



Parkhead Primary School



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Our Parkhead Newsletter

April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers, Families and Wider Partners,
reached the end of another very busy term and we hope that you have all been enjoying the lovely weather that has come our way and getting to spend quality time with your families and friends. Before we prepare for the final term of 2024-25 we want to recap some of the highlights of this year so far...

Kind regards

Mrs Delargy & The Parkhead Team

P6 & P7 School Show—Alice in Wonderland



Our P6 and P7 pupils put on a fantastic school show on the 2nd and 3rd of April. We had singers, actors, stage crew, prop design, lighting and sound technicians, children designing the programmes...there was a role of everyone and each and every one of the children whether on stage or backstage had the audience wowed with their talents. The certainly demonstrated our Parkhead values of perseverance and individuality as well as showing how they could be Confident Individuals who were able to effectively contribute to the final product.

I'm sure if you came along to one of our performances you will agree that this was definitely a highlight and will become a core Parkhead memory for all of the children who took part. A huge thank you to our P6 and P7 teachers who also put their heart and soul into pulling this performance together with the pupils. A special mention to Mrs Garland who created most of the costumes in her own time. The hard work from all of the staff and pupils alike well and truly paid off. A round of applause for all of you.

The Easter Fair

We had an incredibly successful Easter Fair, organised by our PPA and supported by various other parent/family and staff volunteers. With it being my first ever fundraising event here, I was blown away by the community spirit at Parkhead. It was so lovely to see pupils past and present all coming along with their families and younger siblings. Everyone seemed to be having a blast and enjoying all of the various activities on offer. We raised over £3500 to support the school which is a phenomenal amount. This will go into the pot to fund various projects over the coming months.

Our PPA are great at providing us with our more immediate requests to enhance our curriculum offer but we are also saving up to fund some much larger projects; improved sound system, stage lighting and outdoor learning and playground enhancements. As you'll imagine, these do not come cheap so all fundraising efforts are very much appreciated in helping us achieve our goals. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Your donations as well as participation on the day itself goes a long way to supporting our school. Thank you!



Family Learning Events 2024—25 So Far

We really appreciate your attendance at our family learning events held this year so far. We aim to provide as many family learning events as possible throughout the school session to increase family engagement and involvement in the work of the school but also to meet the needs of our families and our learners.

Time to Talk

We would like to say a huge thank you to Lily McGhee our Educational Psychologist, for attending our Time to Talk event in February where we talked about mental health, worries and anxiety as well as strategies and supports available. We shared some of the resources and strategies we have available to us in school to improve wellbeing. 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, 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!



World Book Day

We also held a reading event for our P4-7 children in March focusing on reading for enjoyment and creating a balanced reader by exploring different reading skills. Those who attended got the chance to have a go at some of the different reading activities we carry out across the school with their child. Some of our parents/carers even gave up their time to come in and read to and with our children. We really appreciate your continued support and engagement in your child's learning and also the life of the school.

In term 4 there will also be a focus on Developing the Young Workforce, if any parents would like to support us with this event and would be willing to share information about their career at a careers event please get in touch. We'd love to have as many people as possible to share some information about the knowledge, skills and qualities it is important to have in your field of work

More Events to Come in Term 4

What would you like to see as a future Family Learning event? Please fill in our form to share your views about events you'd find most beneficial.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKUNb9FKKQ6FLiyDnXf6QmrxURUtLWkwwWTdJNFJQRTk5R0JaWFE1TFBXVC4u)

[id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKUNb9FKKQ6FLiyDnXf6QmrxURUtLWkwwWTdJNFJQRTk5R0JaWFE1TFBXVC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKUNb9FKKQ6FLiyDnXf6QmrxURUtLWkwwWTdJNFJQRTk5R0JaWFE1TFBXVC4u)



Your Child's Learning

We had a fantastic turn out at our Parent Consultations at the end of March. We hold our parent consultations twice per year which gives you an opportunity to find out how well your child is progressing in their learning as well as finding out ways you can support your child at home. We also share what classes are learning about through the class newsletters and celebrate learning through <https://parkheadprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/17495/School-Staff-2024-25> our learning snapshot and click on the link beside your child's class.



We also showcase various classes and their learning and achievements in our Fantastic Friday videos which you can also view on our school website. <https://parkheadprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/52211/Our-Greatest-Moments> We hope you find these opportunities useful to keep you updated about what your child is learning about and experiencing in school. Thank you to the Parkhead staff team for their continued hard work in ensuring you are keep up to date with your child's learning. We have recently updated our processes for profiling learning.



- Our P1-3 learners each have a Seesaw learning profile where parents and pupils can view and post about their learning.
- Our P4-7 learners have been learning how to use a new profiling system through 'My World of Work'. Using this online tool, they can share their latest and best work, celebrate and showcase their achievements and set learning targets. They even got an opportunity to find out what 'animal' they would be based on their skills and personality traits. Ask your child about their 'Animal Me' result!

The children are also learning about meta-skills and how these transferable skills help us in learning, life and work. Through their profile they can build up and showcase their skills development.

You can find out more about this new way of profiling here:

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>



Developing Our Curriculum—Outdoor Learning

This school session we have been exploring ways we can enhance our outdoor space and develop more opportunities for high quality outdoor learning. Our PPA have very kindly funded a consultation with Learning Through Landscapes who have supported the school to identify ways we could use and enhance our spaces as well as making suggestions about the kinds of resources and materials that would help to bring outdoor learning to life. We are looking for donations of, wildflower seeds, bedding plants and shrubs to help improve biodiversity in our outdoor spaces.



We have also developed new outdoor learning programmes to enable every class to be able to participate in a wide range of outdoor learning lessons, including how we can best use our unique learning context and our local community to develop our curriculum further. Our PPA has taken our wish list away and has agreed to fund the materials we need to get these new outdoor learning programmes off the ground in term 4 across the whole school. Your child's class teacher will confirm which day is your child's outdoor learning day so that you can ensure they come to school with suitable outdoor shoes, waterproof jacket and a change of socks/trousers – just in case!

Our school garden is also taking great shape. Mrs Struthers has been working with classes to get the garden prepared for planting, working out when would be the best time to plant various seeds and grow our own produce. The greenhouses and storage containers have arrived to ensure we can be fully equipped to get even busier in our school garden!

Staffing Update

After many years working in our school office, Mrs Rona McBride has decided to move up north and she will be finishing up with us at Park-head Primary School on the 24th April. We will be very sad to see Mrs McBride go but we are all very happy for her as she begins her new chapter in the north of Scotland.



Our fabulous Mrs Davidson will remain in the office but will be on her own until we can recruit a new member of office staff. We thank you in advance for your patience as we work through the additional admin processes in term 4. We will keep you updated about Mrs McBride's position as soon as we have more news.

We recently advertised for additional supervisory assistant in the mornings and at lunch time to ensure we have as much support available as possible for our pupils at these busy times. Interviews will be held next week and we will let you know when we have appointed someone.

Nursery and P1 Outdoor Spaces

As we move into the warmer months we are looking to develop our outdoor spaces in the nursery and Primary one. There are so many wonderful learning opportunities we can explore through our outdoor learning and play including our local environment, life cycles, sustainability, global goals and much more.

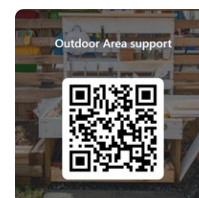
Playful Pedagogy allows play experiences to be central to learning, giving pupils the flexibility to find their own solutions to both new and existing problems. It engages children in personally meaningful activities, learning about themselves and others, and encourages autonomy and motivation. These are all skills and qualities that they will take with them through life.

To help us develop our outdoor areas we would be very grateful for donations of any of the following :

- Plants, seedlings, bulbs or seeds
- Plant pots, any size
- Pallets
- Loose parts - curtain rings, pine cones, shells, stones, pebbles, sticks etc
- Guttering/pipes to make ramps etc
- Crates/boxes
- Old CDs
- Old pots and pans, colanders, utensils for mud kitchen
- Kindling (for our fire pit)
- Logs or slices of logs
- Offcuts of astro turf
- Metal watering cans, buckets etc
- Toy cars, small world characters/figures
- Anything else you can think of!

Please bring these into school/nursery anytime for the attention of Mrs Gordon our Acting Principal Teacher.

We would also be keen to hear from any parents/carers who may have some time to help develop our garden areas or resources for these. If you'd be happy to help in any way even for an hour of 2 at some point next term please complete this form and we will be in touch! [Click here to volunteer!](#)



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 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!



School Uniform 2025-26

We know that parents will be beginning to think about purchasing school uniform for next session so we wanted to remind parents about the uniform expectations for next session:

Our Uniform Expectations

- Black or Grey Trousers/Shorts or Black or Grey Skirt/Pinafore
- Black or Red Sweatshirt/Jumper or Cardigan
- Black, Red or White Polo Shirt, Blouse or Shirt
- Black shoes



On PE days, children should wear their usual school uniform on top as above and on the bottom half they should wear a pair of black jogging bottoms (no stripes or logos please) and black trainers. We ask that children in P1-6 do not wear hoodies to school as this is saved as P7 privilege (*school coloured zip up tops are fine to wear on top of a school polo-shirt instead of a sweatshirt*) We would recommend providing a change of jogging bottoms/trousers in your child's bag every day in wetter weather in case they get wet/muddy.

Children should not wear jewellery to school in case they have an accident or the jewellery gets lost. Jewellery, including earrings must not be worn during PE classes. Children should also not wear fake nails to school to avoid injury during physical activities such as PE, outdoor learning.

Please note that no football colours or logos are allowed in the school.

Ordering Your School Uniform

You can order school and nursery uniform online from Border Embroideries and have it delivered to your home address for a small fee.

[Ordering your school uniform\(opens new window\)](#)

[Ordering your nursery uniform\(opens new window\)](#)

Is your child moving on to West Calder High School after the Summer? You can order school uniform for West Calder High School by using the link below.

[Uniform Ordering for West Calder High School](#)

Reducing the Cost of the School Day



We know how expensive everything is these days and ensuring your child has everything they need for school can be costly! We have various ways we can help to reduce the cost of uniform etc.

Parkhead Threads Sustainability Station

Parkhead Threads Sustainability Station is here to lighten the load, providing quality, new and pre-loved uniforms to families in our community. Need a hand? Looking to reduce your carbon footprint by using pre-loved clothing instead of buying brand new? Just tell us what your child needs through our [online form](#) (opens new window), and we'll take care of the rest. This service is for everyone. Let's make school days a little easier, together. If you have any uniform your child has outgrown but is still in good condition, we have a parent volunteer who has volunteered to launder and package up the items ready for our Parkhead Families. Please just send any preloved uniform to the school office and we will arrange for this to be collected and processed.

Help With Purchasing The School Uniform

School Clothing Grants are available to parents in receipt of a qualifying benefit; application forms are available from the school or online. You can find further details of the School Clothing Grant application procedure on the [West Lothian Council website](#) (opens new window)

[The School Bank](#) (opens new window) in West Lothian aim to improve the lives of children in families, in West Lothian, experiencing financial hardship by providing them with a brand new school uniform, other clothing and equipment required for the school day. The uniforms are distributed by referral from the school. If you would like us to make a referral please speak to your child's teacher or the school office, alternatively you may wish to apply yourself by using this [online form](#)

Quick Question Results

Thank you to those of you who responded to our last 2 quick questions. 1 was about your preferences about school start and finish times and the other was about your views about the use of Smart Phones in schools. Your views are valued and will be used during our next IN-SET day to inform any changes made to our procedures and processes for next session.

Unfortunately, we didn't get many responses to our question about your views about our curriculum. We'd like to know what you'd like our school to teach your children and the experiences you'd love us to provide for them. If you didn't get a chance to share your views on this please answer these 4 quick questions.



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKUNb9FKKQ6FLiyDnXf6QmrXUNFY2NkE5VUpGMEwwWEwzM0IDQVVHRUMzOS4u>

Thank you to those of you who have already completed this.

Positive Relationships Policy

After Easter we are holding some parent discussion groups, reviewing our Positive Relationships Policy together, together we will review how positive effort and behaviour is recognised and celebrated as well as discussing strategies and supports put in place when pupils do not meet our school rules of being ready, respectful and safe.



Our Parkhead INSPIRE values as well as teaching children about their rights form a very important part of shaping the ethos and life of the school and how we can have a positive impact on others in the school and in our wider community by continually demonstrating these values.

Your education should help you learn to live peacefully and respect other people. (Article 29)

We Need Your Feedback

At our recent parent consultations we had QR codes available to allow parents/carers to complete the annual Primary Parent/Carer Ethos Survey. If you didn't get a chance to complete this you can click the link or scan the QR code below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/9BhMrCrvUa>

The results of these surveys are available to schools and this helps us to find out what is going well for you and your child as well as enabling us to shape our priorities for next session.

The deadline for completion is Friday 25th April. If you have already completed this, thank you very much! If you have already completed this, thank you very much!

Ethos Survey 2024-2025: Primary - Parents/Carers



Action Against Bullying

We have been seeking the views of pupils about bullying. Our Pupil Council will use pupil voice to develop our new Action Against Bullying Procedures. We want the children to learn about their right to be protected from being hurt or mistreated and how to identify if bullying is occurring e.g. defining What is unkind? What is mean? and What is bullying?

Children will get the chance to share their views about how we currently prevent and deal with bullying as well as having their voice heard about what they think we need to do to improve this further.

You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated in body and in mind. (Article 19)

Volunteering Your Time

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 2/3 weeks.

If this is something you think you could support with, please email wparkhead-ps@westlothian.org.uk or call 01506 871404.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 22nd April	All Pupils Resume
Tuesday 22nd April	P7 Enhanced Transition (select pupils only 11:45am - 3:00pm)
Wednesday 23rd April	P1 and P7 Dental Checks
Friday 25th April	Dress Down Day (P1 - P7 Classes Only)
Friday 25th April	Winning House Party
Monday 28th April	Choir After School Club 3:15-4:15pm
Tuesday 29th April	P7 Intensive Transition (select pupils only 11:45am - 3:00pm)

Diary Dates Continued...	
Tuesday 29th April	Skiing @ Hillend (First Session) Click here for skiing information
Tuesday 29th April	PPA Meeting @ 7:30pm
Wednesday 30th April	P2a and P2b Trip to Polbeth and West Calder Community Garden 1-3:00pm ** EE2 Now Live On Parent Portal ** Click for more information (PDF, 354 KB) (opens new window)
Monday 5th May	School Closed (May Holiday)
Wednesday 7th May	All Pupils Resume
Monday 12th May	Xcite Learn To Swim Assessments @ WCHS Click for more information (PDF, 189 KB) (opens new window) **EE2 Now Live on Parent Portal**
Monday 12th May	Choir After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm
Tuesday 13th May	P7 Intensive Transition (select pupils only 11:45am - 3:00pm)
Tuesday 13th May	Skiing @ Hillend (Second Session) Click here for skiing information
Friday 16th May	P3a Class Assembly @ 9:15am - Parents/Carers Welcome
Friday 16th May	JrNBA Competition (invited players only)
Monday 19th May	School Closed
Tuesday 20th May	All Pupils Resume
Tuesday 20th May	P7 Intensive Transition (select pupils only 11:45am - 3:00pm)
Tuesday 20th May	Skiing @ Hillend (Third Session) Click here for skiing information
Tuesday 20th May	Cool Creatures Presentation to P1 & P2 Classes
Thursday 22nd May	P7 Transition to WCHS
Friday 23rd May	P7 Transition to WCHS
Monday 26th May	Choir After School Club 3:15 - 4:15pm
Tuesday 27th May	P7 Intensive Transition (select pupils only 11:45am - 3:00pm)
Tuesday 27th May	Skiing @ Hillend (Final Session) Click here for skiing information
Friday 30th May	P4a Class Assembly @ 9:15am - Parents/Carers Welcome
Friday 30th May	Dress Down Day (P1 - P7 Classes Only)
	You can find more dates available on our school website which is regularly updated.