



# Parkhead Primary School



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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are keen to improve partnerships and family engagement in the life of the school and recently held two family learning events.

## Time to Talk

Our recent Time to Talk event during Children's Mental Health week allowed parents/carers to attend with their children. We shared some of the resources and strategies we have available to us in school to improve wellbeing. We were also delighted to have our Educational psychologist in attendance who also shared some information about anxiety in children and how parents can help their child at home with anxiety. You can access these materials including recorded sessions you can carry out to learn more about anxiety in children and how you can support them. If you weren't able to make it along to the event but would find these useful, we have posted these on our school website in the [Health and Wellbeing Section](#).

## Modern Languages Event

To celebrate Languages week, on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February we held a very successful Fun Language Evening. The P7 Language Ambassadors and P6 British Sign Language (BSL) Ambassadors led the evening where families got to take part in a Kahoot Quiz, BSL lesson and food tastings from around the world. It was a wonderful, well attended evening and we are already looking forward to the next one!



## PPA & The Easter Fair

We have a very supportive and active PPA who meet monthly to plan and organise fundraising events for the school and discuss how their efforts can support the school in raising funds for items to enhance their learning experience at Parkhead Primary School. The next big event is the Easter Fayre which is taking place on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 10-12**.

Thank you all for your contributions of bottles, tombola/raffle prizes and Easter eggs from our most recent dress down day. You have all been very generous! If you still have things to donate, don't worry – it's not too late but it would be great if you can have these handed in prior to Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March as the PPA will be meeting to begin organising and labelling tombola items etc.

We are also seeking support and would love it if anyone was able and willing to support the running of the fayre by helping with one of the stalls. Please let us know if you would be willing to support our PPA by doing this or if you'd like to pop along to the **PPA meeting at 7:30pm on Tuesday 4th March** you can also find out more there.



## Our Next Family Learning Event—World Book Day


Our next Family Learning event is going to be on World Book Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Here parents from P4-7 will get to join their child to carry out some reading activities which will allow parents to see the different ways we approach the teaching of reading and developing a love for reading at Parkhead Primary School. Mrs Savage, our family learning lead, is also seeking parents who would be willing to read a story to classes please get in touch if this is something you are willing to support with. The theme of the event is 'relax and read' so children are invited to come in dress down on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, wearing something comfortable.

Thursday 6th MARCH 2025

# COME & TELL US A STORY

PARENT/CARERS TAKEOVER!

**Did you have a beloved childhood story that you cherish and still delight in reading to your own children today? Do you find joy in sharing tales and weaving narratives for their enjoyment? We invite you to join us in celebrating World Book Day on Thursday, March 6th, 2025, and showcase your storytelling talent with us! Book Your Story Telling Slot Using the QR Code or this [Link](#)**





## Relax & Read for World Book Day 6th March 2025



Dress down day for all wear your comfy clothes! Bring in a book from home as there will be 'drop everything and read' times throughout the day

P4-7 read and relax event in the hall with some reading activities parents/carers are invited to attend from 9-10am

Sign up to share a story with your child using this [link](#) or the QR below.



**Parent Council** We are also looking to improve parental involvement further by re-introducing a Parent Council where parents can develop partnerships with the school to hear all about the work of the school, updates about School Improvement and get involved in discussing and supporting improvements. We held an informal drop in last month to discuss this further and had an opportunity to discuss how useful technology can be when used correctly but also to share parental views on the use of smart phones in children and the impact on mental health, concentration and focus. We'd like to gather the views of the wider parent body by answering this

### [Quick Question regarding smart phone usage.](#)

We are going to be holding another informal drop in session before the PPA meeting from 6:30 – 7:30 on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March and we'd welcome any parents to come along who would be interested in sharing their views and finding out more about the work of the school. We'd love to see you there!



## Pupil Voice & Playground Improvements

Pupil voice is vitally important to ensure children feel their opinions are heard, taken seriously and acted upon wherever possible. Our pupils shared that they would like playground and outdoor learning to be improved. All children have been consulted and they are beginning to see some of their ideas come to life:

We have various children running organised weekly playground challenges. We also have a moon ball station in the P3-7 playground, basketball nets in our infant playgrounds and we are awaiting our P3-7 basketball nets to be installed.

Learning through landscapes have also been involved in discussing ways we can bring our pupils' other ideas to life and we are currently exploring costings for these. We'd like to ask if anyone has any guttering, tarps, rope (guy rope), tent pegs or any other items they are willing to donate that we could use for outdoor learning/improving playground experiences before we purchase new.



## School Travel Plan Development

We are aware that for working parents, or those who live further from the school it can be challenging to walk children to school. We would like to ask that children walk or cycle to school wherever possible.

If you need to bring your child to school by car, we'd advise that you do this between 8:00 and 8:25 as they will be able to access breakfast club in the dining hall before children are taken out into the playground at 8:30am. This will ensure that we don't have the same issues from 8:30 – 8:50 when we continually get reports of people parking all along Harburn Road which can then block traffic from flowing and increase risk to pedestrians.

After the spring holiday we will be launching our JRSO (Junior Road Safety Officer) group who will begin to pull together our School Travel Plan. We are seeking any parents/carers/grandparents who might be interested in attending and working with children and staff in school in this development. This is likely to take place on a Monday afternoon for approximately 1 hour every few weeks. If this is something you think you could support with, please email [wlparkhead-ps@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wlparkhead-ps@westlothian.org.uk) or call 01506 871404.

## Healthy Snacks

We teach our learners about the importance of a balanced diet. We all enjoy treats in moderation but we have noticed an increase in children bringing sugary sweets to school as snacks. Please can we ask that parents consider any sugar content of the snacks they are sending in. We have free healthy snacks available for all of pupils if they need these.

## No Nuts Please

Due to allergies we request that parents ensure that any snacks they are sending their child in with do not contain nuts. Thank you for support with this!



## Staffing Update

Last month, Mrs Purdie officially took early retirement. Mrs Purdie, who has worked at the school for many years, will be very much missed but we wish her all the best and very happy and healthy retirement from education as she goes on to begin a new exciting chapter!

We held interviews to fill Mrs Purdie's permanent position and Miss Carmichael (fixed term P3b teacher) was the successful candidate and will now be appointed permanently but will remain in her position in P3b. Mr Jeffrey has now taken over full time as Primary 7a teacher for the remainder of the year and Mrs Hogarth remains in Primary 4b full time. Miss McGregor has also joined us fixed term to provide additional teaching support across the school.

Following recent interviews, an additional Pupil Support Worker called Miss Turrell will also be joining us soon. We look forward to having Miss Turrell joining the team to provide additional support.

## Equity—Sustainability Station

We now have a sustainability station at the front of the school. The school clothing bank kindly supported us to get an initial stock in place and we have a parent helper who is going to be working with a group of our pupils to organise this and have it available to our families very soon. However, we could use more items of different sizes. **If you have any uniform items your child has outgrown, please send these in and our pupils can add these to our stock.**

Our Sustainability Group will then arrange to have these laundered, packaged up and available to families.



We also continue to provide fruit and healthy snack to children who may need one as part of our Cost of the School day & Pupil Equity supports.

### Diary Dates

<b>Monday 3rd March</b>	Choir After School Club 3:15- 4:15pm
<b>Monday 3rd March</b>	Football After School Club @ WCHS 3:15 - 4:30pm
<b>Tuesday 4th March</b>	Parent Council meeting @ 6:30pm
<b>Tuesday 4th March</b>	PPA Meeting @ 7:30pm
<b>Wednesday 5th March</b>	P5a & P5b Trip to West Lothian College Sustainability Workshops **EE2 Live on Parent Portal**
<b>Wednesday 5th March</b>	Netball After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm
<b>Thursday 6th March</b>	World Book Day - Relax and Read P1-7 Dress Down Day for All
<b>Thursday 6th March</b>	Come and Tell Us A Story - Parent/Carer Takeover
<b>Thursday 6th March</b>	P4-7 Relax and Read Parent/Carer Event 9:00 - 10:00am
<b>Thursday 6th March</b>	JrNBA Basketball After School Club 3:15 -4:15pm
<b>Friday 7th March</b>	P6a Class Assembly @ 9:15am - Parents/Carers Welcome
<b>Monday 10th March</b>	Choir After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm
<b>Monday 10th March</b>	Football After School Club @ WCHS 3:15 - 4:30pm
<b>Wednesday 12th March</b>	Netball After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm
<b>Wednesday 12th March</b>	WCHS P7 - S1 Transition Online Surgery <a href="#">Join Using This Link</a> (opens new window) 7:00 - 8:00pm
<b>Thursday 13th March</b>	JrNBA Basketball After School Club 3:15 -4:15pm
<b>Friday 14th March</b>	P2a Class Assembly @ 9:15am - Parents/Carers Welcome
<b>Friday 14th March</b>	JrNBA Competition (invited players only)
<b>Monday 17th March</b>	Choir After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm
<b>Monday 17th March</b>	Football After School Club @ WCHS 3:15 - 4:30pm
<b>Wednesday 19th March</b>	Netball After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm
<b>Thursday 20th March</b>	JrNBA Basketball After School Club 3:15 -4:15pm
	<a href="#">Click here to see more dates on our school website</a>