



Harestanes Primary Newsletter

JANUARY 2024



Dear Parent / Carer,

We have had an exciting start to 2024 with a very busy January indeed – I can't believe how quickly this year is flying in! We have already had our **Enrolment** for our new Primary 1's in August 2024 and we look now to working with our partners to begin the **Transition Programme** for our P7 children moving to High School.

In January we said farewell to **Mrs Davidson** who has been at Harestanes Primary for eight years as **she retired** and went off to new adventures. We wish her well in her travels ahead.



I would like to **thank all parents/carers** for ensuring that your child is attending school in their **school uniform**. It is so important for the children to feel proud of being **part of our school community** and to reflect this in wearing it. If you are having difficulty in sourcing items of uniform, please contact school. Please note that we do not encourage the wearing of branded leisure wear as this is **not part of our school**

uniform. We take the **Health and Safety** of our children very seriously and would ask that you help us to ensure their safety during PE lessons by ensuring they are wearing suitable footwear and are able to remove all jewellery. Please note that we cannot 'tape' earrings.

We love to **celebrate Scotland** at Harestanes and this year we marked **Robert Burns Day** with lots of different activities from quizzes to baking and tasting Scottish fare! We also had a Burns Celebration Assembly which was **organised by our P7 pupils** who shared the history of Robert Burns and re-enacted parts of the traditional supper. Pupils recited poetry and were absolutely amazing! **Here are some of our youngest prize-winners** whose certificates were awarded at the Assembly.



We have been continuing to work on our School Improvement Plan concentrating on Raising Attainment in Reading across the school and working towards becoming a Silver Level Rights Respecting School.



Our **pupil Reading Leaders** have been busy over the past two terms reorganizing our school library and continuing to raise the profile of reading across the school. As a result of their work, pupils have been **sharing book recommendations, accessing the library during lunch breaks**, and taking part in a variety of new reading activities. In December, our Reading Leaders went on a trip to our local library in Kirkintilloch to get some **ideas and inspiration** for our **own library** and reading areas.

Every class will have the opportunity to visit our local library before June and we will be creating a **'New!'** section in the school library full of novels by authors and genres of books that were requested by pupils. We will also be asking teachers

and pupils to regularly **share what they are reading** and **inviting families in to attend more after-school story sessions**. Please keep an eye on **class Teams** pages and 'X' for more reading/library updates!



January has been another exciting month in the ELR with some pupils visiting **Woodland View school** to participate in a school **dance festival**. Well done to all of those involved! Children are enjoying weekly workshops with **Sporting Aces** which has been a super opportunity to develop gross motor skills. This month we **welcome Miss Mackie as the class teacher for ELR 2**. We also welcome **Mrs Hale, support for learning assistant, to ELR 1**. We also heard that **Miss Watson** had given birth to a **beautiful baby boy** – we send the new family our very best wishes!

Finally, as we are beginning to see a change in the weather can I remind you that on **very frosty and icy mornings** our Janitorial Assistant will **grit the main entrance pathway to the office door** (at the Fitness Trail) before taking up **Crossing Patrol duties**. If you come into school by any other pathway you should **take extra care** as it may not be gritted yet.



As always, please do not hesitate to speak with us about any aspect of your child's experience at school by making an appointment through the school office.

Kind Regards,
Ms. Jackie Gillespie
Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7th February: Bulb Competition Judging P1-3

9th February: P4 Class Assembly at 10am P4 Parents/Carers welcome to join us.

12th- 14th February Break for pupils (INSET 14th February Staff)

23rd February: P3 Class Assembly at 10am P3 Parents/Carers welcome to join us.

6th March: Parents' Night (in person -links to book appointments will be sent out)

7th March; WORLD BOOK DAY

26th & 27th March: P4-7 School Show - Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies

29th March - 14th April: Easter Holiday Break

16-19th April: P7 Residential Trip to Lendrick Muir