

St John Ogilvie Primary Newsletter October 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share with you this term's newsletter. We have had a very busy first term of this school session. It has been lovely to have our children back in our school building. We have loved having everyone back amongst us and the children have adjusted really well to our new routines and guidance. Our new P1 cohort have settled in really well and are enjoying being part of our school community.

We know how difficult it is for you as parents to be unable to have the usual contact that you have with the school team and appreciate your efforts in adhering to the current guidance. To keep you updated with learning, staff are making use of our school blog to share classroom highlights.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/stjohnogilvieprimary/>

We are in the process of connecting all of our P1 – P3 families with a new app called Seesaw for home learning and our P4 – P7 learners are making use of Microsoft Teams. Please let us know if you need any support to access these platforms.

*Joanne McKissack
Head Teacher*

Staffing News

We have welcomed Miss Thomas (P2A), Mrs Broadley (P4A) and Mr Pentland (P6B) to the staff team. We also have Mrs Russell (P1B) and Mrs Roy (P6A) back from maternity leave. At the moment, Mrs Morrison is working with P7A on Monday, Tuesday and alternate Fridays while Mrs Brand continues to be absent. We will keep parents and carers of the class updated.

We are extremely sorry to be losing Mrs Green from our staff team this week. Mrs Green was due to retire at the summer but decided to postpone her retiral date until October to help support the return to school. She has been a much valued member of the staff team at St John Ogilvie for a number of years and an employee of West Lothian Council for even longer. She has supported countless children and families in her role as Support for Learning teacher and I know that many of you have had the benefit of her knowledge and wisdom whilst she worked in partnership with you and your children. We will greatly miss having her as part of our team and wish her a happy retirement filled with God's blessings.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club begins at 8.00am. Please be aware that pupils are not supervised before this start time. Breakfast is served between 8.00am and 8.20am. Any pupils arriving beyond this point are unable to be admitted and should remain in the playground.

Safety of Pupils in School

Safety of pupils is a major priority in St. John Ogilvie. There are playground supervisors in the playground each day from 8.30am. Please ensure that pupils arrive no earlier than 8.30am as they will be unsupervised until this time.

Safe and Considerate Parking Around the School and Nursery

We again highlight to you the importance of safe and considerate parking around our school and nursery. During these months of potential weather hazards, please leave additional time for your car journey to school and be **safety aware at all times** when dropping your child or parking near the building. We would also ask that you consider the residents around the school when parking, dropping off or collecting. **The school car park is for staff parking only**. Please do not use the car park for drop off/collection.

Medication in School

Please inform our school office or a member of the Senior Leadership Team if your child has medical needs, or needs to take medication in school and also if there are any changes to dosage or medicines. If your child requires medication you will be given a form to fill in and sign, and medication will be stored safely. If you need a form, please contact the school office or forms are available on our school website (<https://stjohnogilvie.westlothian.org.uk>) **Please note that medication must be in the original box with the pharmacy label stating name/dosage etc. clearly displayed.**

Allergies/Home packed lunches

We have a number of allergies amongst our school community and we ask you, therefore, not to include any of the following items for snacks or lunches:

products containing strawberry or flavourings; products containing kiwi or flavourings; products containing nuts. This includes spreads containing these flavourings (jam, peanut butter, some brands of chocolate spread)

We would take precautions to ensure that your child does not come into contact with anything which could impact on their health and ask you to show others the same courtesy. Thank you for your co-operation. A reminder that children bringing lunch from home should have a drink provided for them.

Wet Weather Arrangements

Pupils should report to the front door on arrival at school, where they will be directed to their area of the school. Pupils will then be supervised by Early Arrival Pupil Support Workers until the bell rings.

P.E. days

Our guidance remains that any P.E. must take place outside. We appreciate that this may begin to prove more challenging as we enter Autumn/Winter. Mrs Lafferty will make sensible decisions around whether P.E. can take place outdoors in severe weather. Children should continue to come to school dressed for activity on their P.E. days. Please ensure that they have appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather conditions on that day. A reminder that pupils should wear school t-shirt/jumper on these days. We have noted that an increasing number of children are not doing this and would appreciate your support in this matter.

Pupil Belongings

Please assist teachers by naming all items of clothing clearly with your child's name and class. A reminder that, at the moment, children should only bring their school bag and packed lunch boxes

We would ask that all children have a pair of indoor shoes to change into as the colder weather approaches. These do not have to be gym rubbers but **should not** be slippers. A pair of trainers that are no longer being worn at home will be fine. Please try to ensure that your child can fasten these shoes by themselves (avoid laces for younger children)

School Playground

Pupils who bring bikes/scooters to school should dismount before entering the playground and walk them to the lock up areas. We would strongly advise anyone bringing a bike or scooter to make sure that they are locked up.

A reminder that only parents of P1 and P2 are permitted within the playground in the mornings and only parents of P1, P2 and P3 are permitted within the playground in the afternoons. We must insist that the rule of only 1 adult per child is followed and that all adults adhere to social distancing measures.

Sharing pupil progress with parents

As you will be aware, we are unable to hold our usual Parent Consultations which normally take place in November. However, we are keen to share with you information about the progress that your child is making in learning and so staff will be producing an interim report document which we will share with you via email. We would envisage being able to send this out to you during the early part of November.

Reporting your child's absence

We would ask all parents/carers to contact our school office on **(01506) 412560** or to text our Groupcall number **(07860 049750 – school)** to report if your child is going to be absent from school. West Lothian Council policy advises that parents should contact the school to inform of an absence by **9am**. If no contact has been made, a Groupcall message will be sent asking parents to get in touch with the school.

At **10am**, Head Teachers are required to make the decision about whether to contact the council's Safe Arrivals team to seek support in contacting families to ensure that children are safe. The Safe Arrivals team have the authority to make home visits and, in some cases, involve the police.

These measures are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and it is of great importance that parents contact the school if your child is not attending. Please either state that your child will be off for a specified number of days, or contact the school on **each day** of absence. We appreciate your co-operation.

Please note the following NHS guidelines regarding absence.

Main points:

- *Any child who is unwell should not attend regardless of whether they have a confirmed infection*
- *Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should be excluded until they have no symptoms for 48 hours following their last episode*
- *Children with unexplained rashes should be considered infectious until assessed by a doctor*

Absence relating to COVID 19

A reminder of current West Lothian Council advice around COVID 19 and schools/early years establishments can be found here: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/60416/Back-to-School-Information>

The frequently asked questions section should provide you with answers to any queries you may have. If you require to book a COVID 19 test, you should do so by following the procedures in place: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

A reminder to parents/carers that if anyone in your household has symptoms, the whole household must isolate until that person has a test result. Children who have siblings/parents with symptoms CANNOT attend school until a negative test result has been received.

Communication

We have a number of ways to communicate with our families and thought that it might be useful to detail the different ways that you can access information to enable you to keep up to date with what's happening in school.

Groupcall Text Messages

This facility sends text messages directly to your mobile phone. There is a cost to the school for each message that we send using Groupcall. We will contact you using Groupcall in the following instances:

- School closures
- Individual messages to specific parents (absences, lunch arrears etc.)
- Any other significant messages

School App Messages

We have a school app which you can download (search App or Play store for "School App for Parents"). We have access to a messaging facility through the app and will use this to send reminders to the whole parent body about school events.

Newsletters

We will send these to you via email. We will **no longer** send you a Groupcall text message to advise you that we have sent an email as this is not cost effective. Please keep a regular eye on your email inbox. If we do not have an email address for you, please consider providing us with one.

We will also publish newsletters on the school website which you can access here: <https://stjohnogilvie.westlothian.org.uk>

Classroom learning

We will share information about classroom learning with you in 2 ways.

1. Through our school app – within the information section – School Blog
2. Through Twitter. Follow the school @WLStJohnOgilvie and nursery @WLWoodlandsELC

Dates for your diary

We will give you information about upcoming events/dates in 2 ways

1. Through our school app – within the dates section
2. On our website

October holiday family challenge

A reminder that school is closed for the October break from Monday 12th October with school pupils resuming on Wednesday 21st. To keep everyone busy over the break, you can take part in our family challenge! Try to complete 4 tasks from the grid below. If you can, send us a photograph or a tweet when you complete an activity. You can tweet us here: @WLStJohnOgilvie or send pictures to wlstjohnogilvie-ps@westlothian.org.uk

Watch a family movie together	Go for a walk to spot signs of Autumn	Bake something tasty together	Read a book together
Take some photographs which show signs of Autumn	Create a recipe for a warming soup	Play a board game together	Have a family talent show!

Wishing all of our children and families an enjoyable break!