



**Strathesk**  
Primary School

## Weekly Mail Drop

06.11.23

(Our weekly mail drop will now be sent out each Monday rather than Friday)

This week's mail drop includes:

- Keeping our children safe and well workshop information

We have had another great week in school. As our P1 and P2 parents will know, we have a focus on learning through play in our younger classes. This week we invited one of our colleagues from the central team at Midlothian Council along to observe our practice. Mrs Ward is a Quality Assurance Officer in the council with a wealth of experience in early years and play pedagogy. I am delighted to report that she was very impressed with what she saw and believes we are offering our children very good learning experiences. Our staff team continue to work very hard across all year groups to provide our children with a range of exciting and engaging learning opportunities and it was lovely to receive such feedback and recognition.

As you may remember we applied for the Tesco Blue Token award recently. This was to help fund play equipment in P1 and P2. Thanks to your support with the blue tokens and encouraging family and friends to do so, we have been granted the highest award of £1500! This play equipment will be used both indoors and outdoors.

Our Parent Partnership Group has also donated £1000 towards playground equipment. The children within our Learning Group have been very busy compiling a list of equipment within budget and we are now in the process of ordering this equipment for our playground.

Should children wish to make a small donation and buy a poppy for Remembrance Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November these are now available at the school office.

Children in Need takes place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. This year children can come to school on 17<sup>th</sup> wearing Pudsey colours or spots. If they prefer, children can wear PJs or simply dress down also. We ask that children bring in a donation of £1 to support Children in Need if taking part in this event. Thank you in advance for your support.

All children now change before and after PE. We do not have a specific PE kit. Shorts/joggers, t-shirt and trainers are perfect! We simply ask that children do not wear football colours and that kit is suitable for all forms of PE. Shorts shouldn't be too short. Can you please send a PE kit into school with your child? This will stay in school and be sent home to be washed at the end of each term. Please check that all clothing is labelled with your child's name and class. Thank you for your support with this.

A gentle reminder that our school is a pet and smoke free zone. Please do not smoke in or around the school grounds, including the playground and the school gates. Please do not bring pets, including dogs, into the school playground. Many of our children are afraid of dogs, even those on a lead, and some of our children are allergic to them. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Safe driving and parking in and around school**

As you know we have traffic restrictions in place at the front and the back of school during drop off and pick up times. This is for the safety of our children. The drop off option in the staff car park is no longer in place. Please do not park on the double yellow lines at any



time. We are very concerned about the extent of traffic in this area at the start and end of the day and as such it may be necessary to close the car park at these times. We will continue to monitor this area over the next few weeks. While we appreciate that these are very busy times in the day for you and restrictions can be inconvenient, the safety of our children is of utmost importance to us. Please support us by adhering to the restrictions in place and being mindful of children when driving in surrounding areas of the school.

I have been asked to share this with you: -

Dear Parent/Carer.

**Parent Conference 2023 - Keeping Our Children Safe & Well**

In Midlothian we see parents as partners in ensuring that our children and young people reach their full potential and have the best possible outcomes for the future.

We have planned an event called 'Keeping our Children Safe & Well' on **Saturday 11 November, 9.15am-12:45pm at Lasswade High School**. This event is open to all parents and carers of children and young people attending Early Years, Primary, Secondary, Special and Complex Needs settings in Midlothian.

The aim of the event is to provide more information for families about Children's Rights and Wellbeing as well as offering workshops on a variety of different topics all targeted at the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. This is an inclusive day for parents where everyone is welcome to attend and learn more from experienced professionals. Questions are welcomed and your views are important. Please see the attached agenda for more information.

This event is relaxed and informal. We are keen to make it as easy as possible for you to attend. Lasswade High School has car parking facilities as well as good public transport links across Midlothian. If you require any support to attend, please email me directly and I will help as much as I can. Free childcare for P1-S2 learners will also be provided on the day by our after school club providers. Places are limited.

To secure a place at this event as well as your chosen workshop and childcare if required, please visit - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/keeping-our-children-safe-well-parent-conference-2023-tickets-743424000197?aff=oddttdtcreator> Tickets will be available until Monday 6 November.

Please also remember to select your workshop by completing this short online form - <https://forms.gle/pzn4MBKZZjuZ4xvv6>

Childcare can also be booked via this form - <https://forms.gle/iBG1XxZxEmTqJn3G6>

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards

**Gail Currie**

**Parental & Learner Liaison Officer**

Please have a lovely week, everyone. Take care and look after yourself and your family.

*Pauline Mace*