

HARRYSMUIR NEWS

September 2021



HARRYSMUIR PRIMARY SCHOOL ~ WHERE EVERYONE MATTERS
OUR PUPILS ARE LEARNING TO BE SUCCESSFUL, CONFIDENT,
RESPONSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

We hope you have all had a lovely September holiday weekend.

We are all looking forward to welcoming Miss Laura Baillie on 18th October as Seconded Head Teacher.

Parent/carer Consultations

Parent/carer consultations will take place on 6th and 7th October. A letter has been emailed to parents/carers containing information regarding booking an appointment. It is essential that the office have your correct contact details. If not already sent, please can you return annual data checks as soon as possible. If you require any help with this, please contact the school office

Coronavirus

A reminder to parents/carers to minimise waiting at the school gates and please continue, unless exempt, to wear face coverings at drop off/pick times, in line with Scottish Government guidance.

The Council Executive have agreed to continue the provision of paying £3 per day to families in receipt of clothing grant (P1-P4) and Free School Meals (P5-S6) if they have a child who is required to isolate due to Covid-19 guidance and is absent from school.

The criteria is set out below for parents/carers

- P1 to P4 pupil and recently received a school clothing grant.
- P5 to S6 and be in receipt of free school meals.
- The information you provide will be cross referenced with pupil school attendance records.
- Payment will be made to the bank account you notified us of in your recent meals/clothing application (this can be updated at the end of the form if required).
- You will be required to complete one form per child for each period of isolation.

Parents/carers are invited to complete an online form - <https://forms.office.com/r/hOW64dPyHp>

Parents/carers can retrospectively access this support from the beginning of the session if their child(ren) has been required to isolate and been absent from school.

West Lothian Council's Advice Shop would also like to promote their service. Families can speak to an adviser who can check benefit entitlement, provide help with claims, assist with budgeting support, energy and debt advice. To speak to an adviser call 01506 283000 or email advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop

Outdoor Clothing

A reminder that all children need to bring a coat with them to school as we are trying to work with learners outdoors as much as possible, even in damp conditions and, it is getting colder !

In school we have a varied selection of nearly new schools clothes available free to collect. Miss Anderson can put in a referral to clothing agencies for anyone who needs a little support.

Water Bottles

We would be grateful, if possible, if parents/carers could provide learners with a full bottle of water at the start of each day. Fresh water will always be made available to our learners, or if they need to refill their bottle throughout the day.

Flu Vaccinations

Your children should have received an invitation to take part in the flu vaccine programme at school. Thank you to parents/carers who have returned them. We would welcome any outstanding replies. The date for flu nasal vaccinations is 4th November 2021.

EE2 Form

Completed EE2 forms are required for us to be able to take your child(ren) on local excursions. Please return any outstanding forms.

Car Park

In line with Council policy and to ensure safety of our learners, please do not drive into the school car park and do not walk through the school car park or allow your children to do so.

Parking

A concern has been raised about the number of cars parking on the zig zag yellow lines at the turning circle outside the school and nursery buildings.

There is a concern that this is posing a real risk to the safety of our children. PC McCartney, Campus Police Officer will be monitoring the situation and we kindly ask that you work with us by ensuring that you do not park your car in this area in order to alleviate congestion.

Pupil Leadership Team

We are delighted to have appointed our P7 Pupil Leadership Team for this session.

We look forward to working with them to help promote our school expectations of being **ready, respectful & safe** and them taking on a number of responsibilities 😊.

Foodbank

West Lothian Foodbank have recognised the very generous contributions of our school community in supporting their work. They would like to ask for your help again. During October they would welcome contributions such as Cup a Soup, Instant Potatoes, Sponge puddings, Oat cakes/Crackers, Creamed Rice, Plain noodles, tinned potatoes. If you would like to contribute, please send the item with your child to school and we will arrange collection from the Foodbank.

Future Dates

20th & 21st October -P4 Dental Varnishing

4th November 2021- Flu nasal vaccinations

Friday 28th October 2021 -Hallowe'en activities during the school day- information to follow

October Holidays- all break Friday 8th October.
Learners return Tuesday 19th October.

Please click on the link below to access all school holiday dates for session 2021-2022

[Term session dates 2021-2022](#)

Hedgehog Update at Harrysmuir



Over the last two weeks our P4 - P7 hedgehog champions carried out a hedgehog survey to see whether we had any hedgehogs in the school grounds. They did this by setting up a tunnel that had some charcoal paste, white paper and a bit of dog food in it. The idea being that if a hedgehog walked through the tunnel across the charcoal, to get to the food, they would leave footprints. We are very excited to say that we did find hedgehog footprints and by using a motion camera we managed to record footage of the hedgehog too.

How can you encourage hedgehogs in our community?

Here are 10 tips.

1. **Link your garden** - Hedgehogs can roam from 1 - 2km each night. 13 x 13cm holes in fences and walls enable them to move from garden to garden.
2. **Make your pond safe** - Hedgehogs can swim but can't climb out of steep sided ponds, using a pile of stone or piece of wood will enable them to climb out.
3. **Create a wild corner** - leave a corner to grow wild this can provide a nest area and insects to feed the hedgehog.
4. **Deal with litter and netting** - Hedgehogs are prone to getting tangled in netting. Polystyrene cups, plastic and elastic bands can also cause problems.
5. **Put out food and water** - Hedgehogs really benefit from extra food, using it as a supplement to their natural diet. Meaty cat or dog food and hedgehog food are both suitable.
6. **Stop using chemicals** - Lawn treatments reduce worm populations. Pesticides, insecticides and slug pellets are toxic and reduce hedgehogs' creepy crawly prey.
7. **Check before strimming** - Hedgehogs will not run away from the sound of a mower or strimmer.
8. **Be careful with bonfires** - Piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking for somewhere to hibernate or nest - build it on

the day of burning or move the pile on the day of burning to avoid a tragic end.

9. **Making a home for hedgehogs** - A log pile is one of the best features for encouraging all kinds of wildlife - and so easy to make. It will encourage insects and provide nesting opportunities all year around.
10. **Become a hedgehog champion** - Register on **Hedgehog Street** and join our army of over 60,000 volunteers. We'll provide you with all of the resources you could need to make your neighbourhood chock-a-block with hedgehogs. www.hedgehogstreet.org

There is a hedgehog leaflet available with more information on the school Blog
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/harrysmuirps/2021/09/28/hedgehog-update/>

