**Loanhead Primary School**

**March 2022 Newsletter**

I hope you all had a lovely February break. It is so nice to see the lighter mornings returning and the signs of spring beginning to emerge!

**COVID Update**

Please let us know ASAP if your child has a positive test. This allows us to ‘fog’ the classroom, making it safe for the others. Some classes have been hit quite badly with COVID outbreaks and we do our best to inform parents especially if the children have been in school the previous day. Please monitor your children and use lateral flow tests especially if they display any symptoms. Our contingency plans are still in place and we will do our utmost to retain classes in school. This is completely dependent on staffing.

Rules have changed - if someone in your house is positive, others can carry on as normal (attend work and school) as long as they have negative daily lateral flow tests.

**Return to ‘normal**

We are slowly returning to some activities within school!

ASSEMBLY – this Friday we will return to whole school assembly with all classes in the hall (Classes will be 1m minimum apart and doors and windows will be open with CO2 monitors in place) not quite ‘normal’ but getting there.

SHOE CHANGING – Please bring a change of shoes for indoors – these must also be suitable for PE so no slippers please. This will hopefully save our carpets – particularly on wet days!

EVENTS, TRIPS & CAMP – see the details below

**Learning Trios**

You should have received your appointment for our next round of Learning Trios – entry will be through the playground and please remember to bring your child! We look forward to welcoming you into classrooms throughout the week.

**World Book Day Thursday 3rd March**

Remember to dress up on Thursday, as your favourite character from a book! We have already started ‘drop everything and read’ which we will be doing all week.

**Bicycle Pop up tent**

On Friday 18th March 12pm – 2pm Midlothian Council youth workers will have the bicycle pop up tent in the playground. Pupils, parents and school staff will be able to have their bikes and scooters checked, serviced and any basic repairs done free of charge. Please bring bikes or scooters along and have them checked!

**Crisis in Ukraine**

We are looking at how we can gather donations to help support the people of Ukraine during the current crisis. When we have more details we will be in touch.

We are taking advice from our educational psychologist about having a safe space and time in classes for our children to talk and ask questions about the crisis.

**Head Teacher Awards**

**Care, Honesty, Inclusion, Learning and Development.** Congratulations to the following pupils who achieved HT awards in January; P1 Development – Keenan, P2 Learning – Zoe, P3 Learning – Lily, P4 Development – Devin, P5 Inclusion – Finlay, P6 Care - Julia and P7 Development – Charlotte. Well done everyone!

**Free school meals**

Note from Midlothian Council - We are not accepting applications for next year (2022/23) just yet, the form will be updated on the Midlothian Council Website in July/August time which is when we can start processing them.

Applying for free school meals also open ups access to other grants such as free school milk and clothing grants.

**Safety**

If you are using the safe route, please, please do not take a short cut through the church car park. This sets a bad example to our pupils and encourages them to take a route where they are not always visible to cars. Thank you for your support with this.

**Hockey Festival**

P7 are going to the active schools hockey festival on Tuesday 8th March. This takes place in the morning and the team will be accompanied by Ms Brunt and Mrs Craig.

**Usher Hall Visit**

P4 will visit the Usher Hall on Wednesday 9th March to listen to the Royal Scottish National Orchestra play Gaspard’s Foxtrot. This takes place in the afternoon and they will return to school by 3pm.

**P7 Camp**

P7 are off to Dounan’s camp on Monday 28th March. They will be there Monday – Friday and, as you can imagine, they are very excited about the opportunities this presents.

**Euro Quiz**

P6 pupils will take part in the euro quiz on Friday 1st April this is an online, virtual event.

**Outdoor Learning**

Pupils have been enjoying working on outdoor learning on Mondays with Miss Simpson. Each class will have a two week slot and we then hope to make this a regular feature of our programme for pupils.

**ICT**

All devices are in school and we will start sending these home over the next few weeks. Initially devices will come home with chargers. The chargers should remain at home to allow devices to be charged as required. This will also reduce weight in school bags. Devices should be sent into school each day.

**Staffing**

We welcome back Mrs Cooney in the middle of the month and look forward to, once again, working with her.

We say goodbye to Mr Ferguson, Ms Gault and Mr Forbes during March and we hope they have all enjoyed their time spent with us.

**Thursday 3rd March 7pm Parent Council meeting on ZOOM**

Meeting number 361 596 0647 passcode 346 758

**Dates for your diary (please note dates may be amended)**

Wednesday 19th January – Wednesday 2nd March P6 Ski lessons at Hillend

Tuesday 1st March – Friday 4th March – Learning Trios

Wednesday 2nd March – Rag bag collection

Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day

Thursday 3rd March – 7pm Parent Council Meeting on ZOOM

Meeting ID 361 596 0647 passcode 346 758

Tuesday 8th March – P7 Hockey Festival

Wednesday 9th March - P4 Usher Hall visit

Friday 18th March – pupils and parents free bike and scooter checks 12pm – 2pm in the school playground

Monday 28th March – Friday 1st April - P7 Dounans Camp

Friday 1st April – P6 Euro Quiz

Tuesday 5th April – P1 & P2 dental check up

Friday 8th April – Term 2 ends 12.25pm

**Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April - HOLIDAY**

Monday 25th April – all return 8.50am

**Monday 2nd May – HOLIDAY**

Wednesday 4th May – Friday 6th May - P5 Broomlee Camp

Monday 23rd May – **PUPIL HOLIDAY** Inservice Day – staff only attend

**Friday 3rd June – HOLIDAY QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

**Thursday 30th June – Term 3 ends 3.15pm**