



Paradykes Post



01.12.2023

Dear Families,



Here we are in December already! Let the Christmas mayhem and joy begin! It was wonderful having so many of you in school and nursery this morning!! Some wonderful crafts have been made and there was such a lovely atmosphere around the school! We have already had discussions about one or two tweaks for next year! Thank you again for coming along!



Christmas Fair

Look out for a letter coming home today which will outline times that you can collect your child from their class to take to the Christmas Fair. Please can you return the slip to school by **Thursday 7th December**. We are so looking forward to it!



Nativity

Children in Primary 1 and Primary 2 will be delivering their performance of the nativity, named 'The Nativity', on Wednesday 13th December to parents and carers at 9.15am or 2.15pm. P1 and P2 parents/carers, please return your form requesting tickets by **Friday 8th December**. Tickets will be sent home with your child on **Monday 11th December**. Thank you!

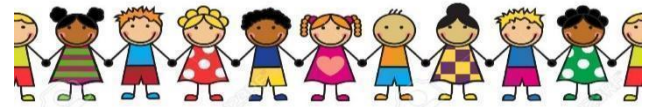
Staffing News

Miss Natasha Robertson, one of our Early Year Practitioners, will be leaving us on the 22nd of December. Miss Robertson will be joining the Midlothian Digital Team as a Learning Technologist. We would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years, particularly with her key children and their families.

Mrs Ros Davidson, currently teaching P2b, will also be leaving us at the end of this term to continue her teaching probationary period on the flexible route within Midlothian.

We would like to wish both of them every success and happiness for the future.

Miss Brownsell will teach P2b for the remainder of the school session when she returns from her maternity leave in January. Mrs Emma Stables will continue to teach P5/6 until the end of June.



Chromebooks

Just a reminder for our children in Primary 5, 6 and 7 who take their chromebooks home...

All chromebooks must be fully charged, inside their carry case and should be transported in a school bag. Unfortunately we have had a number of damaged chromebooks and we must ensure that all children are adhering to our Digital Agreement. This is the agreement that children agreed to before bringing devices home.



Inclement Weather!

The snow has appeared! Please can you make sure that children have coats and appropriate footwear with them each day. We try to get children outside as much as possible! Unfortunately some canvas type shoes get extremely (cold &) wet as they soak up the snow. We have a limited supply of socks available for children to change into. Please feel free to send a change of clothes in with your child in case they get wet or muddy.

At this time of year the floors around school can get very slippery and wet. Unfortunately crocs, sliders and slippers are not the best footwear as they can be unsafe, particularly going up and down the stairs. Indoor rubber gym shoes are the most appropriate and it means the children don't need to change again for PE. If you need any support in sourcing or buying them, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you for your support.



Make Up & False Nails!

We have an increasing number of children coming to school wearing makeup and/ or false nails. Whilst this is lovely it is not really appropriate for school! We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to save these for the weekend!

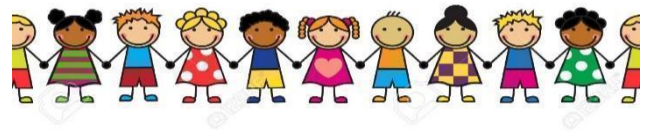
Dogs in the Playground

It always pains me to say this as I am such a dog lover!! Please can I ask that no dogs are brought into the school playground. This is for the safety of our children!

'Read&Write' Free for Families

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 (EH20 9HB) 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!



Christmas Dates

Please see the attached calendar for all of our Christmas events over the next few weeks. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,

Helen Reed

Headteacher



School dates for your diary

06.12.23 Christmas Lunch
 08.12.23 Christmas Fair
 13.12.23 Nativity Performances - 9:15am and 2:15 pm
 15.12.23 Parent Council - Family Movie Afternoon
 22.12.23 End of Term
 08.01.24 Inservice Day 4 for staff
 09.01.24 All resume
 22-26.01.24 P7 Residential Trip
 06.02.24 Parent Council Meeting - 7pm - via Zoom
 09.02.24 Mid term Break
 19.02.24 All resume

School dates for your diary con't

15.03.23 Profiles out
 28.03.24 End of Term
 16.04.24 All resume
 06.05.24 May Day holiday
 20.05.24 Inservice Day 5 for staff
 28.05.24 Sports Day
 04.06.24 Parent Consultations 4:30 - 8pm
 06.06.24 Parent Consultations 3:30 - 5pm
 07.06.24 Summer Fair
 12.06.24 - 14.06.24 P7 transition visits to High School
 20.06.24 P7 Leavers' Show (afternoon)

Christmas at Paradykes 2023!

27/11/23	28/11/23	29/11/23	30/11/23	1/12/23	2/12/23	3/12/23
				Dress Down Day/ Xmas Enterprise Nursery Stay & Play		
4/12/23	5/12/23	6/12/23	7/12/23	8/12/23	9/12/23	10/12/23
		Nursery/ School Xmas Lunch		Christmas Fair - all morning		
11/12/23	12/12/23	13/12/23	14/12/23	15/12/23	16/12/23	17/12/23
Nativity rehearsal P4-6 choir singing at Church (afternoon)	Nativity Dress Rehearsal to the school - am House Quiz pm	Nativity - 9.15am performance P4-6 choir singing in library at 12pm Nativity - 2.15pm performance 	P4 Party pm	Nursery Party - Dance Studio Nursery sing along for parents at end of party/Santa's Grotto P1-3 & P4-6 choir singing in library at 11:30am Parent Council Movie Afternoon - more info to follow		
18/12/23	19/12/23	20/12/23	21/12/23	22/12/23		
P4-6 choir singing at Asda 10am P7 Party pm	P3 Party am P2 party pm P1 Watching Panto online	P7s to Lasswade High School for Panto (pm) P5 Party pm	P1 Party AM P6 Party pm P1-3 & P4-6 choir singing in playground at 2:54pm	Juice/ Movie morning for Nursery to P7 Christmas Holidays start today! 		