



Strathesk
Primary School

Weekly Mail Drop

04.11.2022

(Our weekly mail drop will continue to be sent out each **Friday** this year)

Included in this week's mail drop:

- Information on The National Discussion
- Adult Learning opportunities
- Coffee Morning in school hosted by our School Nurse
- Kids' Club poster
- Christmas Coffee Morning organised by The Play Therapy group

This week's mail drop contains a lot of important information including attachments on The National Discussion. Please take a few minutes to read over it and get in touch if you have any questions.

I hope you have had a great week. It's been another busy and fun week in school.

A reminder that parent consultations take place on Tuesday 8th and Friday 11th November. Specific times have already been shared with you. We look forward to welcoming you back into school for in person meetings this term.

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th November to take Nursery - P7 individual and family photographs. P7 photographs will be taken after lunch so skiers should bring their school uniform to change into on their return to school.

Now that COVID mitigations have been reduced, we are returning to the use of atrium doors for children entering and exiting the school building. Classroom doors will no longer be used for this purpose.

Can you please ensure your child brings a healthy snack and water to school rather than sweets and fizzy drinks? Similarly, if your child is bringing a packed lunch can you please ensure all items are healthy? Over this term we have seen an increase in sweets, crisps and chocolate which can have a negative impact on a child's ability to concentrate in class. Please note we are a nut free school and so nuts or foods containing nuts, including Nutella, must not be sent into school as we have a number of children with allergies. Thank you for your support with this.

As the winter moves in, can you please make sure your child comes to school dressed for cold and wet weather? Children can leave a change of clothing in their trays in the classroom should you wish to send these in with them. Where possible, we will continue to develop our Outdoor Learning curriculum unless the weather is particularly bad. Even if not raining, the ground can still be wet and slippery especially in the woods so we recommend coming to school in wellies, waterproof trousers and coat on the days your child has Outdoor Learning.

A few weeks ago the Eastfield Medical Centre advised that parents were parking in their car park at drop off and pick up. Last week we received the same concerns from Eastfield Business Centre. Both of these areas are for use by those working in or accessing these buildings only and should not be used by the general public. This is largely for safety reasons such as fork lift trucks in operation or medical staff needing quick access to and from the medical centre.



Please do not use these areas when bringing children to and from school. Parking in and around school continues to cause huge concerns. Please walk to and from school if at all possible.

As you know, Midlothian Council suspended use of Seesaw following a cyber security incident on 14 September 2022. A review of the Seesaw platform has now taken place and work is ongoing to ensure Seesaw's security measures are robust and reliable. Access to Seesaw for learners and staff will be re-enabled in the coming days. Staff have been instructed to remain vigilant to anything suspicious and we would ask you to do the same. Please report any concerns to the school office. The messaging feature of Seesaw will not be used. If you wish to contact your child's teacher or ELC staff, please do this through the usual channels.

Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They don't have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact. Please check your child's hair regularly for head lice. Treat head lice as soon as you spot them and ensure you complete the full treatment. There's no need to keep your child off school if he/she has head lice. For further information on how to spot and treat headlice please visit the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Please see update below regarding the Scottish Child Payment for your information.

Scottish Child Payment

From 14 November, Scottish Child Payment will be extended to children under 16. From this date parents can apply for Scottish Child Payment for children aged 6 to 15. This change means Social Security Scotland expect 300,000 additional children to become eligible for the payment

Scottish Child Payment Overview:

Scottish Child Payment helps towards the cost of supporting families. Successful applicants will get a weekly payment of £20 for every child they look after who's under 6 years of age. Payment is made every 4 weeks.

Scottish Child Payment does not affect any other UK or Scottish Government benefits that applicants get, but might affect local council allowances or grants, such as the Scottish Welfare Fund.

Applicants may be able to get Scottish Child Payment if all of the following apply:

- The applicant lives in Scotland
- The applicant or their partner are getting certain benefits or payments
- The applicant or their partner are the main person looking after a child who's under 6 years old

Benefit Criteria:

Applicants do not have to be in work as long as they are getting one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Please see attached letter and leaflet relating to the Scottish Government's consultation on our country's Education system (Primary & Secondary) - 'The National Discussion'. Everyone with an interest in the future of education in Scotland is invited to take part.

The National Discussion on Education

The Scottish Government is carrying out a consultation on Primary and Secondary Education called 'The National Discussion'. Everyone with an interest in the future of education in Scotland is invited to take part. The council is holding focus groups for parents/carers within our school clusters for primary and secondary parents as well as online to discuss the consultation and to seek views and opinions.

Please click on link below for dates of focus groups and online sessions and to book a place:

- [National Discussion - book in person consultation](#)
- You can also participate by completing a survey by clicking [here](#)
- If you would like more information about the survey please email gail.currie@midlothian.gov.uk or call 07385 400905

Midlothian Scouts have asked us to share the following with you:

Midlothian Scouts wants to give more opportunities to young people

Sign up to attend a Midlothian Scouts Information evening on Tuesday 22nd November at 7.30pm. Midlothian Scouts is looking to the local community, ordinary people who can make an extraordinary difference to the lives of local young people. They are appealing for help to reduce the youth waiting list and support over 200 more young people to benefit from Scouts. Scouting has a reputation for helping young people to develop resilience, a positive character, respect for others, good community skills, as well as physical and mental fitness. Can you help inspire the doers and give it a goers of the future!

Demand by young people to join Scouts in Midlothian now exceeds the number of new adult volunteers required to support them. Did you know there are over 200 young people on the Midlothian Scouts waiting list? Midlothian Scouts has Groups in Rosewell, Glencorse, Bonnyrigg, Gorebridge, Mayfield, Newtongrange, and Penicuik needs new helpers to enable more young people to join Scouting.

We all have the power to help young people to realise their potential. You don't need to be Bear Grylls to join us. You don't need to have been a Scout when you were younger. You don't even need to know how to put up a tent. Their door is open to people of all ages, genders, races and backgrounds, and they're only able to change lives because people like you lend a hand. There's lots of ways you can get more involved with Scouts as a parent, carer or family member. From helping out occasionally on a family rota or as part of our Executive Committee to stepping up as a leader, our volunteering activities are as varied as you. The good news is you shape what you do and the time you have to give. Scouts happens when a lot of us give a little ...and no, you don't have to be a Scout or outdoors expert to volunteer.

Are you passionate about seeing local young people succeed? Are you a team player with a positive, can-do attitude? Do you enjoy fun activities? Do you want to do more in your community? Are you more of a 'behind the scenes' person? Do you have a skill or hobby you can share? Then this event is right up your street. Scouts has the opportunities - you just show up, get stuck in and make memories for life!



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We have been asked to share the following information with you:

We are excited to announce that we will be running a new weekly Kid's Club at Penicuik Storehouse, beginning on Tuesday next week!

The club will run from 4-5pm and will be aimed at children from 3-7 years old. Up to 10 children will be able to attend, each with a parent. There will be different activities, such as storytelling, arts & crafts and no-cook bakery to name a few. Some activities may take place over a period of 4 weeks and others as a one-off event.

Attendance at the club will be free of charge and all materials will be supplied by the Storehouse.

As well as providing fun activities for the children, this will also provide an opportunity for mums or dads to get together and have a coffee and natter while their kids are having fun! Parents have the option to take advantage of our Pay it Forward scheme, meaning that they have access to a free bowl of soup or hot drink while they are at the Storehouse. Juice will be provided for the children at the Club.

Penicuik Storehouse is all about Community and we really hope we can bring together some of our local children to take part in the activities at the Club. Everyone is welcome!

We look forward to welcoming Penicuik's children to the Storehouse!

Please have a lovely break over the October holidays, everyone. Take care and look after yourself and your family.

Pauline Marr