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January Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our January Newsletter. We are delighted to have all our children back with us after the winter break and trust you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

Our children are straight back into progressing their learning and their teachers have a very exciting term ahead planned for them. As always in January we commence with our Scottish focus as we come together to celebrate the work of Robert Burns at our Scottish X Factor on 24th January.

Here at John Logie Baird Primary we pride ourselves on being a school that very much lives up to our vision;

“Nurturing and Inspiring everyone to reach their full potential.”

There are many ways in which we strive to ensure that our vision is achieved as exemplified below:

Assessment

Our team of Teaching Staff have robust systems in place to ensure that each child's

progress is tracked within all aspects of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Assessment is crucial to tracking progress, planning next steps, reporting, and involving families and learners in learning.

Evidence of progress can be gathered by learners themselves and by fellow pupils (peers), parents/carers, teachers and other professionals. A number of approaches are used including the following:

- Self-assessment – learners are encouraged and supported to look at and revisit their own work to develop a better understanding of what they have learned and what they need to work on
- Peer assessment – learners are encouraged and supported to work together to help others assess what is good about their work and what needs to be worked on
- Personal learning planning – children, teachers and parents/carers work together to develop planning for next steps in learning

We don't only base your child's progress on 'tests' but on the learning that takes place within the classroom and in different settings out with the classroom. Evidence of children's progress and achievements comes from day to day learning and through the things they may write, say, make or do. For example, evidence may emerge as a result of children and young people taking part in a presentation, discussion, performance, or practical investigation.

Evidence may be captured as a photograph, video or audio clip as part of a particular learning experience.

Assessment takes place as part of ongoing learning and teaching, periodically and at key transitions.

Reporting

We provide regular opportunities for reporting to inform parents/carers of progress in learning and achievement. This is through a range of approaches including meetings at parents' evening interviews with children present, written reports, open events, for example our One World Event, and Learning Launches, posts on Seesaw and our information sessions. These are always well attended by our families.

School improvement Plan

Our school improvement plan is underpinned by our school values of:

- *Healthy Relationships*
- *Respect*
- *Equity*
- *Ambition*
- *Responsibility*

Our staff team work together to ensure that our improvement priorities increase attainment and wellbeing for all our learners. This years priorities are as follows:

AifL - "Assessment is for Learning"

Teachers have worked together to reflect on their knowledge of assessment and evaluate their current classroom practice.

Professional reading has allowed teachers to further explore a wide range of assessment strategies and they are now developing these in class. This helps us to make sure that children get clear and useful feedback about their progress across all areas of the curriculum.

This may take place in the form of:

- written in jotters
- verbal
- digital
- self assessment
- peer assessment
- teacher led assessment

This feedback helps to engage all learners and supports them to move the learning forward.

Promoting Healthy Relationships

Last term we surveyed our parents and children again in order to measure the impact our Promoting Healthy Relationships Policy has had so far. Overall there has been an improvement in decreasing incidents of swearing in the playground.

At our last parents evening we introduced our Swearing Protocol to Parents. All staff are working hard together to implement this and teachers are closely monitoring the data through creation of a "run chart" on the classroom windows. Run charts help us to understand the data we gather over time and decide whether our changes are leading to improvement. Your children are helping



to analyse the data on the run charts and evaluate success with their teachers.

Now that we are well on our way to completely stopping swearing in the playground, we are ready to work on other things our children are telling us, such as, ensuring they are being included in games and listening to one another. Teachers are responding to this by teaching specific lessons in class to help make changes.

P3 have just achieved their target towards kind hands and feet. P5/4 have just achieved their target for swearing. Both classes are looking at their survey data to identify their next target.

Numeracy

Our teachers are learning about new ways to teach Maths and numeracy to help children learn better. We've purchased a new resource called White Rose Maths which, at this early stage, has seen our children more eager to learn in lessons.

Outdoor Learning

We listened to our children who told us they wanted to learn outwith the classroom. Some of our Teaching Staff have trained in Outdoor Learning.

From February to April we will teach two outdoor learning sessions per week for each class. Teachers will monitor the positive impact on our children to inform future teaching, learning and assessment.

The Interdisciplinary learning focus for outdoor learning Science and Maths through the context of water, of which we have plenty in Scotland! This will afford many opportunities to add depth to our learning in numeracy and science whilst also exploring learning for sustainability through the "Global Goals", [Overcoming the World's](#)

[Challenges - The Global Goals](#). The goal we will be focusing on is number 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation.

Our Pupil Council has also completed an audit to see how effective our school grounds are in providing us with exciting opportunities to engage with all areas of the curriculum.

Updates

Rights Respecting Schools

In February we hope to achieve our Silver Award for Rights Respecting Schools. This will give us a chance to share the following successes:

- Fortnightly assemblies based on the articles of the UNCRC
- All staff trained on the background of UNCRC
- Celebration of our staff "Duty Bearer of the Month"
- Updates for parents in newsletters
- Curriculum planning modified and updated to reflect the articles
- Language of rights being used during restorative conversations between children
- Formation of our "JLB VIP's" (Voices in Primary School, where they are included to make decisions about the school.



- Children learning about and promoting rights on a local and global scale for example, Harvest and Children in Need
- Curricular plans beginning to become aligned with the Global Goals.
- Signage implemented across the school associated with rights

Supporting our Learners

Nurture

In order to support our learners our nurture teacher uses the “Boxall Profile” which is a great tool to assess the needs of learners with social, emotional developmental issues. This assessment offers teachers a tool which allows them to understand and work more effectively with children, in a way that’s sensitive to the needs of the child being assessed.

Through nurture we continue to support our learners by making sure our school and grounds we offer a safe and nurturing learning environment for your children. Our team of staff have all received training that means we are a “trauma informed” workplace.

We have a core group of staff who work together as we strive to achieve our “Silver” nurture award. They have implemented a “Nurturing Environment Checklist”. This checklist enables us to monitor the classrooms to make sure that they are cosy and inviting and offer safe places for our children so that we can meet the standard of nurture we have set out to achieve.

The core group have also carried out surveys with our families, staff and children which allows us to measure how nurturing we are at JLB and where improvements can be made.

Through nurture we have developed a great partnership with Cove Park. Groups of our learners recently visited with their teacher and they collected objects from the beach which they used to create fortresses, sculptures, pictures and many more exciting art works! They were able to take these home and share what they had made with their families. We look forward to many more exciting opportunities at Cove Park in the future.

Our current focus has been on the following nurture principles:

- The classroom offers a safe base
- All behaviour is communication

As we move on we will focus on the remaining nurture principles. See image below.



Celebrating Achievements

Here at JLB we regularly celebrate the personal achievements of our learners. These are shared in class discussions and displayed throughout the school. As children share their personal achievements, whether it be dancing, swimming, football or even making their first ever sandwich, our class teachers add this to our information

trackers so that we can ensure each child is celebrated for their individual successes.

Issuing certificates during assembly also offers us an opportunity to celebrate the wide variety of skills developed through our many Lunch Time and After School Clubs. Our staff have ensured that each child has been signed up to at least one club of which they were able to choose from:

- Arts and Crafts
- Coding
- Football
- Lego Therapy
- Sensory
- Military Kids Club
- Baking
- Construction

Alongside these clubs we also run the following lunch time committees to ensure achievement across all areas of school life:

- JLB VIPs
- Eco Committee

These achievements are recorded on our achievement trackers by class teachers.

We celebrate children that have shown they are living our school values during our values assemblies, again teachers make a record of this on the achievement trackers.

We always encourage our children to go “Above and beyond” in all aspects of their learning. Children who have demonstrated this receive an “Above and Beyond” bee which is displayed on our display in the corridor. Again, this is celebrated at assembly and updated on the achievement trackers.

I am sure that you will agree that all of the above plays a huge role in achieving the following aims!

JLB Primary Schools Aims

J is the journey to success

L is learning for life

B is the building of self-belief and achievement

P is for perseverance, never give up

S is for supporting a sustainable environment

Other information

Scots X Factor

We are delighted to be able to share with you that we will be able to share our Scots X-Factor with you on Friday 24th January at 1:30. For this year it will take place as an online event and a google meet code will be sent out to all of our families during the week of 24th January.

Developing Young Workforce Week

During the week of 17th March to 21st March we have many exciting events planned for our learners and also our families.

This week will be an opportunity for us to celebrate the skills we develop in school that will stay with us into adulthood as we embark into the wonderful world of work.

Our Comic Relief Family Fun Day will take place on Friday 21st. For a small donation children will be welcome to come to school with crazy hair or a decorative headpiece. This will raise money for Comic Relief. Also



on that day we will be recognising World Water Day, so be prepared to have fun and get wet, wet, wet!

Further details of the events of the week will be issued in the coming weeks!

Planet Youth

Please follow the 'Healthy Argyll and Bute' Facebook page to find out about "Planet Youth". They will be working r to improve outcomes for children and young people, making Argyll and Bute a great place to grow up and live.

Further information about Planet Youth can be found here:

[Home | Planet Youth Scotland](#)

Parent Council Event

On Thursday 23rd January at 7pm our Parent Council are inviting you for pizza at their AGM and volunteer night. They will provide more details nearer the time.

| Dates for your Diary | |
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| Thu23rd Jan | <p>Performing to Morar Lodge</p> <p>Info will follow for those involved.</p> <p>Parent Council Pizza Night 7pm</p> |

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| Fri 24th Jan | Scottish X-Factor 1.30pm Burns Event |
| Wed 5th Feb | P7 Residential meeting @ 6.30pm |
| Fri 7th Feb | School closes 3.00pm |
| Mon 17th Feb | In-service Day |
| Tues 18th Feb | School opens 9.00am |
| Wed 5th Mar | P5/4 Assembly 2:15pm |
| Thurs 6th Mar | World Book Day - dress up! |
| Friday 21st March | Comic Relief Red Nose Day / World Water Day Fun Day with parents |
| Monday 17th March | Beginning of Developing young Workforce Week |
| Mon 24th Mar | Parents Evening Appointments available |
| Tue 1st April | Non Uniform day to celebrate end of Ramadan |
| Wed 2nd Apr | Easter Service - 1:30pm |
| Thu 3rd April | Parents Evening |



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| Fri 4th April | School Closes 2:30pm |
| Tue 22nd April | School opens 9:00 am |
| Wed 30th Apr - Fri 2nd May | P7 Residential Experience |
| Thu 15th May | Sports Day |
| Thu 22nd May | School Closes 3:00pm |
| Fri 23rd May | In-service Day |

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| Tues 27th May | School opens @ 9.00am |
| Fri 23th June | School Reports issued |
| Date TBC | P7 Leavers' Dance |
| Wed 25th June | JLB Awards Ceremony - afternoon |
| Tue 1st July | School closes @ 1.00pm |

***Best wishes,
JLB Staff Team***

Our vision: Nurturing and inspiring everyone to reach their full potential

Our Values: Healthy Relationships, Equity, Ambition, Respect & Responsibility

