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Gorebridge Primary School Spring Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends of Gorebridge Primary,

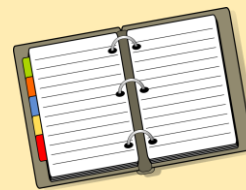
Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Now we are into our final week of term I would like to provide you with an update of what has been going on and what is due to go on in and around the school.

We hope you have a lovely break and we look forward to learners returning on Monday 17th April

Reminder for Parents/Pupils

- If possible please provide a change of clothes and indoor shoes in your child's bag. Please also remind your child to bring an outdoor jacket with them every day.
- Please remember to pay online for school lunch unless your child receives free school meals
- Please be aware that the 3 disabled parking bays to the front of the school are for blue badge holders only. These are not drop off spaces.
- Please be aware that no dogs are permitted in the school grounds at any time.
- Please remind your child to bring their water bottle into school each day. We also encourage a healthy snack.
- If your child takes their chrome book home, please ensure that this comes into school with them every day, alternatively this can be left in school.
- We aim for high standards in all aspects of school life including uniform. It is smart, hard wearing and good value for money and gives our pupils a sense of belonging to our school family, and we ask all parents/carers to support the school by encouraging your child to wear school uniform. All school uniform/coats bags and water bottles should be named. If your child has lost an item of clothing Lost Property boxes are in each atrium and can be checked at the end of the school day.
- Please remind your child if they do not attend breakfast club that in the morning they should be using the atrium doors and should only come through the office if the playground gates are locked (usually around 9:00am)

Dates for your diary:



- *Spring Term Ends Friday 31st March*
- *P7 individual and group photographs 27th April 2023*



Mining Museum P2/3HS

P2/3SH were very excited to visit the Mining Museum this month. We have been learning about famous Scottish places in class and we are lucky to have this so close. We loved our visit! We learnt about fossils and then painted our own, explored the areas the miners used to work which meant going deep into the tunnels underground and seeing the dangerous conditions workers faced every day. A very interesting day out.



World Book Day

As a whole school we celebrated World Book Day. We dressed up as our favourite characters and designed a whole school mural.



P7 CAMP 13TH-17TH MARCH 2023

Excitement, nerves and a few tears filled the coach as P7's said goodbye to family and friends to participate in their P7 Camp. What a week!

"Are we there yet?" Several pupils on the coach asked as we headed over the Queensferry Crossing! None of our P7's had been to Dalguise near Dunkeld before and many had never experienced a week away from home.

On arrival, our Dalguise leader welcomed us and showed us to our accommodation. We then had a tour around the camp. Our P7 campers were excited to get settled into their dormitories and to experience their first activities. With our activity groups already in place, we had two activities on Monday afternoon and after dinner we experienced Dalguise 'Ambush' in the dark. A very competitive and lively first night hiding and leaving clues for the other team.

Our week at camp was extremely busy with our pupils participating in five activities a day. With mixed weather and sometimes flurries of sleet and snow our campers were always told to wrap up warm in preparation for the daily activities. Our day activities included archery, fencing, tree climb, vertical challenge, problem solving, zip wire, abseiling, survivor, orienteering, challenge course and the giant swing.

For many of our P7 Campers this was a week for trying new things and 'giving activities a go.' Lots of us experiencing activities for the first time and were taken out of their comfort zones as they learned new skills and supported and encouraged each other. So many random acts of kindness throughout the week. Our P7's often demonstrated effective team work, map reading skills, leadership and problem solving skills in their activity groups which helped them to reach new heights and embrace new opportunities. A memorable and busy camp week for all.





P4M

P4M received a visit from the Japanese consulate and learnt all about the culture of Japan.



P4M received a visit from a karate instructor who showed us some moves. It was great fun and we even received flyers to join his club!



Comic Relief

Our learners and staff had a fun filled morning on Friday 17th March raising money for Comic Relief Red Nose Day! We welcomed Danielle from Fancy Footwork who led our dance session. Thank you for your donations.



Active Schools

The P5-P7 hockey club trained very hard and performed excellently at the tournament at Lasswade High School. We won several games and showed great sportsmanship.



This term, Mrs Stewart once again had some coaching sessions with a basketball team ranging from P5-P7. The team then competed in a local tournament against lots of other Midlothian Schools. Competition was fierce and the Gorebridge team ended the tournament with 2 losses, 2 draws and one brilliant victory!



Exciting news! The school football team have joined the Midlothian School's Football League and we played our first game on Friday 17th March against Bilston Primary. Due to the P7s being at camp, we were missing some important players and so we ended up on the losing side unfortunately.

Friday Family Breakfast

Thank you to all who have attended our Friday Family Breakfast this has been a huge success and we look forward to seeing you every Friday. Our Family breakfast will resume on Friday 21st April 2023.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is open Monday – Thursday for Primary 1- Primary 7. All children in P1-P7 are welcome to come along and have some breakfast and play some games before the school day starts. The last breakfast club for this term is Thursday 30th March. Breakfast club will resume on Monday 17th April 2023 8:15am-8:50am.



A Message From Mr Wood

I hope you are all well and are looking forward to the Easter break. Thank you for engaging with our parent consultations, it has been great seeing you all in school.



This term we had a full day visit from the local authority to look at how well we are doing with quality indicator 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment. This visit involved our visitors visiting classes, speaking to staff, speaking to learners and looking at evidence.

The visit on the whole was very positive with a number of strengths highlighted. The following were some of the strengths:

- We observed nurturing and caring relationships in all classrooms. Staff knew the children well and supported their learning needs.
- We observed calm, purposeful atmosphere in all classrooms. Almost all children were engaged in the learning activities.
- The pupil REACH Ambassadors played an important role in school improvement, particularly in giving feedback to teachers. The children explained very clearly their role in classroom observations and in surveying learners. The children explained the strengths and consistent practice they observed and also the next steps for the school. This was a real strength of the school's approach to self-evaluation.
- The middle leaders and teacher-leaders felt engaged in school improvement and were keen to further develop collaborative approaches to school improvement such as teacher action research.
- The school's Learning, Teaching and assessment toolkit "The Excellent Gorebridge Teacher" supported teachers and we observed consistent use of Learning intentions and Success Criteria. We also observed effective feedback in some classrooms. Most classrooms had effective visual support available on learning walls.
- We observed in some classrooms the effective use of Chromebooks to support learning.
- We observed very good modelling and scaffolding in some classrooms.
- We observed the use of effective verbal feedback to learners in some classrooms.

The visitors were so impressed with how we collated / presented evidence and the work of our REACH ambassadors, they asked myself (Mr Wood) to present our good practice at a recent Head Teacher meeting.

We are going to continue to develop our teaching, learning and assessment in the following ways:

- Continue to develop aspects of "The Excellent Gorebridge Teacher".
- Develop effective questioning techniques to provide greater challenge.
- Develop effective feedback to ensure children are clear about how to improve their learning.
- Develop ways of recording of children's strengths and next steps.

All of us at Gorebridge Primary and ELC would like to wish you a Happy Easter. Hopefully the sun makes an appearance and you all have a lovely holiday.