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Headteacher: Mr Andrew Cannon

September 2020

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year. We are delighted to be open again and I am pleased to report that our children have started the year with big smiles and buckets full of enthusiasm.

This term there will be a period of catching up with friends and getting back into routine. For our children in Y3 everything is new and exciting - and everyone will be helpful, welcoming and supportive towards them.

In this newsletter you will find:

- * Class photos taken on the first day of term
- * Information about how our school will operate this term
- * Some helpful reminders
- * Significant dates coming up



Our amazing Ski Club at the 'Snow Factor' indoor ski centre in Glasgow (February 2020).

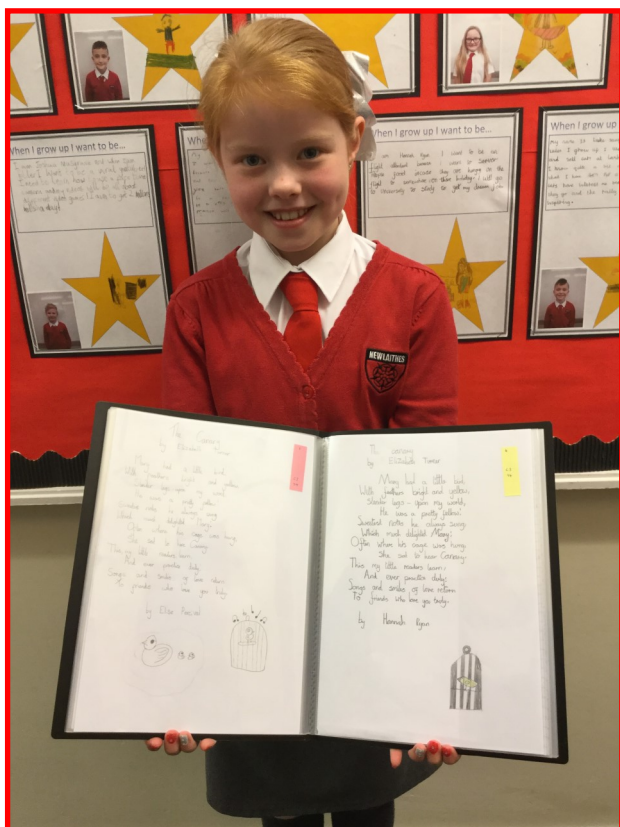
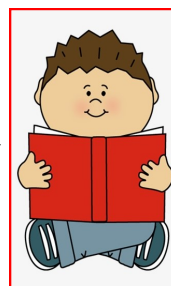
School Clubs

We have an extensive range of exciting school clubs for our children to join. Our after school and lunchtime clubs are all run by members of staff who volunteer their time (unpaid) for the benefit of the children of our school. There is everything from football to chess club, skiing to archery! Unfortunately, we do not believe there will be many clubs offered this term due to the current coronavirus restrictions as, where possible, we are not mixing children from different year groups inside the building. We hope to start up some of our clubs as soon as it becomes possible and will let the children know when these will begin.

Reading Club (before school)

As we are aiming to keep year groups separate from each other within the school building, it will not be possible to run our popular Reading Club before school at the moment.

I am working closely with Mrs Willows at the infant school (who have also closed their early morning reading club) so we will be able to reopen these clubs as soon as possible.



*Elise Percival, handwriting champion (March 2020)
Who will be this year's champion?*

"Inspirational Learning, Aspirational Children"



Class 1, Mr Hodgson



Class 2, Mrs Wilkinson



Class 3, Miss MacArtney



Class 4, Mr King



National Football Champions 2017-18



Healthy Schools



CSP



Class 5, Mr Sanchez



Class 6, Mrs Bird



Class 7, Miss Boyd



Class 8, Miss Lowther



National Football Champions 2017-18



Healthy Schools



Routines for the autumn term

- Children start school on at **8:55am**
 - Children are now divided into two groups when outside on the playground - Yellows (Y3 & Y5) and Reds (Y4 & Y6).
 - Initially, parents will not be allowed on school grounds and will have to stop at the school gates. *If you need to contact school, please phone our school office.* The yellow and red school gates will be open from **8:45am**
 - At 8:55 am, the whistle will blow and Y3 will be asked to line up, (Y4, Y5 & Y6 will walk into school through their designated doors).
 - Once inside, all children will clean their hands before lessons begin. Children will not mix with other year groups when inside the school building.
 - Our Y3 children will be shown around our friendly school by their class teachers - shown their coat pegs, where the toilets are, where their seat is etc.
- For the first week of term, our Y3 teachers will be at the (yellow) school gate to welcome our new children into the school yard. At the end of the day our Y3 children will be brought out to be collected at **3.10pm**, ten minutes before the rest of the school. Our Y3 staff will be at the yellow gate. Please do not cluster around the gate as we aim to maintain 2m social distancing.



Our chess club debating their next move as they attempt to beat Mr Cannon...it's not looking good!

Additional information for the start of term

- As parents will not be allowed on school grounds, they will need to communicate via email and telephone. Should there be any forgotten PE kits or packed lunches, please wear a face mask, bring them to the Community Entrance door and ring the bell.
- Children will need to bring their own water bottle. The drinks fountains are not to be used and have been switched off.
- Children should not bring anything that is unnecessary including toys.
- Children will be required to wear their school uniform as normal, changing when required into their school PE/Sports kit.
- During this period, we ask that children do not come to school on their bikes/scooters, thank you.
- There will be no large gatherings at school so assemblies, performances, disco's even the Christmas Fayre are cancelled. I hope the situation improves so I am allowed to reintroduce such events.
- I have moved parents' evening back to the very end of November. If they cannot go ahead I shall ask your teacher to write a brief report to you. Should you wish to speak with your child's teacher, please arrange a telephone appointment through our school office - thank you.



Listening to a story on the School Library Bus

We are attempting to keep as close to normal routines as we can, minimising disruption and assisting our return back to normal as soon as possible. We will of course maintain the safety of children and staff as our main priority.



School Website

The school website can be found at

www.newlaithes.com

As most of the site is password protected you will need to use the password to look around. If you have forgotten the password, please contact the school office.

Our school website has a Coronavirus Information page which is updated with the latest information, documents and links for you.

Reminders at the start of term

- ◆ Please drop off your child and then collect your child on time at the end of the day.



- ◆ Even in these challenging times, parents will not be granted holidays during school term time. Time out of school will only be allowed for exceptional circumstances. Please contact school for an absence form.



- ◆ School uniform states that children should wear black shoes. Shoes with colours, bands or stripes on will not be allowed.



- ◆ All school jumpers and cardigans require the school badge.



- ◆ Please inform school of any changes to your contact details such as new phone numbers or email addresses.



Thank you.



Our award winning 'Tech Team' Stars of the future...

New car park & driveway

We have a new car park and driveway at the front of our school. I am sure the lack of pot holes will be welcomed by everyone!

The car park will be locked at the beginning and end of each day. This will allow for parents to wait for their children to come out whilst staying socially distanced.

Parking concerns

Please would parents consider allowing their children to walk to school rather than travel by car. The number of cars using the side roads near the school is now a problem and causing friction with our neighbours.

Please be aware that the police had begun to monitor the situation and parking tickets had been issued. Please DO NOT park on the footpath!





Maya Klimas and her Minions!
Winner of last year's autumn art competition

ART COMPETITION

We hope to hold our autumn term art competition in the school hall on Friday 16th October. We are discussing whether this will be a digital art competition this term - details to follow.

All our children are encouraged to enter a piece of artwork on any subject or theme which they have created at home. If it is digital, they will need to email their image into school. The winners are displayed around school for at least a term, often longer.

There will be prizes for the best pieces and all our children have the chance to vote for their favourite pieces of art.



PTFA

Our essential PTFA (Parents Association) who raise thousands of pounds for the school each year and organised events for our children will not be able to meet under the current circumstances.

We hope the situation will change soon so we can once again organise the school disco, film nights, chocolate bingo etc. Once it restarts we will need parent volunteers so please consider joining our PTFA and help to support our amazing school.

Dates

Please note 'tbc*' = To Be Confirmed as the current situation may not allow for this event to go ahead

September

- 1 Teacher training day
- 2 Children - start of term
- 8 Y5 first aid tbc*
- 10 Y2 teacher to visit to see how our new Y3's are settling in.

Various sporting events have been cancelled/postponed until further notice

- 28 Y4 Rattlingate Camp—cancelled

October

- 12 Book Fair (hall) postponed until spring
- 14 Y4 Harvest tbc*
- 11 Parents' Evenings have been moved back to the end of November
- 16 Art Competition
- 19 Cyclewise Y6 all week
Halloween Disco tbc*
- 21 Robin Wood Y5 (we currently expect this residential visit to go ahead but the situation may change - we will keep you informed).

- 24 HALF TERM HOLIDAY begins

Please remember to read with your child everyday, talk to them about their school day and support them with any homework they may have been set. Thank you.

Mr Cannon

Please remember to put your child's name on all clothes, thank you.