



Strathesk
Primary School

Weekly Mail Drop

10.03.23

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

Included in this week's mail drop:

- Parent Consultation 'Sharing our Learning' - short feedback survey
- Sustrans - Big Walk and Wheel event
- Active Schools Volunteers - email activeschools@midlothian.gov.uk if you have any questions
- Intro to Hockey Coaching
- Hunter and Lass drawing competition
- Parent Zoom webinar - Edinburgh University

Parent Consultations

I hope you have had a great week. Thank you for joining us for our new and additional Parent Consultation this term - Sharing our Learning. This was designed so that our children could take the lead in sharing their learning with you. We hope you enjoyed this approach and found it worthwhile and informative. There was a great buzz around school throughout each of the sessions. It's fantastic to have everyone back in school for events like this. We would love to hear your views about this style of consultation. We intend to continue with the traditional teacher led sessions each year but we would like to include a child led session also if you feel it is beneficial. Can you please take a couple of minutes to complete the short survey and give us your feedback? <https://forms.gle/WjHLCxS7XAs2tTi49>. Please also check your child's schoolbag for a paper copy of the survey. Please return the completed survey to your child's class teacher or the school office by Friday 24th March and we will gather your views to help inform us moving forward.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Review

As you know children have led curriculum workshops in Numeracy and Writing over the course of the year. Groups of children volunteered to lead these sessions again in the dinner hall during Parent Consultations last week. Hopefully if you had a chance to join a session, you found it useful and informative. Our children also shared these workshops with our School Group Manager and one of our Quality Improvement Officers when they visited school last Thursday to review learning, teaching and assessment across our school. I am delighted to share with you that we had a very successful review and both visitors were very pleased with the standard of learning, teaching and assessment in school. They particularly enjoyed the workshops led by our children.

Strathesk School Choir Performance

We are delighted to be able to run after school clubs again this year. Mr Armstrong has been leading the school choir every Tuesday. They performed at Christmas in both Tesco and Cowan Court and they did us proud on both occasions! They have been working hard on their next big performance! Our annual music concert will be held at **2pm on Thursday 23rd March** in the school hall. The choir will be joined by our children who have been learning a range of musical instruments this year. Parents and families of children in the choir and those playing instruments are invited to join us on Thursday 23rd March at 2pm. Mr Armstrong will send out an invitation shortly with a reply slip. Please can you return this to him advising how many people will be attending from your family so that we know how many people to expect on the day?



P4 and P5 Performance

This term P4 and P5 have been learning all about Scotland, focusing primarily on the Wars of Independence and Scottish myths and legends. As part of their learning, they have prepared a drama about 'The Last Monster in Scotland'. Parents and families of children in P4, P4/5 and P5 are invited to join us on **Wednesday 29th March at 6.30pm** for the children's performance. Class teachers will send out an invitation shortly with a reply slip. Please can you return this to them advising how many people will be attending from your family so that we know how many people to expect on the day.

Children's Own Toys in School

We ask that children do not bring their own toys into school. We have a number of games and activities for children to use in school so this is not necessary. We also want to avoid children's personal items getting lost or damaged. Thank you for your support with this.

Parent Partnership Meeting

We have our next Parent Partnership meeting on Friday (17th March) at 9am in the community room. We will be talking about plans for our Spring event and our Learning Group will be sharing plans for playground equipment which the PPG has kindly agreed to purchase for the children. Please join us if you can. Your ideas and input would be really appreciated.

Easyfundraising at Strathesk

Strathesk Primary and ELC needs your help! Sign up to Easyfundraising and raise FREE donations every time you shop online with over 6,000 retailers. John Lewis, Argos, Uswitch, eBay and many more are waiting to give a free donation. Plus once you've signed up and raised £5 in donations, Easyfundraising will give us, as a school, an extra £5 bonus donation!

Sign up to support us here - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/x511yl/>

I have been asked to share the following with you -

Midlothian Young Carers Project are organising the following activities in the week around Young Carers Action Day which is on Wed 15th March 2023.

This year's theme is: "Making time for Young Carers". Midlothian Young Carers Project are hosting some events during the week of Wednesday 15th March 2023 which is Young Carers Action Day. This national event aims to raise the profile of young carers and the projects that support them. Drop in to come and find out about Midlothian Young Carers Project and meet some of the staff team - particularly aimed at families who think they might have a young carer in their family on Wednesday 15th March 6pm-7.30pm. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Online workshops for kinship carers

Children's Health Scotland are delivering two online workshops for Kinship Carers in Midlothian in May and June 2023.

Understanding Trauma and Supporting Recovery- Wednesday 24th of May 2023 from 10am to 2pm online via MS Teams

What do we mean by trauma? Where does it come from? What causes it? How does it show itself in a child and most importantly of all, what can we do about it? These and many other questions like it have been asked over the years by carers. This workshop session attempts to get to the bottom of these and support recovery with the use of stories and videos.



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Calming Techniques - Monday 19th June 2023 from 10am to 2pm online via MS Teams

Children's Health Scotland found that following their popular workshop on Trauma, carers were saying, "Well so what? What now? I get it but I need to know what to do when my child/young person have a meltdown."

This is a practical session which aims to introduce carers to a range of techniques or strategies to help both carers and their children cope with stress and stress related behaviours. Everything from *Star Breathing* to a *Huge Bag of Worries*. A key focus of this workshop is that the techniques and activities are designed to be used by carers as well as their children.

If you are a kinship carer in Midlothian or a kinship carer caring for one of Midlothian's children/ young people and would like to attend either or both of these workshops then please email your name to kinship@midlothian.gov.uk stating which workshops you wish to attend. We will then confirm your place and closer to the time send you a MS teams link to access the workshop

Clothes Recycling

Please make use of our uniform swap shop. We have a number of uniform items of all sizes and although previously owned, they are in very good condition. Please contact the office or Ali Turbitt, our Home School Practitioner, if you could use any of these items.

Similarly, if you have any unwanted clothes at home that your little ones have outgrown, can you please donate these to school? Outdoor clothing such as wellie boots, waterproofs, coats etc are very useful for outdoor learning and for taking away with us to camp however, any items would be really appreciated as children often need a change of clothes due to wet or messy play.

Next week's diary

Mon 13 March	Tues 14 March	Wed 15 March	Thurs 16 March	Fri 17 March
	3.15 Choir	STEM Ambassadors in school 9.00 HT Drop In 10.15 P5 swimming 12.15 P6/7 Active Schools Football	1.00 P1 transition 2.30 Assembly 3.30 Family craft group with Ali Turbitt	9.00 Parent Partnership meeting

Please have a lovely weekend, everyone.