



Class Newsletter



Primary 1

Welcome

Welcome to Primary 1 with Mrs Dickson. I am delighted to be teaching your children this year and I'm also very pleased to say everyone has settled in well.

Over the past few weeks children have been getting to know one another and myself, as well as familiarising themselves with school routines. The children have enjoyed participating in their chosen topic, Dinosaurs; which I felt was an excellent choice! 😊



What have Primary 1 been up to?

Since returning to school, we have been up to many things in the classroom. Photos are a quick and easy way to share what the class have been up to. We can't wait to share what we have been up to once SEESAW and Microsoft Teams are fully setup!

We have been exploring various resources within our classroom and out in the playground to familiarise ourselves with our new school surroundings. We particularly enjoy outdoor P.E. lessons and using resources to have fun with, such as making obstacle courses with tyres!



Primary 1 Class Charter

Every year, all the pupils across the school in every classroom create a Class Charter. These are created to help children understand that they have rights, the importance of rights and to develop their own sense of responsibility. Primary 1 and I have co-constructed some rules we have promised to keep in school. We have displayed our Class Charter in the school corridor with our promises so we can remind ourselves of these if needed. Together we chose:

1. "We will be sensible when playing inside and outside to keep ourselves and each other safe."
2. "We will listen to our teacher and be respectful by putting our hand up if we want to speak [during whole class lessons]."
3. "We will be kind to each other and look out for our friends in class and out in the playground."

We all drew our own mini dinosaur as our 'signatures' (including me!) to mark that we have *signed* our charter and will keep our promises.



Social Studies Topic

Primary 1 made some suggestions for potential topics we could look at this term. After many great ideas including space, safari animals, water animals and many others, the class decided on dinosaurs!

We collated some questions that we had and have started our enquiry-based learning. For more information on how we approach enquiry and play-based learning at WCPS, [please see the link here](#).

Maths

This term Primary 1 will be building on their mathematical knowledge from nursery. We will be focussing on consolidating the children's knowledge of the numbers from 0-10 (and beyond, where appropriate) with the help of rhymes and stories. For information on how you can support your child with Maths at home, [please see this link on our WCPS YouTube channel](#).

The correct formation of numbers is also a key focus for the beginning of term with maths lessons being as active as possible. Concrete materials will be used to support your child when exploring and investigating number. We have also started using Sumdog in class to develop our ICT skills as well as our maths agility.

Other mathematical skills are being explored through free-play opportunities, such as using scales to weigh and compare different objects. The boys and girls will also have the opportunity to explore directions, including the language around this, using BeeBots and other games within school, which will also develop their coding skills.

Literacy

At WCPS we use a mixed approach to teach phonics using **North Lanarkshire Active Literacy**, **Jolly Phonics** and **Read, Write, Inc.** programmes to help your child to start building words as early as possible. [Please see our WCPS YouTube channel for Phonics and Spelling information here](#). Pupils will complete a mixture of active and written literacy work in class. For example, children will practise spelling their common words using magnetic letters during active literacy sessions. Pupils will also 'have a go' at writing these words (where possible) in their weekly News Writing. Rhymes and songs will be used to explore literacy where possible. The children will also work on their talking and listening skills during various lessons throughout the week.

This term, Primary 1 have started to develop their writing skills during 'News' (Recount) Writing. We are learning to include detail in our drawings to help us explain what we did at the weekend. Where possible, children are being encouraged to 'have a go' at writing by including sounds and words they have learnt. The boys and girls are also encouraged to mark-make, draw and write independently using a range of writing instruments throughout the school day. Please see here for information to support [Reading](#) and [Writing](#) at home.



Health and Wellbeing

The children of Primary 1 will have Health and Wellbeing lessons from both Mrs Dickson and Miss Clancy which includes Physical Education (P.E). Miss Clancy will teach P1 on a Wednesday morning and Mrs Dickson will teach this area on a Friday morning after play-time.

Weekly P.E. lessons will support the children to develop a wide range of skills including coordination, turn-taking and listening. The children are also enjoying opportunities to play games outdoors which are familiar to them from nursery as warm up activities, such as 'Duck Duck Goose' and 'What's the Time, Mr. Wolf?'. This term, we will also be focusing on teams-based activities and ball skills to develop co-ordination and spatial awareness.

Health and Wellbeing PATHS lessons will support the boys and girls to learn how to develop positive friendships and will enable children to build resilience. Your child may come home this term with a sheet of 'compliments' from myself, their peers and a personal compliment. I would appreciate if you could also write your child a compliment, and return this list to school, as this will be displayed and discussed in class during 'PATHS Pupil of the Week' sessions.

At WCPS, we also celebrate outside achievements and birthdays at our weekly assemblies, which are being held in class using Microsoft Teams. If your child achieves something they are proud of, inside or outside school, we would love for you to let us know and we can celebrate these! This might be tying a tie or shoelaces, getting ready on your own or even achievements from clubs.



Play to Learn

Through play, children will develop social and cognitive skills, while gaining self-confidence required to engage in new experiences. A number of child-led topics will be delivered, our first being Dinosaurs, and supported through play opportunities inside and outside the classroom. Contexts for learning will be chosen by the children and tailored to ensure the development of Early Level skills as part of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence. As posted above, [please see this link for information about play and enquiry-based learning in Primary 1 at WCPS](#).



Useful Links

We would really appreciate if you follow our social media channels as we often share insights to what the children get up to in school via these methods.

[@Wester Cleddens Twitter page](#) – this is private, and you must request to follow us. You can select to receive notifications when we post a new tweet, by selecting the bell icon highlighted here. →



[Wester Cleddens YouTube channel](#) – on our school YouTube channel there are helpful playlists which your child might enjoy watching. Again, if you would like a notification when we add a new video, please select the bell option to opt in for this. →



[Wester Cleddens School Website](#) – there are lots of helpful links, resources and websites to support Home Learning on the [Wester Cleddens Primary School website](#).



Happy Together, Learning Together, Achieving Together