



Torphichen Primary & ELC



2021/22 Term 3 Newsletter

Dear parent / carer,

Happy New Year from all the team here at Torphichen ELC and Primary School. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New year and that your celebrations were not impacted too significantly due to Covid this year.

Prior to the Christmas break, we did have some staff absences, as did every walk of life, but we are pleased to report that, due to our staffing structure, we were able to ensure the learning experiences of each child continued to be rich, relevant and nurturing and continuous, with the staff members being able to support and plan the learning from home.

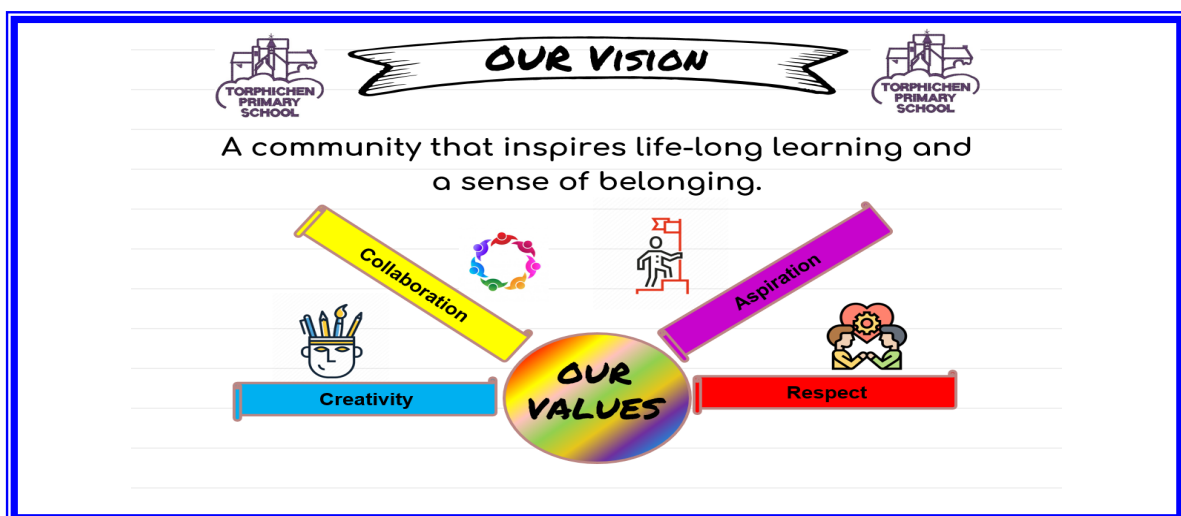
We have returned to new guidance, which you will have received a copy of through Groupcall. The change in guidance that relates to isolation should be a positive change, especially from a staffing perspective.

Term 3 brings lots of new and exciting projects in school. Our first In-set on January 5th involved further training in the Agile approach, which was led by John Miller, CEO of Agile Classrooms in the United States. This exciting new partnership ensures our practice will continue to grow and strengthen (see section on Agile below). We look forward to sharing this learning with you this term.

Regards

Marnie Ferguson

Our new Vision and Values



“New year is the glittering light to brighten the dream-lined pathway of future. – Munia Khan



“Packaged inside of every mistake there lays a great lesson.” – Craig Lousborough



“In order to be successful in the new year, stay focused, develop a positive attitude and be passionate with your dreams.” —*Bamigboye Olurotimi*

Our vision and values

You will see on our front page that we have a new visual for our Vision and Values. Congratulations to Libby in P4, whose design was chosen to be used to share our values with the community. You will all now have received a magnet with Libby's design on it, which will help us embed this vision and values as we continue our journey in 2022. The nursery have also reviews their vision, values and aims and have shared this with the ELC community. These visions and values will be at the heart of the decisions we make together going forward. Thank you to all who shared their thoughts and gave us feedback, allowing us to create a vision that was agreed upon by our community.



School Improvement Plan

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) will continue to drive forward our professional learning and actions this term. We have simplified the plan and have it displayed in school and on the school fence in Sketchnote format so that it is transparent for all to see. It is also on the Website. This term will see us finishing the first set of sprints (assessment and moderation approaches, profiling and offerings) and new sprints beginning. The sprint teams will share the journeys and decisions on the digital SIP and will contact parents where appropriate to have them join the sprint journeys.

21st Century Education

Unfortunately, our January plans for agile learning environments where class spaces could be used by pupils from across P3-7 had to be put on hold due continuing and changing Covid restrictions. However, this has only delayed our plans to implement what we have been exploring, which is a way to offer learning environments which have specific purposes, which offer wider and richer opportunities to develop pupils interests and which bring in the expertise of our wider community. In the meantime, we are thrilled to have Agile Classrooms working with us (Visit: <https://agileclassrooms.com/>). All staff took part in a 2-hour workshop with John Miller from Agile Classrooms on 5th January and will be trialling their approach to using sprint formats in the classroom to scaffold pupil learning. This approach compliments what we have been doing in school and enhances the ability of pupils to reflect on the journey of leaning they are undertaking and be able to identify their strengths and areas for development. We are looking forward to working alongside John whilst continuing to work with West Lothian's Creative Director, Stuart McIntyre—knowing that they will both ensure our practice is the best it can be for our learners.



AGILE CLASSROOMS



Pupil Leadership Team Updates

Head Pupils and House Captains: This term, our Head Pupils and House Captains will be looking at the Education Scotland document How Good is Our School (<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/self-evaluation/frwk20-how-good-is-our-school/>) and planning ways to ensure Learner Participation is as strong as it can be in Torphichen. They will begin by creating surveys that give them a benchmark to see what we are doing well and what we need to improve upon. They will then take the results of the survey to create a plan of action, which they will then lead, with support from Stuart McIntyre (West Lothian Education) and Ms Ferguson.

Eco Committee: Each class now have their own Eco Action Plan to focus on and lead throughout the year as part of their Community Learning: P1/2 Litter, P3/4 Water, P5/6 Waste Minimisation and P7 Sustainability. Thank you to those who collected Morrisons Grow Vouchers for us. We collected an amazing 2,286 and we await our resources from Morrisons this term.

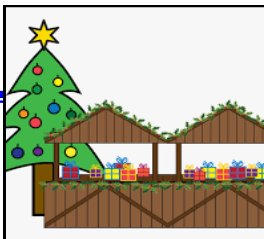
Pupil Council: Pupil Council: We are continuing to focus on the UNCRC through the Rights Respecting Schools Award. We were awarded the Bronze level in November and are now working towards Silver. P3/4 continue to be a part of our Steering Group and are looking for ways to make the UNCRC Articles alive in our school.

JRSO: This term the JRSO will be working on completing their road safety power point and quiz, which they are hoping to present as an offering to the school. We will then look at road safety in the Springtime.



Christmas Enterprise

Despite not being able to hold an actual Christmas Fayre again last term, the nursery and all school pupils were very much involved in the relevant learning experience of deciding what they could make to raise money for schools funds, making the items, deciding on how to advertise and sell, the costs involved and so on. As a results, a very impressive £525.60 was raised! Many thanks to all who supported this event and helped our pupils raise such a super amount.



"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day. — Edith Lovejoy Pierce



School Show

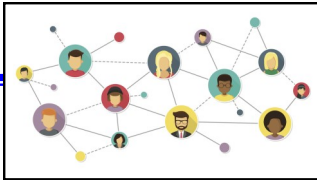


This term, pupils from P3-7 will be involved in planning and performing a show to share with our school community and parents/carers. As current restrictions means the classes cannot mix indoors, their first challenge is to come up with an effective way to involve pupils from all three classes in one show! Problem solving and creative thinking skills being applied and developed by staff and pupils alike. The ideas so far have sounded exciting. To add to the depth of learning for pupils during this project, they will be supported by performing arts students from New College Lanarkshire. We look forward to sharing the resulting show with you, virtually, in March.

Offerings

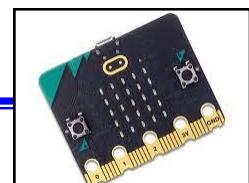
Offerings have been taking place during the first two terms of this session, on a Thursday afternoon. These have been led by staff, partners and pupils. In order to strengthen the impact of the offerings, we will be extending these this term, with offerings taking place two afternoons a week. If you are one of our Experts on the Network, please get in touch to see if you can do a one-off 30-min workshop (offering) or a short series of workshops on your area of expertise. If you have not yet signed up to be in our Expert Network but would be able to do an offering relating to either your profession or your hobbies/interest, please let us know. These offerings will all be done virtually until guidance allows us to have people back in to school.

Thank you!



Coding and Microbits

Mr Turnbull, our Technology leader, is supporting staff and pupils by creating a coding progression from early to third level, which will ensure the teaching of relevant coding skills is embedded in the learning experience for pupils at Torphichen. As part of the Enterprise project, he introduced learners from P3-P7 to the use of Tinkercad through a Christmas Decoration design. This term, P5-7 pupils have coding sessions using Microbits to look forward to, supported by computing students from Edinburgh University. Another example of a new partnership that will have a positive impact on learning at TPS!



"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step. " – Martin Luther King



"It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves. ." – William Shakespeare

Diary Dates

January 2022

Wed 19th- Journey of Learning 3.45-4.15pm and 4.30-5.00pm

Thurs 20th- ELC Stay and Play 9.30-10.00am

February 2022

Tues 8th– Parent Council meeting 6.30pm

Mon 14th/Tues 15th– Holiday

Tues 22nd– P3/4 show 2.00-3.00pm

March 2022

Thurs 3rd– P5-7 show 2.00-3.00pm

Mon 7th– ELC Stay and Play 2.30-3.00pm

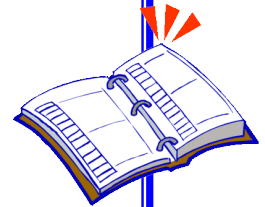
Mon 14th-Fri 18th– P6 and P7 Lendrick Muir Residential

Thurs 24th– P7 Information Evening, Linlithgow Academy

Wed 30th– Parents Consultations 3.30-8.00pm

Thurs 31st– Easter Service 9.30am

Friday 1st April– Last day of term– Dress down (all resume Tuesday 19th April)



If you have any comments or suggestions to make about anything you have read in this newsletter or about Torphichen Primary School in general, we are always keen to hear them. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Communication

GOT A QUESTION, CONCERN OR FEEDBACK?

If you have any concerns about your child and school we would encourage you to contact your child's class teacher by letter, telephone or school email in the first instance to discuss and work together to resolve any issues.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome please arrange to speak with Ms Ferguson or Mrs Johnston.

There are several ways to get in touch with us:

Telephone: 01506 284750 (nursery 284751)

**(PLEASE NOTE THE NEW NUMBER FOR SCHOOL MUST BE USED.
THE OLD NUMBER IS NO LONGER IN USE)**

Email: wltorphichen-ps@westlothian.org.uk

Looking for Information:

Visit the School Website: <http://www.torphichenprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>

Complaints

Should you want to make a complaint to Customer Care in West Lothian in writing, it should be addressed to:

Customer Care
Education Services
West Lothian Council
Civic Centre
Howden Road South
Livingston
EH52 6FF

