



Play, Grow, Learn Together - Kindness, Curiosity and Respect

# Burnbrae Primary Newsletter, December 2023



Burnbrae Primary School,  
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0131 271 4605

Burnbrae Early & The Wee Brae  
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X (formerly Twitter) @BurnbraePS

website - <https://burnbrae.mgfl.net/>

# Head Teacher Update



It has been a privilege to be part of the events at school as we look forward to the Christmas holidays. The Fair was a wonderful success and I thank you for your generous support. P7 raised just over £2000 towards their P7 Residential Visit. This together with their Quiz fundraiser has covered the cost of the buses and reduced the cost of the visit by £10. Other classes will choose what to spend their profit on from Educational Visits or additional resources to enhance their classroom and learning. Money raised at the fair by ELC £526 - money still coming in for knitted Santa fundraiser

The Nativity was very well performed and was a great reminder of the key messages of Peace Hope and Joy. Thank you to everyone who attended. Next week we have celebration parties for each class. We close at 12:25 next Friday and open in the New Year to pupils on Tuesday 9 January 2024. In January we will have a whole school focus on Scots Language and trust you will enjoy supporting children to learn a poem to perform. We expect a visit from a team from the Local Authority to see the learning and teaching at Burnbrae and look forward to sharing our school's achievements.

P4B will be sharing their learning at their Class Assembly on Friday 19th January at 11am. And P7 will have their Burns Brunch On Friday 26th January. All families are invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you then!

I wish all families a safe and happy holiday. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all who celebrate this.

*Hinda Clarkson*



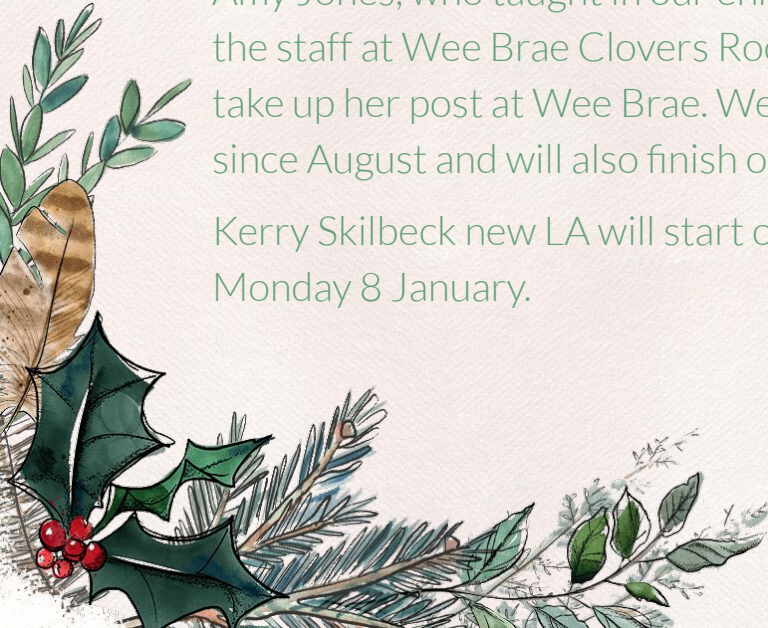


## *Staffing update*

Imelda Robertson has worked at Burnbrae for 14 years and has secured a new job in a Midlothian Library. Her last day at Burnbrae will be 22 December. See her message on the next page.

Amy Jones, who taught in our enhanced class before her maternity leave, will be joining the staff at Wee Brae Clovers Room. Susan Thomson made the difficult decision not to take up her post at Wee Brae. We are grateful to Susan Daniel who has taught in Clovers since August and will also finish on Friday 22 December.

Kerry Skilbeck new LA will start on Monday 18 December and Leah Jones will start on Monday 8 January.



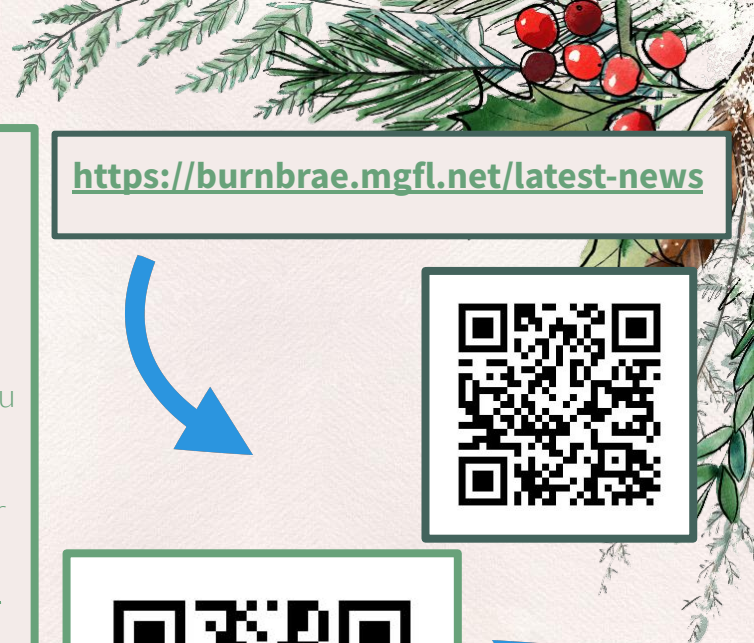
## *A Message from Imelda Robertson*



I'd like to thank all the children, parents and staff I've known over the last 14 years. I would like to wish the children a happy life through school and beyond and that I'll miss them so much. I hope they don't have too many bumps and cuts to keep the office staff busy without me. I'm looking forward to continue working in Newbattle Library but it'll be strange not seeing the children every day. Goodbye.



# Severe Weather Arrangements



<https://burnbrae.mgfl.net/latest-news>



<https://burnbrae.mgfl.net/severe-weather/>

Please make sure the office have a note of your most recent emergency contact details. In the event of a school closure your child can access home learning on our severe weather website page. Children are expected to login and check in with their Class Teacher, by liking a post on Seesaw or answering a check in question on Google Classroom.

News of any closures will be communicated on our school website and shared with you by groupcall the app and Seesaw for our Provision and ELC.

Midlothian Council has a website page with further information about severe weather services -

[https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200270/severe\\_weather/571/winter\\_frequently\\_asked\\_questions](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200270/severe_weather/571/winter_frequently_asked_questions)



## *Gym Shoes*

Thank you to the families who are sending their children to school with a change of shoes to enable them to participate fully in P.E, lessons, and to help us to keep our flooring dry and safe for all children.

We would be grateful for the donation of any old gym shoes, which are still in good condition, to enable children children who don't have appropriate footwear to participate in P.E. lessons.



## ELC News



We are looking forward to our ELC Christmas Celebration day on Wednesday 20th December, children are welcome to wear what they like on the day. We will be going outdoors as usual so please mindful to have something warm for outdoor play. The day will include festive games, songs and activities. We will also have a special visitor!

The ELC team would like to take this opportunity to wish all our children and their families a magical Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



# Thank You

Thank you to all our ELC families for supporting our Christmas Fair. A huge well done to all the children and staff for their creativity and hard work. It was lovely to see the rooms busy with families and lots of happy children.



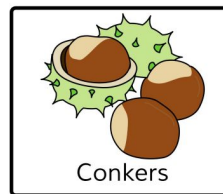
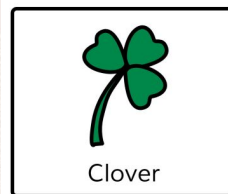
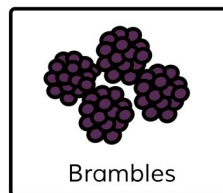
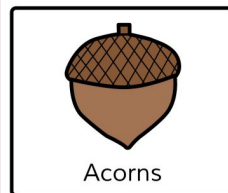


## The Wee Brae News

We are very appreciative of the support we have had from our families with our Christmas Hamper fundraiser. We have raised £95 with the support of our Wee Brae families. We raised an additional £99 at The Wee Brae stall at the Burnbrae Christmas Fair.

It was great to see so many families join us for our Christmas Sing a long.

Wishing all our Wee Brae families a very Happy Christmas.



Don't forget to follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) to share and celebrate our school achievements.



SCAN ME



**Burnbrae Primary** @Burnbr... · 30/11/2023  
We are celebrating recent success. Hot chocolate and Headteacher Awards for a group of children demonstrating school values, singing at the switching on of the lights in Bonnyrigg and winning all the Basketball games at the Active Schools competition on Wednesday.



**Burnbrae Primary** @BurnbraePS · 2d  
Burnbrae Christmas Fair today was great fun! Thank you to everyone who attended, to the children for making sustainable crafts and to our P5 singers who opened the fair. P7 'grow £5' enterprises were successful thanks to your generosity and their hard work.



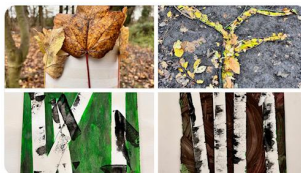
**Burnbrae Primary** @Burnbr... · 16/11/2023  
P7 had an excellent morning learning about how engineering is adapting to become more diverse and sustainable. Thank you to @MottMacDonald for the range of engaging activities! #SDGs @Midlothian\_STEM



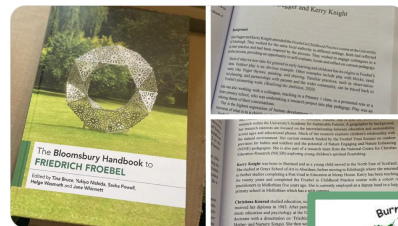
**Burnbrae Primary** @Burnbr... · 15/11/2023  
What a great educational visit to Rosslyn Chapel for P5A today. The children were inspired by this fabulous setting to write imaginative poetry at their workshop. Thank you to the staff and all parent helpers.



**Burnbrae Primary** @Burnbr... · 01/12/2023  
#NationalTreeWeek @midgov  
@Midlothian\_STEM @EducationScot  
@PlayMidlothian #forestschool  
@mideduteam @LoveOutdoorLea1  
@TreeCouncil  
The Weebrae classes have been doing work this week on National Tree Week, both out at Forest Schools and in the class - making amazing art work.



**Burnbrae Primary** @BurnbraePS · 2d  
Our very own Kerry Knight, DHT, has had a chapter in a Froebel Handbook published. She attended the book launch today. We are proud of her achievement and contribution to our play pedagogy journey.



## Do you have concerns about your child's...

- Communication?
- Social skills and interaction?
- Understanding of language?
- Expressive language?
- Fluency? (Stammering)
- Speech sounds?
- Voice?

If you live in Midlothian, you can contact our helpline to speak to a Speech and Language Therapist, and receive advice and suggestions to support your child's communication skills.

### Weekly helpline

TUESDAYS 2-4pm

0131 454 9544



Follow us on  
Facebook to find  
out more about  
us and what we  
do!



## STAYING SAFE IN WINTER

Icy bodies of water can look beautiful and inviting, but they can pose a serious hazard. Each year, there are distressing incidents involving individuals who have made the wrong decision to venture onto frozen-over waters with often fatal consequences.

To help keep yourself and others safe, it's important to understand the risks associated with ice and take the necessary precautions.

### ICE SAFETY ADVICE

**Always supervise children.** Just a moment's distraction could have serious consequences for a curious child.

**Keep a safe distance from the edge.** Fallen leaves or snow could obscure the water's true boundary.

Most importantly, **stay off the ice.** Never be tempted to venture onto ice – you have no way of knowing how thick it is and how cold and deep the water beneath is. The water beneath could also be fast-flowing. Don't ever risk it.

**Check for safety signage.** This can help inform you of hazards in that area you may not be aware of.

**Keep dogs on leads.** Otherwise they could end up on the ice and in danger. Also don't throw sticks and balls for dogs near ice.



water safety  
Scotland





You may be aware of the literacy toolbar Read&Write. We use this toolbar in school to support learning and it is installed on all pupil iPads and Chromebooks. Midlothian Council was part of a video case study on the positive impact of Read&Write. You can watch the videos and find out more [here](#).

The very exciting news is that Midlothian has negotiated a world-first deal that means you can now download the Read&Write toolbar at home, on up to 5 devices for free! Please [use this link](#) to download. You will be asked for the school's postcode and then be given instructions on what to do next.

Have a look at this [feature tour](#) to see all the things Read&Write can do and ask your child to show you how they use Read&Write in school!



We would appreciate your support to donate good quality, pre-loved items. Items can be handed in at either building.



- ★ Small electrical equipment
- ★ Carpet tiles
- ★ Small tools
- ★ Nuts and bolts
- ★ Pallets
- ★ Logs
- ★ Wood
- ★ Jugs
- ★ Wheels
- ★ Pipes
- ★ Torches
- ★ Lego
- ★ Knex

- ★ Bottle tops
- ★ Corks
- ★ Lolly sticks
- ★ Buttons
- ★ Curtain rings
- ★ Pebbles
- ★ Wool
- ★ Pegs
- ★ Log slices
- ★ Pinecones
- ★ Shells



Monday 18th December	P3 celebration 2-3pm	P7
Tuesday 19th December	P5 celebrations 2-3pm	P5
Wednesday 20th December	ELC Celebration	ELC
Wednesday 20th December	P5-P7 Christmas Assembly input from Josh - School Chaplin	P5 - P7
Wednesday 20th December	P6 celebration 2-3pm	P6
Wednesday 20th December	P1 + P2 celebrations 12.50-1.50pm	P1 - 2
Thursday 21st December	The Wee Brae Celebration	Wee Brae
Thursday 21st December	P4 celebrations 12.50-1.50pm	P4
Thursday 21st December	P7 celebration 2-3pm	P3
Friday 22nd December	P1-P4 Christmas Assembly input from Josh - School Chaplin	P1 - 4
Friday 22nd December	Last day of term	All



Date	Event	Who is involved
Monday 8th January	In Service Day	Staff
Tuesday 9th January	Pupils return to school	All children
Friday 19th January	Class Assembly at 11:00am	P4B
Thursday 25th January	ELC Stay and Play	ELC
Friday 26th January	P7 Burns Brunch	P7
Friday 26th January	Scots Poetry Competition	P1 - 7
Tuesday 6th February	Safer Internet Day	All
Friday 9th February	Class Assembly	P2B
12th - 16th February	School Closed - February Break	All
Friday 1st March	ELC Stay and Play	ELC
Friday 8th March	Class Assembly	P5A
12th and 14th March	Parent/Carer Consultations	All
Friday 15th March	Class Assembly	P4A




Date	Event	Who is involved
Friday 29th March - Monday 15th April	School Closed - Easter Break	All
Tuesday 16th April	Back to School	All
Monday 22nd April	P7 Transition Lasswade High 7pm	P7
Monday 29th April	ELC Stay and Play	ELC
Monday 6th May	School Closed	All
Friday 10th May	Class Assembly	P5B
14th - 16th May	Rookie Rockstars in school	
Friday 17th May	Class Assembly	P2A
Monday 20th May	Staff Development Day	
Wednesday 22nd May	Rookie Rockstars evening performance	
Monday 27th May	Sports Day	





Date	Event	Who is involved
Tuesday 28th May	P1 Information Evening	P1 August 24 cohort
29th and 30th May	Sports Day	
Friday 31st May	Class Assembly	P5C
Friday 31st May	Sports Day	Wee Brae
Sunday 2nd June	Poltonhall Gala Day	
Friday 7th June	Class Assembly	P6B
12th and 13th June	P7 Induction Visits	P7
Friday 14th June	Class Assembly	P3/4
Friday 14th June	Meet the Teacher	P1 - 7
18th, 19th and 20th June	ELC Celebration Days	ELC
Thursday 20th June	P7 Show	P7
Tuesday 25th June	Picnic Day	All





*Wishing all Burnbrae children,  
parents, carers and staff a  
restful break. We will see you  
again on 9th January 2024*



[www.burnbrae.mgfl.net](http://www.burnbrae.mgfl.net)

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<https://www.burnbraeparentcouncil.com/>