

Westruther Primary School

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June 2019 Newsletter

Rights Respecting School Bronze Award



We recently registered to become a Rights Respecting School and already we have achieved our Bronze award. This shows our commitment to placing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of our school, and embed within our ethos and curriculum.

We have already begun our action plan towards Silver Award.

Learning Theme – World of Work skills

We have developed our Careers Education Framework and are embedding opportunities for learners to consider the skills they need for the wider world of work and employability. This term we have done this through learning about others jobs and the skills we need. We have already had some great visitors in to work with the children, and many more visiting us before the end of term.



Chess tournament

Congratulations to our **Harry, Georgia, Murdo** and **Mia** who competed in the Borders Primary Schools Chess Tournament on Tuesday 28th May 2019. Their hard work in the lead up to the tournament paid off as they made it to the quarter finals.

Huge thanks to Miss Tweedie who coached the children and to Miss Heycock who kindly transported the children to and from the tournament in Galashiels.



Inspire Learning

As you may be aware, Scottish Borders Council **Inspire Learning Programme** will be rolled-out from August 2019. A number of public events will be taking place in June which will give all parents, carers and other interested parties the chance to find out more about the programme.

Information Roadshows will take place from 6:30pm (with refreshments available from 6pm) on the dates and venues as follows:

- Thursday 6th June – Berwickshire High School
- Tuesday 11th June – Hawick High School
- Wednesday 12th June – Peebles High School*
- Wednesday 19th June – Jedburgh Grammar School
- Thursday 27th June – Gala Academy

*Please note - the Peebles meeting takes place from 7pm (with refreshments from 6.30pm)

Further information can be found on Scottish Borders Council's website or follow the link from our Facebook page.

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Monday 10th – Friday 14th June - Learning Week

We would like to invite parents into school during the week beginning Monday 10th June for our next Learning Week. You should have received a timetable for the week last Friday, but please remember that this will be subject to change!

P7 Familiarisation Days at Earlston High School



P7 pupils will attend Earlston High School for their Familiarisation Days on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th June.

In preparation for the visits, bus passes, showing and pick-up/drop-off points and times have been distributed to pupils. Please note however, that these bus passes are only valid for the 2 day visit. A further bus pass for the 2019/2020 Session will be issued by **SBC Passenger Transport** at a later date.

Pupils should wear their normal school uniform during the visits and are required to take a pencil case and PE kit (including suitable shoes) on **both days**.

Lunch will be provided free of charge for both days in the school canteen and pupils will have free choice from the menu (a copy of which was enclosed in the information pack sent home on 23rd May). If your child does not wish to take advantage of this offer they should take a packed lunch.

Class Changeover Day – Thursday 13th June

This year Class Changeover Day will be on Thursday 13th June where all children will try out their new primaries. ELC children going into Primary 1 will also join their new class for the morning.

A P1 Parents Information Meeting will be held at 11.00am, followed by a School Lunch Free Taster Session – information and menu choices have been sent home separately.

SCHOOL TRIP - One Planet Picnic – Monday 24th June



As part of our Eco School Sustainable Schools Programme we will be holding a One Planet Picnic on Monday 24th June. This is a Keep Scotland Beautiful initiative designed to reduced food waste and food packaging as well as helping to make us aware of food that at seasonal, locally produced foods and ingredients.

This will a whole school outing to Spottiswoode, and will include our ELC children. Further details to follow.

Community Litter Pick – Monday 1st July

Our Eco Committee are busy organising a Community Litter Pick on Monday 1st July at 10:30am.

All are welcome to join us and refreshments will be available afterwards in the Community Garden at the school.



End of Term Assembly – Tuesday 2nd July

Our end of term assembly and Primary 7 Leavers' Ceremony this year will take place on Tuesday 2nd July at 10.30am, in Westruther Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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School Uniform For After the Summer Holidays

Please remember that if you are in need of school uniform for the new academic year, you can order directly from Border Embroideries online. Please also remember that we have a stock of good quality Pre-Loved uniform in our Thrift Shop located at the playground entrance to the school. You are welcome to come that have a look at the end of any school day. If you wish to make a purchase, please leave a small donation.



Lost Property

Please come and check our Lost Property box in the reception area. Any items not claimed at the end of term will be passed to the Thrift Shop or Rag-Bag Bank for recycling.

Additional In Service Days

It has been agreed nationally that schools have been granted two additional in-service days in the 2019-2020 session. Scottish Borders Council have agreed that these in-service days will take place on:

Tuesday 20th August 2019

Monday 21st October 2019

Please note that this now means that children will return to school on Wednesday 21st August and NOT Tuesday 20th as previously stated.

School Lunch Price Increase

As per our previous communication, please note that with effect from 21st August 2019 the price of a school lunch in the Scottish Borders will increase by 10p to £2.20. School meals meet all required nutritional guidelines and provide a healthy balanced meal. All children in P1-P3 are entitled to free school meals.



Best Start Grant Initiative

The Best Start Grant is available to parents who are in receipt of a qualifying benefit – e.g. Tax Credits or Universal Credits. There are three grants available:

Pregnancy and Baby Payment - This can be claimed from the 24th week of pregnancy to 6 months after the birth. The grant is £600 for the first baby and £300 for every subsequent baby.

Early Learning Payment - This can be claimed from the date of the child's second birthday up to the day the child is 3 years six months old. The grant is £250.

School Age Payment - This can be claimed for children born between 1/3/14 and 28/2/15. Claims can be made between 3/6/19 and 28/2/20. Claims for children born between 1/3/15 and 28/2/16 can be made between 1/6/20 and 28/2/21. The grant is £250.

Claims can be made by either phoning 0800 182 2222 or visiting www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant.

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Mini Olympics – Monday 10th June



Last night **Toby, Jasmine, Mia, Murdo, Callum, Fergus, Ewan** and **Harris**, together with a number of children from Channelkirk PS, came out to represent 'Westkirk' in the Small Schools Category of the Mini Olympics at Tweedbank Sports Facility. This is an annual track and field event which the children have been preparing for during PE with Mr Rutherford and Miss Pick.

It was a great occasion, team spirit was high and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the children taking part. Some of the children achieved Personal Bests in their events, whilst others were left feeling hungry to be selected again next year or to gain more experience next year at high school.

Huge congratulations to **Jasmine** who achieved 3rd place in the girls' long jump event and has been invited to compete in the Border Schools Finals later this month.

Kind thanks to all of the parents who gave up their time to attend this evening event, arrange lift shares and support the children.

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Dates for your diary

10th – 14th June

Monday 10th June

Wednesday 12th June

Thursday 13th June

Monday 24th June

Monday 1st July

Tuesday 2nd July

Learning Week

Mini Olympics, Tweedbank Sports Facility

P7 Transition Day 1, EHS

ELC Settling-In Day 1

P7 Parents Information Evening @ EHS, 7pm

P7 Transition Day 2, EHS

New P1s stay for school lunch

ELC Settling-In Day 2

School Trip - One Planet Picnic

Community Litter Pick

End of Term Assembly - Last day of term

School resumes for pupils on **Wednesday 21st August 2019**