



Learning, growing, caring, sharing

WE SHOULD ALWAYS DO
WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU!



illustration : alex leonard

U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 3

SCCYP

Scotland's Commissioner
for Children & Young People

Community Newsletter

March 2016

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Introduction



Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers and Community Friends,

Unbelievably, it's March already and the end of our Spring term! Read on to find out about our recent and forthcoming activities and achievements. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Parent/Carer consultations. We hope everyone enjoys a safe and happy Easter break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in April.

Health and safety



UNCRC Article 19: Children should be safe from harm.

UNCRC Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health.

JRSO

We are noticing that parking at the start and end of the day is still a huge problem. Can we please ask anyone parking at the school that they do so safely and legally. This means leaving the gate free and parking clear of the painted road markings at all times, We are always working closely with Tom Curtis the parking attendant and the local police to keep everyone in and around the school safe. May we remind people that parking on the yellow lines is a traffic offence and fines can be issued if the police are in attendance.

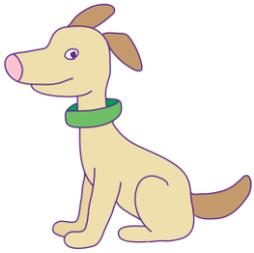
Fire Safety in School

Can we please ask any visitors to school to ensure that they advise the school office staff should they, in the event of a fire, require assistance in evacuating the building.

Dog Fouling



It has once again been brought to our attention the amount of dog fouling on the pavements around our school. Quite apart from this being an eyesore, it could be seen as a health hazard for all of our pupils. Please can all of our pet owners pick up after your pets and to report others for not doing so if you see them. We will work together to try and eliminate this horrible habit. It is however not the job of the school janitor to collect dog poo from areas other than within the school Please contact Midlothian Council regarding cleaning the surrounding pavements. Thank you for your help in this matter.



Dogs in the Playground

Please don't forget that dogs should not be brought into the playground either on or off lead. This is a Midlothian wide policy. There are various signs throughout the playground which indicate no dogs allowed. We have children in school who are very frightened of dogs so please ensure that dogs stay at home whilst collecting and dropping off your children at school. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

Pupil language in school

We have received a number of complaints from all members of the school community regarding use of inappropriate language from some children in school. Though many children meet our expectations of being 'nice and respectful' some children clearly aren't. Our school rule is 'Keep hands, feet, object and unkind words to yourself'. Please could you support us in school by speaking to your child about using appropriate language. Bad language e.g. swearing, being rude in other ways is not acceptable as it makes others feel upset or annoyed and children making wrong choices in this way will receive consequences according to our school behaviour policy.

Children on site at the start and end of the school day

Please be aware that school staff, although on site, are not responsible for pupil welfare/safety prior to the bell at 8:50am. As you know we have various pieces of climbing apparatus in the playground and have recently had incidents where children have fallen off of these prior to the school day starting.

School news



UNCRC Article 28: Children should be able to go to school.

Mrs Jardine and Mrs Kelly

We have sadly had to say goodbye to Mrs. Jardine this month. Mrs. Kelly will be taking P2a on a Monday until the end of the session.

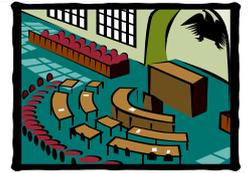
Miss Forbes

As you may know Miss Forbes will be leaving us at Easter as she has secured another teaching position with Fife Council. We would all like to wish her well and hope that she can come back and visit us soon.

Miss Alexander

We would like to welcome Miss Alexander to our staff in Mayfield Primary School. Miss Alexander will be supporting various classes.

Parliament news



Fundraising and charities

Article 29 Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

Thank you to our Fundraising and Charities committee who organised a very informative, competitive and enjoyable assembly on Friday last week for Sport Relief. £140 was raised for the charity from our non uniform day.



School Growth Plan (SGP)



Play

UNCRC Article 31: Every child has the right to play.

Children learn a huge amount from playing creatively and imaginatively with others - and everyone has a lot of fun doing it! In order to develop more play-based learning at Mayfield, a working party on play has been trying out different activities throughout the school. These have included, putting on puppet shows, junk modelling, outdoor play and Lego. We have also managed to obtain more resources to support all classes having the chance to play more, and we are sure the children will enjoy using these in the coming months.

Parent/Carer



UNCRC Article 18: Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child.

Rag Bag Collection

A Big thank you to all who contributed to this event, please remember the bin is located at the school entrance and can be used all year. We raised £55.60 this time, which will go towards our school funds. This money is used to buy additional games and resources to help make learning more fun!

Meetings with school staff

If you have any concerns regarding your child, class teachers will be happy to speak to you. It is better to arrange an appointment through the school office, so that a mutually convenient time can be sought, rather than speaking when the children are coming into school at the start of the day or going home at night. For health and safety reasons, please can parents/carers not walk into any classrooms unless specifically invited by a member of staff.

Please always speak to your class teacher about any issue in the first instance. If you feel your issue isn't resolved, then please speak with a member of school management.

Should you need to leave a message on our school answering machine, it will be dealt with as quickly as possible. Please don't leave messages containing unpleasant language - this has happened recently. School may contact the police should any member of staff feel threatened by adults in school or on the phone.

Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Sleep

Getting children (and adults) to sleep can sometimes be tricky. Lack of sleep can have a huge impact on both positive behaviour and successful learning.

Should you wish to seek further advice, there is an organisation called Sleep Scotland who could offer further advice. Please see their website:

enquiries@sleepsotland.org



Community events



UNCR Article 15: Every child has the right to meet with other children and young people and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Playground equipment

All members of the local community are welcome to use and access our play equipment out of school hours. However, please ensure rubbish is either taken home or placed in local bins so our site remains safe and clean.

P7 musicians; message from Ms Maynes, Newbattle Community High School

You will hopefully have seen on Facebook/Twitter the Primary Music Day on Wednesday was a huge success. Pupils performed exceptionally well and their behaviour was excellent. Please pass on my thanks to their class teachers and the pupils themselves. Hopefully this has been a great learning experience for them.

Nicola Maynes, PTC Music and Drama, Newbattle High School

P7 Fast track

Congratulations to Eilidh, Chris, Lewis, Lewis, and Alanah who graduated from Newbattle Community High School Fast Track last week and an evening celebration. Our pupils have been part of a programme of learning in Literacy, Maths and Science for P7 pupils across our Associated Schools Group. The children have enjoyed their learning and 'did us proud' at the celebration event with their mature and responsible attitude. Thank you too, to Mrs Scott for helping children get to and from all the Fast Track sessions safely.



Sport



UNCRC Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health.

UNCRC Article 31: Every child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and

Midlothian Boys Football Festival – Poltonhall 3rd March 2016

Message from Keith Wright:

The boys were fantastic and every game was played in good spirit with great encouragement from staff and parents.

Regards

Keith Wright, Scottish FA Football Development
Officer



Well done to all boys who attended Thursday's football festival!

Diary



Date	Time	Activity	Place
<i>March</i>			
Monday 21st	9:00-15:00	P4 Class Trip	Blackness Castle
Wednesday 23 rd	9:00-15:00	P3/4 Class Trip	Blackness Castle
	9:00-15:15	P6a & P6b Class Trip	Edinburgh Zoo
	14:45 - 17:00	FAST Graduation	GP Room/Hall
Thursday 24 th	9:30 - 10:30	Easter Celebration Assembly (no parents)	Assembly Hall
<i>Thursday 24th</i>	<i>Normal closing time</i>	<i>All Break</i>	
<i>April</i>			
Monday 11 th	8:50	<i>All Resume</i>	

Spring

Happy
Easter

