

School Fencing

The perimeter fence for the school campus is now complete. As a result of this, pupils can now access the school campus from Bevan Road or from the front of the school via the playground entrance at the side of the library. **Please note that no pupils should be walking along the service road at the rear of the school as this is no longer an access route for pupils.** Your support in this time of transition is much appreciated in ensuring our pupils are safe when entering and leaving school and during the school day.

Children's University

Thank you those of you who have expressed an interest in joining our Children's University programme with Queen Margaret University. Pupil applications will be sent to the university this coming week and we will inform you when their passports arrive. For the time being, please keep a record of all of your child's out of school learning experiences and we can add these retrospectively when your child's passport arrives.

Dynamic Earth Space Event

Our school is thrilled to have been asked by Dynamic Earth to send a group of upper school pupils to their Space Event on Tuesday 15th December. Due to a high level of interest from our upper school pupils, we ran a competition for pupils to gain a place for the event. Pupils wrote about why Space was important to them and what they would like to learn more about in relation to Space. The level of entries was extremely high and it was a difficult task to choose those attending.

A group of P5, P6 and P7 pupils have been chosen to attend the event where they will watch the live take of a British astronaut into Space. Pupils will also participate in newly developed Space workshops led by Dynamic Earth, while also having the opportunity to see real artefacts linked to Space given to Dynamic Earth by the European Space Agency. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils with a keen interest in Space to develop their knowledge further. We would like to express our thanks to Dynamic Earth for giving us this opportunity.

Parking

Thank you to all of our parents who have supported us as we try to reduce car parking close to the main school gates at the end of the school day.

As a matter of health and safety, can we request that no cars park in front of the school gates.

Although closed these gates are an emergency access for vehicles and emergency vehicles and must remain clear at all times. There is congestion on a daily basis at the school gates and this has been raised with the local police. The safety of all of our pupils is of paramount importance and we urge parents to park away from the school gates. This ensures that pupils leaving school and those returning from school trips at the end of the day are safe. We thank you for your support in this matter.

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Caring at, Sharing at, Learning at...St. Luke's!

**Newsletter 3
November 2015**

School Improvement Plan Update

Visible Learning

During the month of November pupils across the school have been becoming more aware of what it means to be intelligent. Pupils have participated in learning assemblies and undertaken projects in class to develop their knowledge base further. Pupils are now confident in saying that we know that intelligence is not something that we are born with, rather we can help it to grow throughout our lives. This has linked well with our growth mindset approach and pupils are becoming more understanding of what they can do to develop to better than the best they think they can be!

Pupils have looked at a range of celebrities and cartoon characters across the school, thinking about how these people/characters are intelligent. Our journeys link from Finding Nemo characters to stunt cyclist Danny MacAskill to entrepreneur Duncan Bannantyne.

As a school we will now be continuing to develop this understanding further through developing our awareness of risk taking and effort!

All pupils in school participated in a competition to create our new school mascot. The designs and ideas of our pupils were fantastic and it was very difficult to choose a winner! Our school learning mascot will be visible throughout the school, linking to our work on visible learning and growth mindset.

I am delighted to announce that the winner of our School Mascot design was Sophie Pelc in P7. A close runner up was Jay Beattie from P4b. Sophie will now begin work on a large scale mascot to display in school! All of our entries are soon to be displayed outside the dining hall. Please have a look the next time you are in school!

Outdoor Learning/School Playgrounds

Our playground development plans are available to view in our school corridor. Thank you to our Parent Council who have purchased a set of football goals for our upper school pupils, this is much appreciated! A set of smaller goals have been ordered for our younger pupils.

We have been working closely with colleagues in Midlothian Council's Offender programme and have a number of picnic tables ready to be placed in our upper playground. The team are also working on creating some interesting tyre features to help us create our scooter track next to the infant playground and are making a series of vegetable planters for all classes in the school.

Scotmid's Community grant programme recently provided us with vouchers to help raise funds for gardening tools and equipment to help pupils access these planters. We have used some of these funds to create some hampers to raffle at the Christmas Fayre and Nativity Play. Tickets will also be available in school to buy. We hope that you support us with these raffles as all money raised will go back into developing our ground environments.

playground environments.

As a school we are still trying to source a container to support us in storing materials for the playground and in particular loose parts play. If anyone can help us with this, please contact the school office.

Pupils across the school continue to experience outdoor learning activities throughout the school week. These range from planned activities to external providers such as Dynamic Earth and a local sawmill to develop our awareness of our learning to orienteering and cross country within our school grounds, and taking our spelling and numeracy learning outdoors, to name but a few. Ask your child how they have been involved in outdoor learning in recent weeks to find out more!!

Parent Council Update

Our Parent Council are currently organising and making last minute plans for our School Christmas Fayre on Thursday 3rd December. Please support them as they continue to raise funds to support the school by handing in items requested and popping along to the event.

Severe Weather Arrangements

As we move towards the time of year when the weather become more challenging, it is important to update you on severe weather arrangements.

In times of severe weather any school closures are announced by Midlothian Council. These announcements are made through Midlothian Council's website www.midlothian.gov.uk and through their Twitter feed @midgov. Midlothian Council will also inform local radio stations of intended school closures.

In severe weather, and in particular snowy weather, there are priority arrangements for clearing of pathways and access points across the campus. The school will inform you if pupil entries are changed e.g. all pupils to enter via the main entrance. This will be sent as a text message as soon as possible.

In case of school closure during the school day, or indeed to contact families with regards to access to the school in times of severe weather, please ensure that the school office has your up to date contact details. If you have recently changed phone number, please contact the school office to update these.

Winter Clothing

In times of wintry weather, many interesting learning experiences and challenges can take place outside. Please ensure that your child comes appropriately dressed for these weathers so that we can enjoy the outside environment. A change of socks, some gloves and a hat are all extremely useful, as are a pair of wellingtons or winter boots.

Please ensure that your child has a change of footwear to wear in school as we move in to more wintry weather. This allows pupils to have dry and warm feet in school.