

Westruther Primary School

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August 2021 Newsletter

We would like to start the first newsletter of the 2021-2022 session by saying a warm welcome to all of the children joining us for the first time. In the ELC; Rory, Fraser, Henry, Rory, Curtis have settled in very well, with brothers JJ and Billy making a great addition to Mrs Green's P1-4 class.

We are also delighted to have been able to reintroduce our P7 Buddy system, meaning that each of our six new P1 pupils have their own Buddy to help them during their first weeks in the school environment.

Staffing

In the ELC, Miss Nash continues full-time in her role as ELC Practitioner following the resignation of Mrs Millar during the summer break.

We continue to have a vacancy in the ELC to provide lunchtime cover, and also now require another Pupil Support Assistant for 10 hours per week. These posts will advertised shortly via My Job Scotland.



ELC Snack Money

Following the introduction of the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme in ELC this month, we are now able to provide ELC children with milk and a fruit or vegetable snack each day, free of charge. As such, we are pleased to advise our ELC Parents of a reduction in the voluntary contribution of Snack Money to £1 per week, per child. This can be paid by cash weekly or as a lump sum of £7.00 per child for the period 16th August – 8th October. We hope to be able to allow payment of Snack Money via ParentPay in the future.

Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs)

Our Junior Road Safety Officers' for the new session are Scarlett O in P7 and Luke in P6. This morning they (virtually) attended their first event, the annual JRSO Conference. Scarlett and Luke have sent the following message:

Junior Road Safety Officer Message

Hello we are your new JRSO's.

We have just had our first JRSO conference and we did a quiz. The quiz was about road safety. We also watched a PowerPoint about how to be a JRSO.

For our job we will be doing assemblies, notice board, and competitions.

We have already thought about our first competition so watch this space.

Youth Music Initiative (YMI)

We are delighted to be able to welcome Kaela Rowan from Youth Music Initiative (YMI) back into our school this term. Kaela will be visiting every Tuesday afternoon to work with the P5-7 class as they explore Music and Culture From Around The World.



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Annual Data Check Forms

Annual Data Check Forms have now been issued, and must be checked, amended as required, and returned to school **as soon as possible**. Health Check and Annual Permission forms have also been issued, and should also be completed and returned as soon as is possible.

Scottish Childhood and School Flu Immunisation Programme 2021/2022

Given the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable in society this year, it is imperative that we do all we can to reduce the risk of members of our community from contracting seasonal flu. Delivering the Childhood Flu Immunisation Programme this winter will help to protect against children contracting flu themselves but also to protect against children transmitting flu to any vulnerable people with whom they come into contact.

For the 2021/22 flu season, eligibility for the childhood flu programme will be extended to include secondary school pupils, teachers, nursery teachers and support staff who have close contact with pupils.

Childhood Seasonal Flu Immunisation Forms were sent home on Friday 27th August for all P1-7 pupils, and **MUST** be returned by **Friday 10th September** when they will be collected by a member of the Immunisation Team.

Vaccinations will be administered at school for P1-7 children, whilst children in our ELC will be vaccinated at local GP surgeries. Parents of ELC children can get further information from their health visitors.

PE

Thank you to all of our families for the fantastic effort which has been put in to complying with our new PE uniform policy since the beginning of term. Please remember that t-shirts and joggers/shorts must be unbranded.

In PE, Mrs Turner will be concentrating on both Hockey and Tag Rugby skills this term, and has asked that children bring gum shields/mouth guards to school on PE days.

We are very much hoping that the P5 Tag Rugby Festival and P6-7 Hockey Festival will resume in October this year.

These festivals involve playing with the children from the other schools within our Cluster Group, and are always thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils. Further details will be provided in due course, if the sporting festivals are to go ahead.



Parent Council

The date of the next Parent Council Meeting is Monday 13th September at 6pm.

This will be a virtual meeting and a link to join the meeting will be forwarded nearer the time.

Xpressions

Continued thanks to all those parents who have downloaded the Groupcall Xpressions app.

For those of you who have not yet downloaded the app and to our **ELC parents and new families** in particular, Xpressions is a service which allows 2-way communication between schools and parents. The app is free for you to download, extremely easy to use and allows you to view information on multiple children, even if your children attend different schools in the Borders.

Should you have any difficulties downloading or using the app, please contact Mrs Brown by email at westrutherps@scotborders.gov.uk

There is also a dedicated support website for parents: <https://parents.groupcall.com>

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Scottish Borders Council Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

For the latest coronavirus information, advice and service updates, please follow the link below to Scottish Borders Council's dedicated pages: <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Diary Dates

Friday 10 th September	Deadline for return of Flu Vaccination Programme Letters
Monday 13 th September	Parent Council Meeting @ 6pm (Virtual)
Wednesday 6 th October	P5 Rugby Festival – TO BE CONFIRMED
	P6-7 Hockey Festival – TO BE CONFIRMED
	Parents' Evening
Friday 8 th October	Last day for pupils and staff – October Break
Monday 18 th October	Staff In Service Day
Tuesday 19 th October	Pupils Resume



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