



Priorsford Newsletter

September 2024

'Supporting each other to grow and learn together'



Priorsford Primary School, Marmion Road, Peebles, EH45 9BE, 01721 721236

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the first full month of school we have been electing our pupils into their leadership roles. Please see information about our Pupil Council and Reading Ambassador roles in this newsletter.

Throughout this session our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will be monitoring the attendance and late-comings of every child in our school. Every month we will be checking which pupils have dropped below 90% as per Scottish Borders Attendance policy. We will investigate the absences and if attendance continues to decrease we will make contact with parents to discuss how we can work together to support their child to be at school.

Our PTA have been in full-swing with organising various fundraising events. If you would like to get involved in the organising of any fundraising event please get in touch with our PTA members or I can point you in the right direction. Please get in touch with us if your work place does 'Match-Funding'. This is a scheme where companies match the funds raised at event you have volunteered to help in your local community. This is a great way to boost our fundraising efforts.

We now have a special space in our school where you can collect pre-loved uniform in school. Please contact the school office if you need to replenish any items of school uniform. We are submitting an application to the Peebles District Round Table for a grant to purchase a 'Sharing Shed'. Meanwhile, I would like to re-iterate the importance of naming all clothing. We continue to have a large number of lost clothing and it is taking time to reunite owners with their belongings. We are also trying to encourage all the children to be responsible for their own items they bring to school and for them to create a personal checklist of what they need to remember. You may wish to speak to your child about what they need to remember to bring to and from school including lunches, water bottles and iPads.

Please remember any member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) can be contacted if you need to discuss matters, have any queries or questions. Please contact me directly either via email (contact details below) or via the school office. You can also contact Mr Russell, Depute Head Teacher via email KRussell@scotborders.gov.uk or contact Ms McDonald, Depute Head Teacher via email CMcdonald@scotborders.gov.uk. We are always more than happy to speak to you 'in-the-moment' or we will arrange a meeting at a time that suits you best. Our doors are always open!

Susan Woodyer

Headteacher

JRSO and Park Smart

Our newly appointed Junior Road Safety Officers have been elected and enjoyed an online conference introducing them to their new role.

Our P6 officers are: Emily Crittenden, Elspeth Traynor, Maggie Connick, Orla Duncan, Emma Murray & Bonnie Harvey.



They are all very keen and motivated to promote road safety, identify safe routes to school and monitor the parking around our school. They have been out and about already, with Mr Russell, looking at the parking situation. The Community Police Officer - PC Vivienne Carsley has been monitoring this too after a recent complaint about speeding around our school. She will support the JRSOs with campaigns as well as the JRSOs delivering important road safety messages during assemblies. Their next campaign will 'Be Bright, Be Seen' as the nights/mornings get darker. Look out for their work throughout the year.

Rotary Youth Competitions

There are 5 Rotary Club competitions on offer to all our pupils so they can showcase their talents.

There is a Young Photographer, Young Writer, Young Artist and Young Filmmaker competitions with the theme 'Wonderful Water'. In each competition there are 3 age groups and our pupils could compete in the following 2 categories:

Junior - up to and including 10 yrs

Intermediate - 11-13 yrs

There is also a Young Musician competition being organised through Nomad Beat and the closing date for this is 25th October.

All of the competitions are judged by our local Peebles Rotary Club to go forward to the District and National awards. Only the Young Filmmaker will be judged locally.

Please see the following link for more information.

[Youth Competitions – Our Projects – Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland \(rotarygbi.org\)](https://rotarygbi.org)

Entry forms and information packs are also available electronically/paper form from me or the school office. The closing date for entries is Saturday 30th November.



The Rotary Club of Peebles

www.peeblesrotary.uk

info@peeblesrotary.uk



Amazing Effort!!

Well done to Paul Aylmer who ran the Glencoe Marathon on Sunday 15th September! He ran a PB but he has vowed never to do it again!



His amazing efforts have raised a whopping £2500 for our school. Paul had attended our Volunteers tea-party in June and he noticed the technical issues we have when sharing information. Paul has raised money for the school to purchase some audio visual resources and a sound system for our assembly hall.

The money raised will allow us to purchase new display and presentation equipment to project presentations to our children during assemblies. The money will also fund a new sound system for our hall which will enhance

Paul has shared his fundraising with Barnardo's, a great charity helping children. He ran with other parents from Priorsford - well done to them all!

Once we have the equipment installed we will invite Paul into school, to celebrate his achievement and thank him for all his support.

PE Kits

We are seeing a significant number of children without PE kits and a change of indoor shoes. As we approach the winter months please can we kindly ask that PE kits are sent to school for their weekly PE lessons.

PE kit should include shorts and a T-shirt. Ideally this should be a different T-shirt from their school uniform as they will be very active during PE lessons.

Indoor shoes help to keep our school carpets, the halls and corridors clean. Please provide a pair of indoor shoes/trainers that your child can wear in class and during PE.

If anyone requires support to provide these items please get in touch with myself, Mr Russell or Ms McDonald.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons for Mrs Pickburn's class and the Primary 6 pupils from Mrs Clark's class will begin the first Friday after the October break. Letters asking for volunteers to accompany the classes went out last week. Staff will be in touch to confirm the dates you are required to help.

Asda Cashpot for Schools

Parentkind - the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative - all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024.

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there - Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started. Our school would love it if families and friends who shop here would select 'Priorsford Primary School' as the receiving school.



Pupil Council

Each class has voted for their Pupil Council representatives for this session.

The elected members are:

P2/3H- Owen Kirkness & Penny Scougal

P3S- Phoebe Rennie & Max McKelvie

P3/4D- Megan McDonald & Cally Ferguson

P4C- Sadie Clark & James Stewart

P5P- Rowan McKelvie & Orla Cox

P5/6SL- Billy Wellard & Annamarie Perry

P6W- Brock Ferguson & Emmie Abraham

P6/7C- Jessica Lawrie & Reuben Veitch

P7E- Calvin Johnstone & Lucy Curl

P7M- Finlay Oliver & Cecie Corbishley

Well done to all the members.

I am looking forward to working with them to ensure they represent the voice of the pupils in their class. of our pupils. We have held 2 meetings already and we discussed what our Pupil Council have the potential to change. Our Pupil Council reps will be focussing on elements of our school improvement plan starting this term with Writing.



Reading Ambassadors

Our Reading Ambassadors have also been elected.

They are:

P1/2C- Monty & Amelia (P1G Reading Ambassadors will join after Christmas)

P2K- Hazel & Ollie

P2/3H- Aarav & Willow

P3S- Ada & Lucy

P3/4D- Georgie & Ben

P4C- Lucy & Leo

P5P- Naomi & Gregor

P5/6SL- Peggy & Ivy

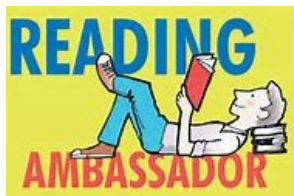
P6W- Ellie, Marta & Lily

P6/7C- Julia & Tom

P7E- Khloe & Ethan

P7M- Diana & Anna F

Mrs Palmer will be working with them on a termly basis keeping our wonderful and well-used library organised and tidy so that everyone can find suitable books to read.



Dates For Your Diary

Wed 2nd Oct	P7 Scottish Schools Athletics Road Race at Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline
Fri 4th Oct	Mrs Crombie at Play Pedagogy Course -Mrs Murphy in P1/2C
Mon 7th Oct	Rosie Dawson begins in the school office Christmas Card Design Instructions issued to parents/carers
Wed 9th Oct	2.30pm - P1/2C Meeting for Parents/carers only re: Showbie
Fri 11th Oct	P4C & P5/6SL last swimming lessons at Peebles pool Harvest Assembly - Donations for Peeblesshire Foodbank are welcome Tea towel orders (P1 & P7 only) to be returned 12.50pm - End of Term - HOLIDAY until 22nd Oct
Mon 14th Oct - Wed 16th Oct (during the October holiday at Priorsford)	Mr Edge's Athletics Club 9am-10am - P2 & P3 10am-11am - P4 & P5 11am-12pm - P6 & P7 To book email gw09edgerichard@glow.sch.uk
Mon 21st Oct	INSERVICE DAY - School closed to pupils
Wed 23rd Oct	Christmas Card designs to be returned to class teachers
Thurs 24th Oct	PTA Autumn Discos - £2.50 on ParentPay 6pm-7pm—P1- P4 7.15pm—8.15pm P5-7
Fri 25th Oct	P5P & the P6s from P6/7C Swimming lesson begin at Peebles Swimming Pool
Mon 28th Oct	Yoga Club begins for P1-3 pupils - sign up with Karen Kirkness
Thurs 31st Oct	Flu nasal spray vaccinations given in school

Parent Council AGM

Our AGM was held on 19th September where we re-elected Office Bearers. Stephen Crombie and Nicola McLellan continue as joint Chairs. Communications Officer is Kate Gibson. The Secretary position is currently vacant and this will be fulfilled by Office Bearers in the meantime.



There are Year Group reps who disseminate items of importance to the members of Year Group 'What's App' groups. These groups are not managed or monitored by the school, however if there are matters that need to be raised then I would encourage anyone to contact me in the first instance. If you want to be added to the 'What's App' group of your child's stage then please make contact with the joint Chairs or each Year Group rep as listed below.

Our current Parent Council reps are:

Nursery: Vacancy

P1: Sarah Howie

P2: Lucy Benjamin

P3: Laura Alymer

P4: Caroline Skea

P5: Kate Gibson

P6: Nicola McLellan

P7: Gillian Foley

Our next Parent Council meeting is on Wednesday 20th November at 6.30pm in the staffroom. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Showbie

We have just issued a communication about our vision for the use of Showbie and explained the reasoning behind a pilot class. I trust that many parents/carers will be eager to share in their child's learning. However, as outlined in my letter it is really important for us to have ironed out the teething problems before we create a roll-out programme for the ELC and school.

I will keep parents/carers informed of the progress with P1/2C. We hope that by January our staff will have the necessary skills and confidence to be able to use Showbie tool for sharing your child's learning. Please bear with us as we embark on this journey together.

PTA AGM

Our PTA AGM was held on Thursday 25th September. We were unable to elect a Chairperson however, Lynsey, Sam and Lucy (our previous joint Chairs) hope they can continue to support and advise members of the PTA who are able to commit to helping one fundraising event. They have organised short-term event 'What's App' groups to encourage those who are interested in organising a specific event to get involved.

Each event group are looking for volunteers to work together to co-ordinate the event, in particular our Christmas Fair and our Summer Fair which are our most profitable fundraising events.

There are other events throughout the year that would benefit from more support. If we do not have enough volunteers then some of our regular annual fundraising events may not happen. We can only provide these events with a great time of organisers!

During the AGM we re-elected Kate Gibson as Treasurer and Molly Davies was elected as Secretary. Currently, our PTA does not meet the requirements of the Constitution of a PTA fundraising group as we do not have a Chair of our PTA. The Constitution sets out the fundamental rules and procedures for the committee so without this it means we do not have the sufficient Office Bearers to allow decisions to be made regarding any further requests to spending made by the school.

If you know of anyone or if you would be willing to be the Chair or the joint Chair with others, then please contact me directly.

We are holding our next meeting on Thursday 6th November at 6pm to finalise the Christmas Fair being held on Thursday 28th November 6pm-8pm.

If you are able to volunteer to help at this event please look out for the sign up link coming soon.

Meanwhile, Christmas Tea Towels (for P1 & P7 only) order forms have been issued today and should be returned by Friday 11th October.

Christmas Card designs are coming soon for children to design at home. Please return your child's design by Wednesday 23rd October so you can order cards in time for Christmas. If you don't send Christmas cards anymore then you can order mugs, coasters and canvas bags with your child's design. More information will be issued next week.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the PTA events. We hope this academic session continues to raise much-needed funds.

Star Pupils



Pupil Achievements

Rugby



Martial Arts



Brownies



Running



Fundraising



Cycling



Peebles Show



Pupil Achievements

Dance



Equestrian



Football



Judo



Swimming



Sailing



Cake Making

