

Parkhead Primary School



November

Newsletter 2024



First Term as Head Teacher

I am delighted to be writing my first newsletter as new Head Teacher of Parkhead Primary School. I have been enjoying spending my first 2 weeks learning about the Parkhead way of doing things. I've been doing a lot of observing, spending time in the playground, at the gate, breakfast club in and out the classrooms etc. and asking the pupils and staff lots of questions about the routines, structures and frameworks in place. I can already really tell that this is a school that is very inclusive and supportive of one another. In fact, this was immediately obvious when I came for my first interview. It is a great opportunity for a new Head Teacher to come in with fresh eyes and, with the school community, evaluate what is working well and what areas for improvement we are able to identify. I am looking forward to continuing working with everyone in our school community to continue to develop and improve our school and the experiences the children and families at Parkhead have. I'd like to say a huge thank you to Miss Moses who has done a great job of supporting the school in the absence of a head teacher for Term 1 and to the whole staff team and parents/carers for your ongoing support in this period of transition.

Our School Improvement Plan

The overarching school improvement priority is

"To improve our curriculum offer to meet the needs of our Parkhead Learners & strengthen the 4 Capacities."

Although I am very much exploring and asking lots of questions of pupils and of staff to find out more about the existing curriculum here at Parkhead, work is already underway for us to work together to explore what our curriculum offer looks like now and the potential to use the outdoors and our local community to really expand our offer, making experiences meaningful, engaging and relevant to our learners. The staff were set a challenge to really get to know our catchment area and they have made some fantastic finds and connections already. We've identified lots of local businesses and organisations who are also willing to be connected to the school and support our work in developing skills for learning, life and work across the curriculum.



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Quick Question

Being new to the school, I'd like to take this opportunity to capture a snapshot of your views about the strengths and what you'd like to see change or improve at Parkhead Primary School. Please click this [link](#) to answer 3 quick questions.

School Budget

Although we use the majority of our budget to maximise our staffing, support and to improve the experiences for our learners, there are some funds available to help improve resources and the physical school environment as some areas are looking tired and in need of an uplift. This will be a long term project and contractors have been called in to give us quotes so that we can make a start. Property improvements can be quite costly so we can look to do these improvements a bit at a time, when budget allows. We've also looked to improve our digital numeracy resource by purchasing Numicon essentials which provides various worded challenges and tasks the children can use concrete materials to really challenge their thinking. We are also in need of more school furniture in certain areas of the school.

A huge thank you to the PPA for supporting us in collecting some surplus furniture from another school to support us with this. If there are any other parents with a Van/large vehicle who may be able to support with this between 1-3pm on Tuesday or Wednesday as we think we might have to do more than one trip. We would really appreciate it!

We are also looking for a variety of pieces of play equipment for the nursery and early years as we'd really like these areas to be more resource rich so again, this will involve building up high quality resources particularly blocks and loose parts that can be open ended.

Allergies

We have a number of children in the school who have significant allergies. Please remember that children should not be sent in with snacks/lunches containing nuts. This includes chocolate spreads which often contain hazelnuts. Thank you for your help with this.

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Sustainability Station

I am passionate about doing what we can to live in more sustainable ways and protect the environment. I'd love for us to have a Sustainability Station where families can collect 'new to you' uniform with the option to leave a donation but with no requirement to do so. In fact, the greatest donation would be to hand in any uniform items still in good condition once your child has outgrown them later down the line. We are seeking a parent or group of parents who might be willing to support with this e.g. laundering and packaging items and restocking the station. We thought it might also be possible for a group of pupils to be supporting and leading this as part of their pupil leadership roles.



Christmas Hamper Donations

Our dress down day at the end of November is going to be to collect Christmas food items etc. for the PPA raffle. More info to follow about when tickets will be available and how these can be purchased. Thank you to all of our families for continuing to support the fundraising efforts of our PPA.

Halloween Swap Shop



Thank you so much to Mrs Davidson for setting up the Halloween Swap Shop. We've had a request from a parent to make this available earlier next session so we are thinking ahead and would like to request that any Halloween or Fancy dress costumes you think your child will have outgrown by next year, please consider sending these in now and we can store them away for next year to allow us to make this available sooner and reach even more families.



Christmas Jumper Swap Shop

Mrs Davidson has already set up the Christmas jumper swap shop nice and early so if you have any Christmas jumpers you or your children have outgrown, please send these in or pop along to choose a 'new to you' jumper and leave any donations for other families to access.

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Staffing Update

The storks have certainly got their work cut out for them in Parkhead at the minute as we have a large number of staff either on or about to go on maternity leave.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Dobie has had her baby. Little Ella arrived safely 2 weeks ago. Baby and family are doing very well. Congratulations Dobie family! Miss Griffiths & Miss McGinlay are now both on maternity leave. As they shared a Principal Teacher (PT) role, Mrs Gordon has been seconded as our full time Acting PT. She joins us from Lowport and Springfield Primary School. A very warm welcome to Mrs Gordon.

Miss Blackburn has started her maternity leave a little earlier than planned and Miss Parlett who was previously supporting in P1 has taken over in P2b. Miss Blackburn and Miss Parlett have worked together this week to ensure there is a smooth transition and handover of information.

Mrs Watton, our Early Years Officer (EYO) is also due to go on maternity leave in January and we will be interviewing shortly for an Acting EYO.

P7a Assembly

Congratulations to our P7a class who put on their wonderful final assembly here at Parkhead Primary School. They used their Creativity skills to put together a fun and engaging performance today to the parents and the whole school. We were all very impressed!

Remembrance Day

On Monday 11th November 2 P7 and 2 P1 pupils will be joining the Head Teacher at the war memorial in West Calder to mark Remembrance day and lay down our poppy wreath and to take part in the 2 minute silence. This is being hosted by West Calder High School and is a lovely community event. We are pleased to have been invited along to take part.



Contacting Staff

Now that we have a new leadership team in place we have new identified remit:

Nursery & P1 – Zoe Gordon
P2-P4 – Rebekah Moses
P5-P7 – Louise Delargy



We will all support across the school, but these are our specific remit areas. Therefore, if you are looking to make contact about your child, rather than contacting the teachers directly, can I ask that you please contact/email the school office wlparkhead-ps@westlothian.org.uk and they will direct your query to either the class teacher or the member of management responsible and someone will get back to you. Thank you for your support with this.

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November Diary Dates

Mon 11th	Choir After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm
Tues 12th	Flu Vaccination (P1 - P7 Classes only) P6a and P6b to West Calder High School for PE Sports Session 9:45-10:45 (online EE2 live now!) Group 1 Football After School Club 3:15 -4:15pm (by invitation only) @ WCHS Creative Crew After School Club 3:15pm - 4:15pm
Wed 13th	Netball After School Club 3:15pm - 4:15pm at PPS (by invitation only)
Thurs 14th	Jnr Basketball League After School Club 3:15pm - 4:15pm (by invitation only)
Fri 15th	P4b Class Assembly @ 9:15am - Parents/Carers Welcome Jnr Basketball NBA League Event at WCHS 2-4pm (by invitation only)
Mon 18th	Choir After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm

Tues 19th	P6a and P6b to West Calder High School for PE Sports Session 9:45-10:45 (online EE2 live now!) Group 1 Football After School Club 3:15 -4:15pm (by invitation only) @ WCHS Creative Crew After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm
Wed 20th	Netball After School Club 3:15pm - 4:15pm at PPS (by invitation only)
Thurs 21st	Jnr Basketball League After School Club 3:15pm - 4:15pm (by invitation only)
Thurs 21st	Read Write Count Event P1 Session 9:30am - 10:15am P2 Session 11:00am - 11:45am P3 Session 2:00pm - 2:45pm
Fri 22nd	P6b Class Assembly @ 9:15am - Parents/Carers Welcome
Mon 25th	P1 Health Screening Check in School Choir After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm
Tues 26th	Creative Crew After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm Group 2 Football After School Club 3:15 -4:15pm (by invitation only) @ WCHS

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Uniform Expectations

Please ensure your child is coming to school wearing the following:

Poloshirt (These can either have the school logo or should be Plain Red, Black and white)

Sweatshirt or Cardigan (These can either have the school logo or should be Plain Red or Black)

Children should not be wearing hoodies to school as this will be a P7 privilege when the P7 hoodies are issued.



Black school trousers/skirt



Black school shoes/black trainers

If you don't have black shoes/trainers at the moment, please don't rush out and buy these right now – we are aware that we are close to an expensive time of year but we would ask that when you are replacing your child's shoes that these are black.

PE Uniform Expectations

On PE days, children should wear **full school uniform**.

The only difference is that they are allowed to wear plain black jogging bottoms (no stripes or large logos please) and trainers (preferably black) but again, we will not enforce the black trainers at this stage if you don't already have them.

Please contact the school office if you would like some financial help with any of this as we are more than happy to pop in a referral to the school clothing bank to purchase any items your child might need.

November Diary Dates Continued

Wed 27th	Netball After School Club 3:15pm - 4:15pm at PPS (by invitation only)
Fri 29th	Dress Down Day (P1 - P7 Classes Only) - Donation to PPA Christmas Nativity Hampers if you can.
	For December diary dates please check our website here

Communication

If you need to contact the school, you can do this in several ways.

Call us on 01506 871404

Text us on 07860049738

Email us on our [school email address](#)

Fill in our online [Query Form](#)

Think you have missed a communication? Check our [Website](#)