



Website: roslin.mgfl.net

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Nurture, Play, Respect



COUNCIL LEADER VISIT

Dr. Grace Vickers, the Chief Executive of Midlothian Council, visited Roslin this month. This was her feedback:

Last week I had the pleasure of visiting Roslin Primary School. It is always great to be able to fit in visits to a range of services areas. My visit commenced with a tour of the school and my thanks to the wonderful P7 pupils who led the tour. It was great to hear about the excellent learning taking place and the work the school is doing in relation to learning through play, data science and the wider leadership roles the pupils have as tour guides at Rosslyn Chapel. I also had the pleasure of meeting staff and my thanks to both the Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher who updated me on the wonderful progress the school has been making since its very positive inspection. The inspection took place in 2017 when the school was evaluated as very good for learning, teaching and assessment. It was wonderful to hear how ambitious the school is for learners and the impressive staff commitment to the school. I left feeling inspired and extremely impressed. My thanks to pupils and staff for such a wonderful morning.

VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

Last year we looked at the school values and Nurture, Respect and Play were chosen. The next step is to gather views to create a Vision (the direction the school should take) and aims (how we are going to get there). We asked the questions below at the Parent Council initially to gather some themes, their responses are included on the form. We would now like input from everyone involved with the school. A form has been created for this.

<https://forms.gle/BpmJTeEeXXmZaVy97>

ROSSLYN CHAPEL

The partnership with Rosslyn Chapel is one of the things we think makes the school special and this month is a feature in the Photo Gallery. As the P7s finish being Junior Tour Guides our P4s are busy rehearsing for their 'William the Cat' performance. This has been written for the group with a song composed by Mrs Stentiford. Our P5s also attended a writing workshop this month.

The Chapel recently, and very generously, gifted us £800 to spend on musical instruments and we are using this to increase the number of keyboards, with headphones so there will be one between two for music lessons. We will organise an official thank you when these are delivered.

ECO NEWS

Congratulations to the ECO Team who have led the school to the award of our 4th Green Flag. We look forward to you continuing to promote sustainability.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 7th February - 2.30pm P4 performance of 'William the Cat' (2.15pm view classwork in dining hall)
- 8th February - Parenting Course with the Educational Psychologist, 9am
- 8th February - Curricular Event, 2.30pm-3.15pm
- 10th February - Neurodiversity Assembly
- 10th February - Break for holiday
- 20th February - All return
- 22nd February - Thinking Day
- 7th March - P1, P4 and P7 Class Photos
- 14th & 16th March - Parent Consultations (same appointment times as Oct). Reminder will follow.

COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY

We would like to continue to remind families that cost should never be a barrier to being part of all we do in school. On each of the forms that comes home asking for payment, there will be a box to mark if you would like the school to pay. We will be happy to do this as we are aware of the pressure on families currently. There will be no questions, please just select that option.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING (SIP)

Play continues to be a focus of our development. Play is one of the United Nations Rights of a Child, which are now part of Scottish Law. We believe that play should be open-ended so children can explore and experiment, taking risks and challenging themselves at the limits of their capabilities, without fear of failure. In January we had a visit from Education Scotland and South East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC). It was a pleasure to show them around the school and to discuss our progress embedding play. Play is supported and promoted by Education Scotland. Roslin is excited to have been chosen as a teaching school for SEIC and will host sessions learning about play for other schools. We have also organised a session linking play to children's emotional development with Play Base for staff (on the INSET day in May) and for parents (one evening, date to be arranged).

Digital Safety Webinars Still a couple of these you can attend

These webinars will be held 7-8pm on the following dates:

Tuesday 7 February- Supporting Your Child With Their Device (Primary) [Click here to register](#)

Wednesday 8 February- Supporting Your Child With Their Device (Secondary) [Click here to register](#)



WORLD THINKING DAY

February 22nd is World Thinking Day and we invite any of the children who are part of the Guiding or Scouting movement to wear their uniforms to school that day if they wish.

OUTDOOR CLOTHING

At times the children get muddy playing outside. If your child is coming home muddy often can we suggest they wear waterproof trousers. If affording these is an issue please just ask and we can purchase some for you. As a reminder we have a selection of coats and fleeces that were kindly donated, please just ask at reception.

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

Congratulations to our P6/7 athletics team who came second in Midlothian and will go on to represent the area, with Mauricewood, in the East Regional Athletics Finals in May. We were especially proud of the sportsmanship they showed.



FEEDBACK LINK

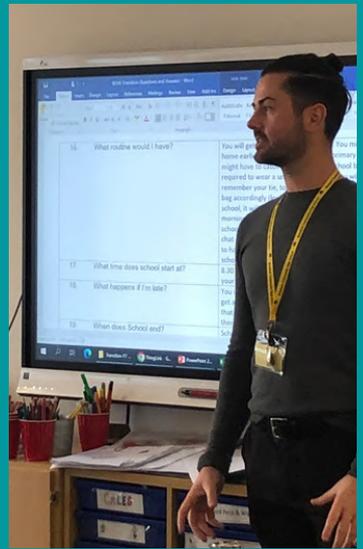
We welcome any feedback on any of the content in the newsletter, the link will be open after each edition. <https://forms.gle/msCmBAS3PEBFPv919>.

TRANSITION

We were pleased to welcome the new Beeslack Headteacher, Lisa Glade to Roslin. Along with Mauricewood and Bilston Primaries we have been looking at developing the transition program. Going forward this will begin in P5 and, we hope, become seamless. Last week we were pleased to welcome Mr. Lee, who will become a regular visitor to P7. He will visit along with other subject teachers to get to know the children and for them to develop familiarity. He is also hoping to visit the school camp in May.

As part of this change we have booked the next school camp for September 2023 (for the current P6s). This will allow them to meet their equivalents from Mauricewood and Bilston early in P7 and develop friendships that we hope will develop with events over the rest of their final year.

If you are a P6 parent, the letter about camp will be coming home this month.



LEARNING AND TEACHING - Differentiation

One of the subjects we get asked most questions about by parents/carers is differentiation, how we ensure that learning is at the right level for each child. Every child in Scotland has the right to be given learning opportunities that stretch them but are not too challenging. In school, pupils often refer to this as being in the 'stretch zone'. As there is always a wide range of knowledge and skill levels across a class, which change depending on subject area too, teachers work in a sophisticated manner to continually provide different learning paths for pupils. Education Scotland describes differentiation in the following way;

Differentiated learning is not a single approach, but includes a number of elements. Broadly speaking, differentiated learning involves adapting learning, teaching and assessment to meet individual children's needs. By differentiating learning, teachers develop multiple starting points and pathways which are tailored to children's individual learning needs. This can be achieved through modifying the following aspects of learning:

- *Content e.g. use of learning materials at different levels.*
- *Process e.g. varying the length of time children have to complete a task.*
- *Product e.g. giving children choice in how to express ideas or required learning.*
- *Learning environment e.g. having areas in the classroom for some children to work quietly without distraction.*

'Differentiated learning in numeracy and mathematics' (2015): Briefing 1

Unlike in the past, where teachers might have had set work for a year group e.g., Primary 2 work, teachers support pupils to move through the curriculum levels (Early, First and Second), at their own pace, considering their individual next steps in different subject areas. The same process applies to pupils in 'straight' and 'composite' classes.

OUTSTANDING LEARNER AWARD

We have an unused trophy in school and are going to repurpose this as an 'Outstanding Learner Award'. This will be presented once a term to a learner who is showing great progress by engaging and participating fully in the teaching. We will ask the staff for nominations and then make a decision. It will not be limited but could be anyone across the school. The award will be announced in an assembly and winners photographed with the trophy and names added to our 'Outstanding Learner' display. They will receive a medal or small trophy (to be decided by the Learning Council) to keep.

LOST PROPERTY

We have lots of lost property in school, all of which will be left outside the P7 and P6 atrium from 8.45am to 3.15pm Monday to Thursday next week (6th to 9th Feb), for parents to look through and take home.

ROSSLYN CHAPEL - A SNAPSHOT OF OUR PARTNERSHIP

