



# Newsletter

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<http://newtongrange.mgfl.net/>

ISSUE 1



@NewtongrangePS



School app

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Welcome back! Everyone at Newtongrange Primary School would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our learners. We would especially like to welcome our new ELC Children and Primary 1 learners and those who have joined us throughout the school, who have already had a very positive start to their learning journey at Newtongrange.

As the new session gets underway, I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our children for coming to school so smartly dressed in our school uniform – they all look fantastic and I am delighted to see the school colours of royal blue throughout the school as well as our wonderful P7 uniform. They are an absolute credit to you all.



All of the staff have been super impressed with our learners' positive attitudes towards returning to school and we know this is going to be great year filled with fun, achievement and many successes! We also extend our thanks to you, as parents and carers, for your continued support to ensure we keep all children and adults safe through following our one way system at drop off and pick up times, it is appreciated by our whole school community.

## Communication with School Staff

We recognise that good lines of communication are important and essential for ensuring that every child's learning and wellbeing needs are being met and keeping you up to date with school improvement and news. If you require to speak with a teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) please contact the school to arrange a telephone conversation, as unfortunately during this time parents are not allowed to access the school building. Often a quick query can be addressed through the homework diary between yourself and class teacher who knows your child well.

Please note that the SLT have pastoral responsibility for the following classes:

Nursery, P1a, P1b and P1c – Miss V Morgan (HT)

P2a, P2b, P2/3, P3, P3/4 and P4 – Mrs S Burrell (Acting DHT)

P4/5, P5, P5/6, P6, P7a and P7b - Mr S McBride (DHT)

## Staffing

As well as welcoming new learners to Newtongrange Primary School, we are delighted to have new members join our staff team. Welcome to Miss L Robertson, Miss J Scott, Miss L Paterson and Miss S Harkins who join our teaching team. Also, welcome to Mrs C Fombo and Mrs B McLean who have joined our ELC team. Mr S McBride has returned following his secondment as Acting Head Teacher at St. David's Primary School.

## Information Updates and Permission Forms

Annually we are required to get parental permission for various aspects of school life. Please complete and return the permission forms that were sent out this week, ASAP.

### Attendance, absence and late procedures

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential and for them to have the best possible start in life. Together we can work in partnership to ensure that your child attends school regularly. If your child is unable to attend school or is going to be late to school, parents should telephone by 09:30 a.m. If no phone call is received, we will endeavor to make contact with parents or carers by text and/or phone.

If there is anything that we can do as a school to support you with your child's attendance/ punctuality please do not hesitate to contact us. Lee Grieve our **Home School Practitioner** is also here to help support you. Lee can also help with the following:

- Health & Wellbeing concerns at school including learning and development and school attendance.
- Family members feeling overwhelmed, low mood, stressed, anxious.
- Unemployment, Housing, Universal Credits.
- Family changes i.e. children having to stay with another carer or family separation
- Bereavement, coping with family illness or disability.
- Family substance misuse or addiction.

If you think Lee might be able to support you and your family, please do not hesitate to contact her for more information on the school telephone number, by email: 07990 136 849 or [Lee.Grieve@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.Grieve@midlothian.gov.uk)

### Maths Week Scotland

This year Maths Week Scotland will be from the 27<sup>th</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. During this time we want to recognise and celebrate all the different ways in which Maths is part of our everyday life. To help celebrate Maths week we will send home a Family Challenge, which we invite you to complete together. In School, learners will participate in fun and exciting Maths activities. More information will be shared closer to the time!

### Partnership with Parents

We are very fortunate at Newtongrange Primary School to have extremely supportive parents who ensure we work together for the benefit of all our learners. Our Parent Council and PTA are very proactive and we are always looking for new members to join and help make Newtongrange the best school it can be. The first Parent Council meeting (AGM) will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 7:00pm via Zoom. Login details will be shared nearer the time, please join us if you can.

### Our School Community

Our local neighbours around the school have asked us to gently remind our parents and carers to be considerate when parking around the school area at busy times such as drop off and pick up times. Please ensure you are not parking over someone's driveway or blocking the vennels. Thank you for your support in ensuring we are good neighbours in the Newtongrange community.

### Labelling

Please remember to label all your child's personal belongings – clothing, lunchboxes, shoes etc. Lots of children have the same or similar items and it is easy to get these mixed up. Clearly labelled items are much easier to identify. If you would like to borrow a permanent marker to do this, please just ask. It is important that pupils are independent with all their items – please take some time to help your child practise opening and closing water bottles, tying shoelaces, zipping coats, opening snack packets etc. These independent skills will help us all to stay safe.

### School Uniform Exchange

We have been very lucky to receive lots of 'nearly new' uniform for our uniform exchange. So, if you are looking for any type of school uniform, please pop along and take what you need. Even if you don't have anything to swap at the moment, you are welcome to help yourself to some uniform. We would much rather that people were able to use the uniform than it sitting gathering dust in a box.



## Free School Meals, Free Milk and Clothing Grants

All children within ELC-P4 are entitled to free school meals and these will be provided by our Midlothian Catering Services, from August 2021. Children within P5-P7 are required to continue to bring a packed lunch from home. BACs payments will continue to be provided to P5-P7 learners who are entitled to free school meals. All children from P1-P4 will automatically receive a free school meal, however, you may NOT be aware that you can also apply online for free milk and a clothing grant for each child if you meet the criteria. Children in P5 –P7 do NOT automatically receive free school meals, free milk and a clothing grant, but you can access this, if eligible by applying online. To apply online, go to Midlothian Council Website, Free School Meals and Clothing Grants. If you would like any support with this please contact Lee Grieve our Home School Practitioner at the school or directly on 07990136849.

## Snacks

During this time the catering services are unable to provide snacks at break times. Children are advised to bring a snack from home.

## Water Bottles

It is important that learners drink throughout the day to stay hydrated. They are allowed water bottles in classroom. Please ensure that water bottles are only filled with **water**, have your child's name on it and brought to school daily. Although children cannot use the water fountains to drink from, they can fill their water bottles up, as and when required.

## Nut Free School

At the start of a new term, it is important to highlight that we have a number of children with severe allergies and as such we operate as a nut-free school. We ask everyone to be mindful when sending any food items in to school to ensure that they do not contain nuts and to always check the label when selecting these.

## Wet Weather Arrangements

In the event of the weather being wet before school begins, we ask that children come to school as close to the drop off times as possible. Unfortunately during this time we are unable to have children gather in the dining hall. When the weather is extremely bad, we will open the doors a little earlier than the start times and allow children to go into their classrooms. Please ensure that your child has an outdoor jacket with them every day as we try to get them outside as much as possible and we know just how changeable our weather can be! Should we have extremely wet weather during the school day, the children will remain indoors and be supervised in their classrooms.

## Medicines

From time to time, there may be a need for your child to receive medication during the school day. Any request to administer medication **must** be accompanied by clear, written, signed instructions on the appropriate school MED form from the **parent/carer**. All medicines should be clearly labeled with the child's name and preferably with accompanying advice leaflet. The first dosage of any new medication should be administered by the parent/carer. Where there is any change to the medication then updated instructions must be given to the school. **All prescribed medication must be brought to the school office by a parent/carer.** All out of date and unclaimed medication is disposed of at the end of every school year, therefore if your child requires regular medication for any reason (e.g. asthma) you should bring in new medication and complete the relevant forms. If you are unsure of any of these procedures, please contact the school office where staff will be only too pleased to help you.

## Working together to prevent headlice

Unfortunately, headlice are a very common part of primary schools; nearly one in ten primary school children could have headlice at any one time. We know what a hassle it is to treat head lice and just how frustrating it can be when your child comes home scratching their head yet again. But by working together we can fight the spread of head lice.

We ask parents to:

- Check your family's hair for lice regularly - once a week is ideal!
- Visit your local pharmacist for guidance on the various treatments available.
- Get treatment for you or your family as soon as you find live lice.
- Let school, friends and family know as soon as you've found live lice.

We will contact parents if live lice are noticed and recommend treatment as soon as possible to help prevent the spread of lice. Having headlice is not a reason to be absent from school. We ask that you inform us if your child has headlice so that we can monitor the situation in school.

## School Updates

### Staying vigilant and responding to COVID-19 symptoms

The whole school community will continue to be vigilant for the symptoms of COVID-19, and understand what actions should be taken if someone develops them, either onsite or offsite. The most common symptoms are:

- New continuous cough.
- Fever/ high temperature.
- Loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia).

All children, their families, and staff working in school, will be supported to follow up to date health protection advice on household or self- isolation if they or someone in their household exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, or if they have been identified by NHS contact tracers as a close contact of someone with the virus. Guidance on this is available from NHS Inform.

**It is essential that people do not attend school if symptomatic, but instead self-isolate (along with their household) and follow guidance on NHS Inform and from Test and Protect.**

We are working partnership in Midlothian Council and NHS Lothian Board Health Protection Team (HPT) to ensure we are implementing Midlothian Council's *Guide to support workplace communications, training and actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and in the event of an outbreak.*

### How we can stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things we can all do to reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Do:

- Get vaccinated if you haven't already done so and are eligible. Vaccination is our best defence against COVID-19 causing anyone to become seriously unwell. If anyone who is eligible in your family or home have not yet been vaccinated, then they should arrange vaccination as soon as possible. This could also help you avoid having to self-isolate in the future. Information on how to arrange a vaccination can be found on NHS inform.
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues straight in the bin and wash your hands.
- Open windows/doors regularly to ventilate your home
- Be vigilant for COVID symptoms
- Self-isolate when you have COVID symptoms or have been advised to by Test and Protect.

NHS Lothian

### Finally

We all remain hopeful that as we progress through our first term, more of the current Covid-19 mitigations that are in place will be removed and that we will be able to reintroduce and enjoy all that our school has to offer in the near future. Please be reassured that we are working away in background getting plans into place for school events such as school photographs, P7 camp and sharing the learning events, so that as soon as we are allowed we can implement them. Following parent and carer requests, we will be reintroducing our **'Meet the Teacher'** sessions this term and more info will follow in due course with regards to the structure of these sessions, dates and times.

As always, if at any time you would like to discuss a query or issue with us, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Either call the school office to make an appointment or contact the school via email.

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### Newsletter Paper copy opt-out

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to opt out of receiving a paper copy of the Newsletter and will access it from the School App instead.

Parent/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

