



Fox Covert PS Newsletter – September 2023



Goals **R**esilience **O**utstanding **W**onder **T**eamwork **H**onesty

September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our (slightly delayed) September newsletter. I hope you and your families are well and that you have managed to enjoy some of the late summer sunshine we have been experiencing in recent weeks. We have had a fantastic run of good weather lately which has allowed almost all our classes to take advantage of learning outdoors, and to use both our playground environment and our local area.

Teachers and school staff have been busy establishing new school routines with classes and our pupil leadership groups have begun their important work on developing our school improvement priorities.

We are continuing to adapt to school life whilst building work progresses in our gym hall and dining hall. I have attached a letter to this email about where we are in the building work process, and I will continue to keep you updated with information as soon as I have anything to share.

This term is a busy term with opportunities for children to share their learning with parents and carers during our *'Stay and Play'* sessions within Primary One, and with other parental opportunities due to take throughout the year, with our other classes. Parents/carer evenings are scheduled to take place in term two also. Please see the table at the end of this newsletter for more information on events throughout the academic year. Key information is also featured on our school website's homepage for a quick and easy reference guide.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us at school with any queries about the content of the newsletter, or indeed any other matter, and I look forward to welcoming you to the school over the coming weeks and months.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Bruce
Head Teacher

Bake Sale

I am delighted to announce that the Fox Covert Parent Council's most recent Bake Sale raised a fantastic **£543.33**. This money will be used to purchase much needed football strips for our school team - with the remainder of the money going towards our school funds. Thank you to everybody who supported the Bake Sale and to the Parent Council members who organised the event.



School Assemblies

Our recent school assemblies have been held in our newly converted dining spaces in our annexe building (the Den). Assemblies have been held on Thursday afternoons, and (due to space constraints) the assemblies have been divided into two groups - **P1-P4** and **P4/5-P7**. Each week, our assemblies are themed, with our most recent assemblies focussing on *new beginnings* and our *school values*. Upcoming themes over the next few weeks are *European Day of Languages*, *Black History Month & National Poetry Day* and *World Mental Health Day*

We also celebrate children who have been identified by their teachers for putting in a fantastic effort towards their learning, and children who have '*gone above and beyond!*'

We also very much value and celebrate wider achievements, with this being recognised at our weekly assemblies. Please continue to send in photos of any achievements earned outside of school, as we enjoy celebrating these successes!

Junior Road Safety Officer



Fox Covert Primary School Junior Road Safety Officers (J.R.S.Os) have been selected from our Primary Six classes and have already represented the school at an event at the City Chambers in recent weeks. Our JRSOs have presented to our school in assembly to advise of their new roles and will be working with our community *Road Safety Officers* to promote safety issues in and around our school.

House Captains

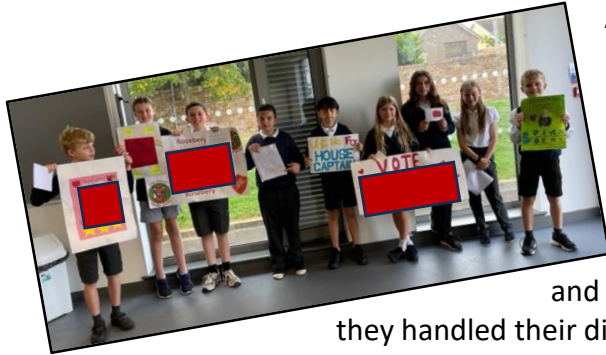


After a very hard-fought and competitive campaign and election, our school House Captains have been successfully elected to represent our houses of *Rosebery, Dalmeny, Hopetoun and Dundas*.



All candidates presented very confidently, with well-thought agendas and ideas to promote positive change for our school. All candidates were excellent and demonstrated maturity and resilience throughout the process. Children from each house voted for their House Captain through a ballot-box system and the winners were announced firstly to the Primary Sevens, and then to the whole school at assembly.





Although we had some very delighted P7s at the end of the process, we also had P7s who had bravely put themselves forward but who were disappointed with the result. I would like to acknowledge their maturity, mutual respect and team spirit in how they handled their disappointment.

Other leadership opportunities will be available throughout the year for our fantastic group of P7s.



The House Captains of Fox Covert Primary School 2023/24 are:

Dalmeny	Tim & Jessica
Hopetoun	Zander & Pippa
Dundas	Elliot & Emily
Rosebery	Savannah & Olly

The House Captains have already had their first meeting, with one of their first duties being to read out the names of our pupils whose successes we celebrate in assembly and at our *Freeze-Blast Friday* session. The House Captains have also decided upon our School Library as an area of school improvement to focus on in Term 1 and Term 2.

Raring 2 Go! Autumn Edition

The spring edition of the Raring 2 Go! magazine is now available to read online. Please see the link below to access the publication:

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/edinburgh/autumn2023/>

The magazine contains a range of fantastic Autumn themed ideas and for families and some very helpful guides on how to support your child(ren)'s learning. Please take the time to read the latest edition.

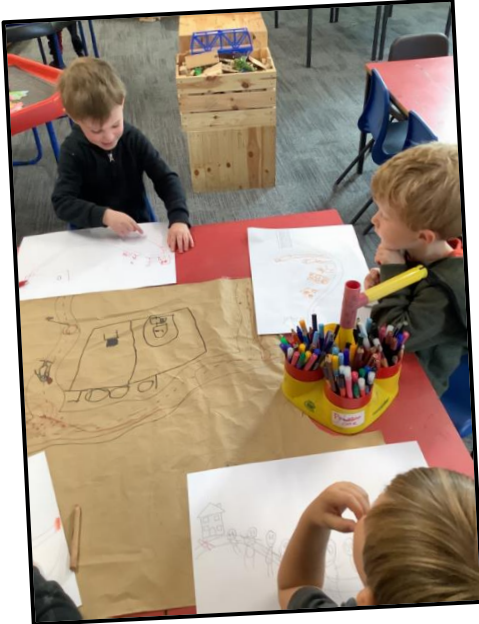


Trim Trail

Our Trim Trail has sadly reached the end of its natural life and is no longer safe to play on due to the wood splitting over time, and the structure becoming loose. We are extremely disappointed that the much-loved structure has been deemed not fit for purpose and has had to be removed. We hope in the future that we can fundraise to create a new Trim-Trail for our playground as the structure is already sorely missed.

Classroom News from our P1, P4, and P7A classes

Primary One



'Primary one have been learning about the local environment. We have looked at our community on Google Earth and created maps explaining our journey to school. The children have been really intrigued to learn about owls after reading Owl Babies by Martin Waddell. We have been building owl nests, making bird feeders and learning about the food chain.' Miss Clarke, P1 Teacher.



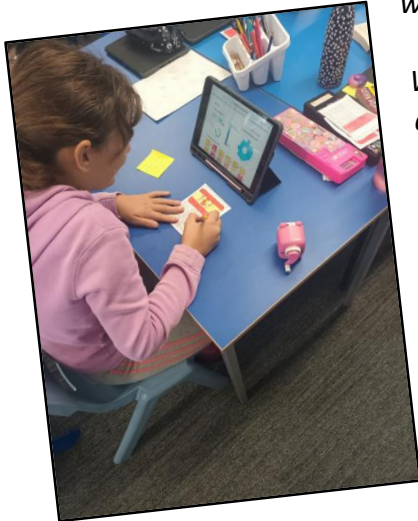
Primary Four

'Primary Four are very proud of their creative skills when designing their Christmas cards this week, but they have decided to cover them for the photo, so they are a surprise for the people receiving them!' Mrs Gallacher, P4 Teacher.

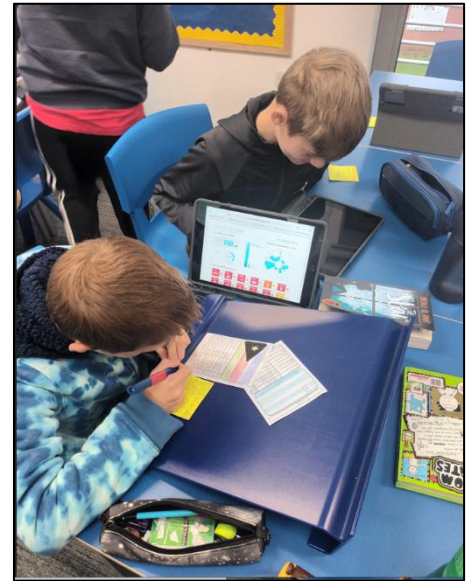


Primary Seven

'As part of our 'Sustainable World' topic, P7A have looked at how different countries around the world are working towards the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On Thursday, we looked at a published report ranking each country on how they are working to all 17 goals.



We discussed the various ways countries are addressing the SDGs, and how some countries are able to do so well. We have talked about why we think this is the case, and maybe how other countries could improve. To show our learning, we chose a handful of countries and made them in to Top Trump Cards! We will then laminate these so we can compare and compete with other countries.' Mr Moodie, P7A Class Teacher.



A few messages from our Active Schools co-ordinator, Cat McCready:



Mums and Daughters fun fitness

Fridays
230pm-330pm
Forrester High School Games Hall

Active Schools and Jump Edinburgh are holding a mums and daughters weekly session with different activities that you can do together. Fun fitness based activities for all levels - no experience or fitness level required. A chance to set aside some quality time to spend with your daughter.

These sessions are for mums and daughters aged primary 5 and older. If you are in S3 or above you can come along yourself or with a friend.

Please sign up at the link below. There is a small charge for adults (£20 for 10 weeks). Children are free. If you are receiving benefits select the free option on the sign up, otherwise select £20.

If you have any questions please email me shona.clark@ea.edin.sch.uk

SIGN UP HERE NOW








RAISING ASPIRATIONS
CREATING POSSIBILITIES
PROMOTING EQUITY
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
MOTIVATING & INSPIRING

MORE CHILDREN • MORE ACTIVE • MORE OFTEN

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Active Schools Edinburgh are calling for new volunteers to help make a difference to young people's lives through sport.

AS A VOLUNTEER COACH YOU WILL

- ✓ PROVIDE opportunities for young people to be active & have fun.
- ✓ PROMOTE the importance of health and wellbeing.
- ✓ BE a positive role model.
- ✓ BECOME an integral part of the schools' sport community.

Never coached before?

Don't worry Active Schools Edinburgh has ongoing training for all our volunteers including Coach Specific Qualifications, First-Aid, Safe-guarding children & many more!

Contact your Active Schools Co-Ordinator
Email: cat.mccready@ea.edin.sch.uk




@ActiveSchoolsED

A few messages from our Active Schools co-ordinator, Cat McCready (continued):

Dream Makers Football Days:

Xerox 'Dream Makers Team' are partnering with prestigious UK football clubs to host kids' (aged 7-12) professional coaching days with all profits going to The Prince's Trust.

Each day will include: Team Building Games & Circuits, Skills Workshops, Mini Matches & A Goody Bag to Take Home.

Why not join us down at the home of the Mighty Jam Tarts! Monday 16th October 2023, 1:30pm-3:00pm, Wheatfield Community Pitch.

All spaces are free!

Book Now - <https://bit.ly/HeartsDreamMakers>

Gregg Veitch

Community Football Officer

Heart of Midlothian plc | Tynecastle Park | Gorgie Road | Edinburgh EH11 2NL



Online Learning Journals

As part of ongoing work in previous sessions, we are hoping to improve our *Pupil Profiling* and *Target Setting*. Therefore, we are looking to trial *Online Learning Journals* instead of using *Foxy Progress Files*. You may be familiar with *Online Learning Journals* when your child was in Nursery. Primary One, Primary Two, Primary Four and Primary Seven B will trial this in the first instance, with the hope for the whole school to move towards this in term three.

Your engagement and involvement in your child's education is very important. It is proven that children achieve more when parents/carers are engaged and involved in their progress at school resulting in higher attainment as well as greater confidence and self-esteem. We are keen to hear your feedback which will allow us to evaluate the success of this trial.

Further information of the trial for Primary One, Two, Four and Seven B will be communicated to you in the coming weeks.

Staffing

There have been some changes to the staffing structure over the past few weeks. Mrs Kirsty Gardiner who currently works as our temporary Pupil Support Officer, has been successfully appointed to the role with us on a permanent basis. Mrs Nicola Gordon also joins us as our new Business Manager on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are delighted to welcome Kirsty and Nicola permanently to the team! Miss Lia Quinn, who was our probation teacher last session, will work with our Primary Two class on Thursdays and Fridays until the October holidays. Our Pupil Support Assistant Mrs Solma Rahman has commenced her maternity leave, with her baby expected in October. We wish Solma all the very best, and we look forward to welcoming Solma and her new addition to school in the near future.

Children in Need

We will be supporting Children in Need on **Friday 17th November**. Lots of activities are planned for the day including a Treasure Hunt around the playground. Children may come into school in their dress-down clothes (there is no particular theme – we just ask that no football tops or sports team related clothing is worn). A donation of £1 can be made only **if you wish to do so**. More details of the day will be emailed as a reminder shortly before the day.



Stay & Play Session P1

Our Primary One class will host opportunities for parents and carers of P1 children to join children in their learning for *Stay & Play* sessions on **Thursday the 5th of October** and **Friday the 6th of October**. Parents and carers are welcome to attend **one** of these sessions.



These sessions will be followed by a *P1 Information Evening* to be held on **Wednesday 11th October** to support P1 children with homework. Please see the table at the end of this newsletter for times of the sessions or visit our website www.foxcovertprimary.com where you will find all our dates listed on our homepage.

Fox Covert Primary School Action Plan 2023/24

Our school improvement priorities for the coming academic year of 2023/24 have been shared with our Parent Council at our recent Annual General Meeting. Our development teams led by our teachers, have already been planning how to deliver our priorities and we will update you throughout the coming year on our progress.



Fox Covert Primary School Action Plan 2023-24

- Learning & Teaching**: Developing high quality outdoor learning & teaching experiences capitalising on the local area.
- Curriculum**: Developing a curriculum rationale unique to our local context and incorporating local and national priorities.
- Learning & Teaching**: Developing our approaches to learning and teaching through play, with a focus on writing development.
- The Fox Covert Gap**: To ensure equity of provision for all children in their education experiences and wider achievements.
- Learning & Teaching**: Writing skills from P1 to P7 to progress by developing a consistent approach to writing across our school and learning community.
- Leadership for All**: Creating collaborative leadership opportunities for pupils and staff that effect positive changes to our school and community.
- Equity & Equality**: Embedding our approaches to learning for sustainability to ensure that our school is a socially-just, equitable and sustainable school community.
- Partnerships**: To strengthen our parent/carers partnerships through a variety of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities.

A message from Fox Covert Primary School Parent Council:



Our Parent Council recently held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) with all posts successfully appointed for the coming year. Please see below for our Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Chair:	Ali Connolly
Co-Chair:	Joanne Farrell
Secretary:	Alison Warnock
Treasurer:	Graham Patrick

The best way to keep in touch and find out what's going on is to register to use:

- **Classlist** (for all official Parent Council comms):
- <https://classlist.page.link/k4kQYnjznFpRWH9p8>
- and/or:
- follow the PC Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/foxcovertprimaryparentcouncil/>

You can also speak to your class rep (please see below for a list of class reps for 2023/24) about anything to do with the Parent Council (**please see below for a list of class reps for 2023/24**), come along to our Parent Council meetings, or contact us via our Facebook page or **our new email address:** foxcovertchair23@gmail.com

More Information about our Parent Council, including the presentation from our AGM can be found on our school website at:

<https://foxcovertprimary.com/parents/parent-council-2/>

Parent Class Reps:

P1	Daisy Johnstone
P2	Kirsty Cassidy
P2/3	Megan McKenzie
P3	Lisa Simpson
P4	Mhairi Kelly
P4/5	Jade Gillies/Michelle Hofmeyr
P5	Louise Duncan
P6A	Joanne Farrell
P6B	Heather MacDonald
P7A	Nicola Williamson
P7B	Mikila Bruce

A message from Fox Covert Primary School Parent Council (continued):**Halloween Disco**

The Parent Council are pleased to confirm that the Halloween Disco/Party will take place on Wednesday 25th October at the Leonardo Hotel on Clermiston Road. *Alexander the Great* will be providing the disco and entertainment! Ticket information & further details to follow, however, timings will be as below.

P1-P4 6.30pm - 7.30pm

P5-P7 7.45pm - 8.45pm

**Christmas Present Room**

A date is still to be confirmed, but the Parent Council will once again be organising the *Present Room* before Christmas where children can bring money, choose a gift and get it wrapped to give to someone for Christmas.

In order to run the *Present Room* we need donations of items to gift. We would be grateful if any gift items could be donated (eg candles, bottles, books, sweets etc). We will provide details regarding collections in due course.

School Trips

Our teachers are supporting classroom learning with school trips for this academic session. The travel element of school excursions is costly, and we would prefer to keep these costs to a minimum to ensure that we can offer more experiences out with the classroom rather than spending this on travel. Children's entitlement to free bus travel is a fantastic way for us to reduce costs and for children to access local excursions and educational experiences. If you have not already done so, we

would very much appreciate if you could access this free travel entitlement. Please see the link to apply: <https://freebus.scot/>

You can also apply for the Free Bus Travel Scheme at any City of Edinburgh Library.

Golf Tournament

Our first ever Learning Community Golf Tournament took place on Friday afternoon at Carrick Knowe Golf Course. Seven (P6 & P7) Fox Covert pupils and one pupil from Corstorphine Primary participated in the team Texas Scramble match with medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd team awarded. The rain stayed off for us and it was a great afternoon all round!

Thank you to Cat McCready (Active Schools Co-ordinator) and the parents/carers who came along to support the children. We are hoping to do more golf tournaments this year.



Reminders

All parents/carers please ensure that your child(ren) **do not bring** any of the following food items to school as they can present serious hazards to themselves and/or others:

Lollipops with stick attached

Nuts of any kind (we have a growing number of children with nut allergies and any contact can have extremely serious consequences)

Any form of Nutella products (as they contain nuts)

Please be mindful of the following if these are brought to school:

Cereal bars (as they can contain nuts – please check the nutrition information)

Small tomatoes & grapes – Recent guidance from our Early Years team has advised that small tomatoes and grapes should be cut in quarters rather than halves, as when halved they can still pose a risk. Please ensure these are cut into small pieces, as these can be serious choking hazards for children if not cut.

Please ensure that **no fizzy juice** is given for packed lunch and please have **water only in class water bottles**.

Please note that **dress-down Fridays at the end of each month have now finished** as of June 2023. Our Pupil Parliament are currently deciding on new priorities for this school session. **Please ensure all children come to school on Fridays in school uniform (unless it is their P.E. day).**

School holiday dates:

School closes	School re-opens
Friday 13 th October at 12pm/12.05pm	Tuesday 24 th October at 8.50am
Friday 22 nd December at 12pm/12.05pm	Tuesday 9 th January 2024 at 8.50am

In-Service and Mid-Term dates:

In-Service Days (children off school)	
Monday 23 rd October 2023	Monday 8 th January 2024

Dates for your diary:

 Change or new information
 Parent Helpers Required

Date	Time	Event/Item
Thursday 5 th October	2.30pm-3.10pm	Stay & Play Session P1
Friday 6 th October	8.50am-9.30am	Stay & Play Session P1
Wednesday 11 th October	5.45pm-6.15pm	P1 Information Evening (How to support with homework)
Wednesday 11 th October	6.30pm – 8pm	Parent Council Meeting – Room 7, Fox Covert Primary School
Wednesday 25 th October	P1-P4 6.30-7.30pm P5-P7 7.45pm – 8.45pm	Halloween Disco – Venue: Leonardo Hotel
Tuesday 31 st October	All day	School Photographs – individual and sibling photos – Tempest Photography (more information to follow)
Wednesday 1 st November	6pm-8pm	P7 Open Evening (Craigmount High School)
Thursday 2 nd November	AM & PM	New to P1 in 2024 Open Day
Tuesday 7 th November		Termly class newsletters out to parents/carers
Monday 13 th November to Friday 17 th November	All week	P7 Residential trip to Lagganlia
Friday 17 th November	All day	Children in Need Day – dress down day!
Monday 20 th November		Flu immunisations taking place at school (more information to follow)
Tuesday 28 th November	4pm-7pm	Parent/Carer Consultation Evening 1/2
Friday 1 st December	1pm-4pm	Parent/Carer Consultation Afternoon 2/2
Tuesday 5 th December	6.30-8pm	Parent Council Meeting (online)
Week beginning Monday 11 th December	Date & Time TBC	P1 Festive Performance (more information to follow)
Week beginning Monday 18 th December	Dates & Times TBC	Class Festive Parties (more information to follow)
Tuesday 23 rd January 2024		Termly class newsletters out to parents/carers



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Wednesday 7 th February 2024	6.30pm- 8pm	Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 23 rd April 2024	6.30pm- 8pm	Parent Council Meeting (online)
Wednesday 12 th June 2024	6.30pm- 8pm	Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 18 th -Thursday 20 th June 2024		P7 Transition Days to Craigmount High School
Thursday 20 th June 2024	6pm- 7.30pm	P7 Parent/Carer Evening Craigmount High School

Getting in touch with us:

General Parent/Carer Enquiries: please email admin@foxcovert.edin.sch.uk or call **0131 339 3749**.

To Report Children's Absence: please email admin@foxcovert.edin.sch.uk or call **0131 339 3749**. If nobody is available to take your call, please leave a message on the school answering machine.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries at all.

