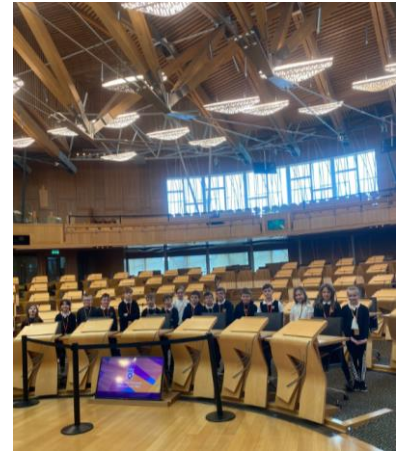
As a team our main goal is to encourage pupils to be active, show good sportsmanship and work together as a team to create fun activities for everyone to enjoy😊!



P5/4 Trip to Scottish Parliament

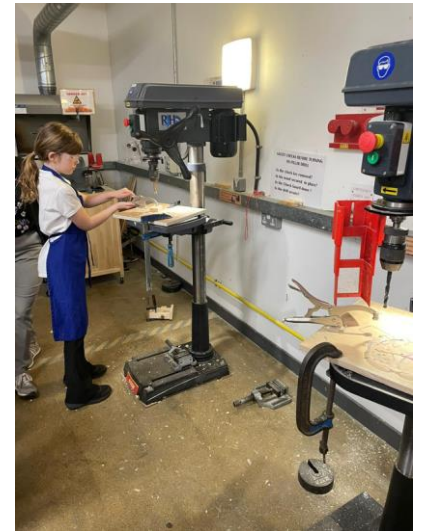


As part of our IDL Learning on democracy, we had a fabulous visit to The Scottish Parliament. Well Done to P5/4 for their great behaviour and effort on their trip! You were excellent ambassadors for our school! I'm loving seeing all the opportunities for us to go and explore and develop our learning on trips out of school.



P6 STEM Visit to GHS

Our P6 pupils have had the opportunity to participate in a STEM day, to start their transition to Graeme High School. They had the opportunity to use a variety of tools to create a phone holder in woodwork, then had the opportunity to use equipment in the Science lab. What an amazing experience for our pupils!

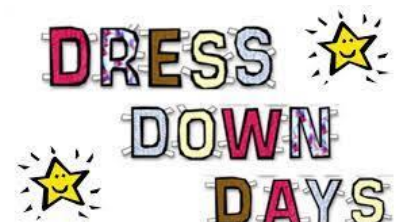


Dress Down Days

On the last Friday of the month we will be encouraging pupils to dress down for a £1! The money raised will be going to our Parent Council for our Playground Project! Pupils do not have to participate, this is optional and Pupils can choose to come to school in their uniform. Please remember no football colours! The next dates will be:-

Friday 31st May

Friday 28th June



Whole School Trip

We have organised for all classes (P3/2/1, P5/4 and P7/6) to go to Blairdrummond Safari Park on Monday 10th June. More information to follow. Look out for your consent form. We are being able to provide this trip at no cost to families as we were successful in our grant application to Stirlingshire Trust.



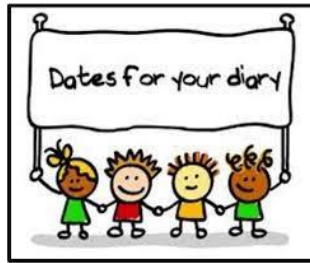
P4/P5/P6 Swimming

We have been able to organise some swimming lessons for our P4, P5 and P6 pupils. These will take place at Graeme High School over the next few weeks. We hope this is a success and pupils enjoy this opportunity.

Sharing Our Learning Afternoon

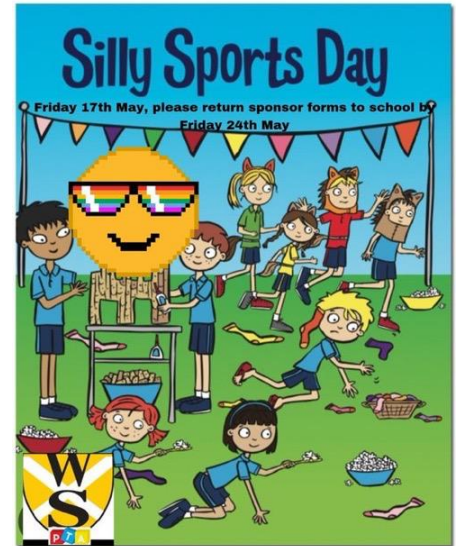
We would like to invite Parents to pop in to see us in our classrooms and to look at our learning from this year. There will be an opportunity for you to sit with your child/children and look at their jotters and discuss how they are getting on with them. I know our pupils will be very excited to tell you about the progress they are making and hope that you will be able to attend. This is planned for Friday 7th June between 2 and 3pm.





Dates for your Diary:

Parent Council Sponsored Event – Silly Sports Day – Friday 17th May (More Information to follow)
 Dress Down Day – Friday 31st May
 Nursery Trip to Briarlands Farm – Monday 3rd June
 Sharing our learning afternoon – Friday 7th June (All parents invited)
 Whole School Trip – Monday 10th June
 P7 Leavers Assembly – Monday 17th June (All P7 Parents invited)
 P7 Fun Afternoon – Thursday 20th June
 Parent Council Shorts and Shades Disco – Friday 21st June
 Celebration Assembly – Monday 24th June
 Dress Down Day – Friday 28th June



Please note there is a change of date for the P7 Leavers Assembly.

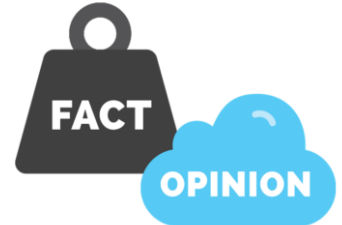




Health and Wellbeing

This term we will be continuing to focus on our Decider Skills. These are discussed at assembly, then pupils are encouraged to practice and develop the skills. These are great for pupils to be able to self-manage tricky situations where they feel different emotions.

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Please let us know if your child is unwell, especially if they have a rash. We are happy to offer advice and support to families around accessing healthcare appointments. We do want to try to prevent the spread of infections to other children and staff. A reminder if your child is sick or has diarrhea then they should stay at home for 48 hours clear after they start to feel better. If you need advice, please get in touch.

Head Lice are very common in children. There's nothing you can do to prevent this. If you require further help or support, please get in touch. Remember you can get a free prescription from your local pharmacist for treatments for this. Here is a link to advice on treating Head Lice.

[Head lice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)



Information from Public Health Scotland

I have been asked to share the following information:-

Cases of measles are on the rise. With the summer break just around the corner and the school term nearing an end, now is a good time to check if your child is fully vaccinated against measles.

We know that an infectious disease such as measles can spread easily in school-settings, especially for pupils transitioning from primary to secondary school in August, or moving school at any other time, when they'll be mixing with lots of new young people. The MMR vaccine is offered free by NHS Scotland and is over 95% effective in protecting against measles. Measles can lead to serious and potentially life-threatening complications. This is why it's important to check your child has had two doses of the MMR vaccine. It's also important that your child is vaccinated against measles before you go on holiday this summer as cases of measles in some other parts of the UK and abroad are higher than they are in Scotland.

They should have had doses when they were a baby and before they started primary school, but it's never too late to catch up if they missed a dose. You can find out how to check your child is fully protected at **nhsinform.scot/MMRagainstmeasles**



As you can see, what a very busy term we have planned ahead. There are so many amazing things that our pupils are achieving and participating in, that this newsletter is only a snapshot of everything we are doing. I will keep you updated with the progress of our school improvements.

At our Sharing the Learning event there will be an opportunity to share your views on how we can improve our school community. We are focusing on our improvement priorities for next session and your contributions are very welcome. This session we have focused on Pupil Leadership, Rights Respecting School, raising attainment in Reading and supporting Attendance. More information will be shared with you shortly on our progress in our Standards and Quality Report.

I'm really looking forward to the Silly Sports that is being organised by our Parent Council. Please get in touch if you have not received a sponsor form. Unfortunately Parents are not able to attend this event, however we will be having our School and Nursery Sports Day's soon, more details will be issued and families are welcome to attend these events.

If you require any help, or advice with anything then please pop in to see us, you know you are very welcome and we will always try to accommodate you.

Mrs Donna Kilpatrick
Interim HeadTeacher

