



# Fox Covert PS Newsletter – August 2024



**G**oals **R**esilience **O**utstanding **W**onder **T**eamwork **H**onesty

August 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our first, introductory newsletter of the new school session. I am delighted to welcome both returning and new families to our Fox Covert Primary School community. I hope you and your families are well and that you had a restful and enjoyable summer break.

We have had a very busy start to our school term with all our classes settling very well into new routines with their new class teachers - especially our P1 children who have settled very quickly into school life, adjusting to their new school classrooms and outdoor areas, superbly.

At Fox Covert, we are very fortunate to have a dedicated team of teaching and support staff who are very committed to ensuring that our pupils achieve to their very best ability. Our team are always here to help and support in any way, so please do let us know if you have any questions or queries. Parent and carer consultations are scheduled for Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, where you will have the opportunity to meet your child(ren)'s class teacher and to discuss their progress.

Please do keep an eye out for regular updates from school through ParentPay, our school website ([www.foxcovertprimary.com](http://www.foxcovertprimary.com)), Learning Journals and monthly newsletters. Information on key dates for the school year are at the bottom of this newsletter and also on our school website's main page. We also have our Parent Council Annual General Meeting on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm to be held in the school building, please do come along to this where we will share our school improvement priorities with you.

Thank you to our returning parents for your continued support, and I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome our new Primary One families to the Fox Covert Primary School community. I hope you enjoy a long and happy association with our school, and we look forward to working in partnership with you and all our parents and carers to ensure our children are thriving and reaching their fullest potential.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Bruce  
Head Teacher



## Eco-Schools

News reached us over the summer holidays that our school has achieved their **7<sup>th</sup> Green Flag**. This is an excellent achievement and one to be proud of. Our Eco-Committee worked tirelessly throughout last year creating an action plan with a focus on the topics of climate action through our outdoor learning approaches, a focus on our school grounds and litter issues. Our Eco-committee, led by Miss Farmer, have worked with our whole school to ensure that these areas were embedded into our school life.



## Pupil Leaders

There are many opportunities for pupils to be involved in leading changes in our school. We have many groups involved in leading change such as our **House Captains, Pupil Parliament, our Foxy-Rights Rangers, Rights Respecting Group, Eco-Committee and Junior Road Safety Officers.**

We are currently in the process of recruiting and selecting our pupil school leaders and we fully encourage **all** pupils to put themselves forward at Fox Covert.

Candidates are busy preparing presentations and applications, and voting will take place for one of our groups to decide on new House Captains in the coming weeks.



## Rights Respecting Schools

We are a Gold Rights Respecting School, with this important award being given to Fox Covert Primary School in March 2022. UNICEF UK granted this award to our school as we have fully embedded children's rights through our policy, practice and school ethos. We are working towards re-accreditation of this important award, which will be in March 2025.



As part of the process for our re-accreditation, we would very much appreciate if we could have **parent/carers volunteers to support us**, and to get involved with our pupil group known as the *FoxC Rights Rangers*. Involvement with our group would be to join our group and to share ideas at meetings throughout the year, raise awareness of our work and to support us with key events such as helping with Fairtrade stalls.

If you are able to offer support or would like to find out more, please contact Miss Doddie on our school phone number.

**Please see below, important information from our NHS partners:**



## Now's a good time to check your child is protected against measles

*Cases of measles are on the rise. With the summer break over, now is a good time to check if your child is fully vaccinated against measles.*

*We know that an infectious disease such as measles can spread easily in school-settings, especially for pupils transitioning from primary to secondary school in August, or moving school at any other time, when they'll be mixing with lots of new young people.*

## Attendance at Fox Covert Primary School:

Regular attendance at school is vitally important in ensuring the academic, social and emotional progress of our children and we continue to remain committed and focussed on ensuring our children have excellent attendance rates. Please see our *Every Day Counts* information, this details the impact on children's education of having just a few absences and late arrivals throughout the year:

Zero days absent = 190 days of school per year and **100%** attendance.  
10 days absent = 180 days of school per year and **95%** attendance.  
19 days absent = 171 days of school per year and **90%** attendance.  
29 days absent = 161 days of school per year and **85%** attendance.  
38 days absent = 152 days of school per year and **80%** attendance.  
47 days absent = 143 days of school per year and **75%** attendance.





**Fox Covert**  
Primary School



**Craigmount**  
Learning Community

## Every Day Counts

To learn  
and achieve

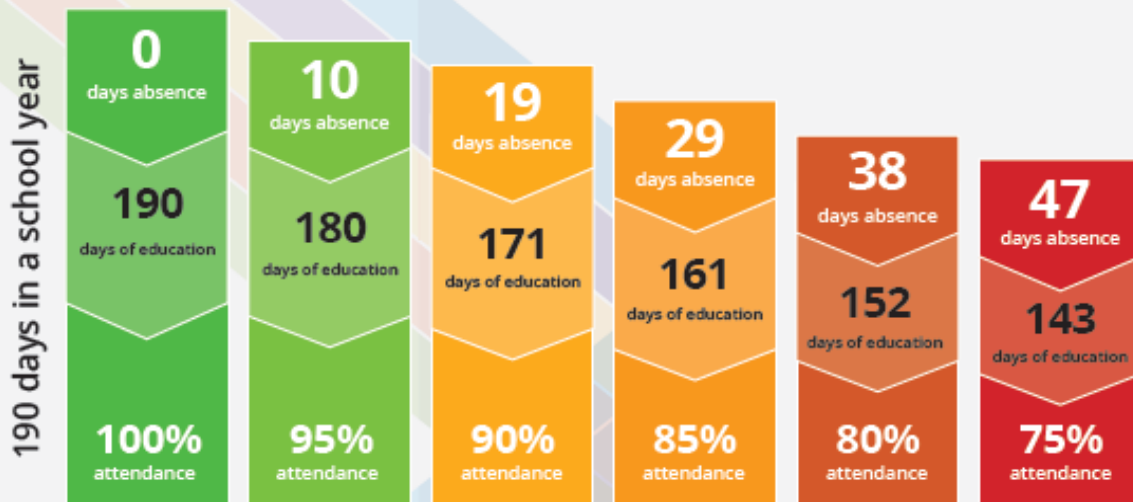
To have new  
experiences

To build  
relationships

To develop  
new skills

**Good attendance at Fox Covert means...**

being in school every day, ready to learn.



**190 school days in a calendar year...**

...this means there are 175 days not in school available for things like appointments and holidays.

**Did you know?**

A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%.

**Did you know?**

If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed 2 full weeks of school in one year.

**Good time keeping at Fox Covert means...**

being in school, on time, every day, ready to learn.



3

school days lost per year



6.5

school days lost per year



10

school days lost per year



13

school days lost per year



19

school days lost per year

**Goals • Resilience • Outstanding • Wonder • Teamwork • Honesty**



Our teachers are busy making plans for school trips for this academic session. The travel element of school excursions can be costly, and we would prefer to keep these costs to a minimum to ensure that we can offer more experiences outwith the classroom. 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/> or visit Drumbrae Library where they can support you with the application.

## A message from Fox Covert Primary School Parent Council:

Welcome back to the new school year! We have a few fundraising events planned and have listed the Parent Council AGM and meeting dates at the end of this newsletter. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September from 6.30pm-7.30pm.**

Please see below for a quick guide to the members of Fox Covert Parent Council.



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

The best way to keep in touch and find out what is 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 about anything to do with the Parent Council (new reps will be announced after the AGM), come along to our Parent Council meetings, or contact us via our Facebook page or **our new email address:** [foxcovertchair23@gmail.com](mailto:foxcovertchair23@gmail.com)

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

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

### Important Reminders

**\*\*Please ensure that pets are not brought to the school playground or at any drop-off/pick-up locations around the school.\*\***

**Children's safety is our top priority, and pets can be unpredictable around children.**

### Bikes in School

We encourage children to travel to school by bicycle, but **children must come off their bikes at the school gates** and walk carefully and sensibly to the bike shed to park and secure their bikes. All children have been advised of this at our most recent school assembly with all staff re-enforcing this important message to all.

### Mobile Phones

If pupils are bringing mobile phones to school, they **must be switched off before entering the school building** and placed safely with the class teacher in the classroom. These **will be returned at the end of the school day** where children can switch them back on when they leave the school playground. If you need to be in touch with your child(ren) during the school day, please contact the school office.

**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.**

### Parking:

**Please note that the school car park is designated for staff parking only. The school campus does not have a large enough car park to accommodate parking for parents/carers.**



**The car park cannot be used for dropping pupils off or picking pupils up from Out of School Clubs either. Children use the footpath leading through the staff car park to access classrooms, this is not a public area.**

## Getting in touch with us:

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

**To Report Children's Absence:** please email [admin@foxcovert.edin.sch.uk](mailto: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.

## School holiday dates:

School closes	School re-opens
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September at 12pm/12.05pm	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 8.50am
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October at 12pm/12.05pm	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024 at 8.50am
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December at 12pm/12.05pm	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 8.50am

## In-Service and Mid-Term dates:

In-Service Days (children off school)
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2024
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Dates for your diary:

  Change or new information   Parent Helpers Required

Date	Time	Event/Item
<span style="background-color: yellow;">Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">2pm</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">Evening News photographer to take photographs of P1 classes.</span>
<span style="background-color: yellow;">Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">7pm – 8pm</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">Celebration of Achievement for Craigmount High School pupils at Craigsbank Church</span>
<span style="background-color: yellow;">Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">11.30am-11.50am</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">P1 pupils and parents lunch (dining hall)</span>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	6.30pm – 7.30pm	Parent Council Annual General Meeting
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	TBC	Race Night organised by the Parent Council (Clermiston Inn)
<span style="background-color: yellow;">Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">4pm-7pm</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">Parent/Carer Consultation Evening</span>
<span style="background-color: yellow;">Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">1pm-4pm</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">Parent/Carer Consultation Afternoon</span>
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	6.30pm – 7.30pm	Parent Council Meeting

<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>All day</b>	<b>Tempest Photographer in to take photos (more information to follow)</b>
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b>		<b>Class Newsletters to parents/carers</b>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>2.30pm-3.10pm</b>	<b>Learning Together – pupils sharing learning with parents/carers – all parents/carers invited to attend</b>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>9.10am-9.40am</b>	<b>Learning Together – pupils sharing learning with parents/carers – all parents/carers invited to attend</b>
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>All day</b>	<b>Flu immunisations</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>	<b>9.05am – 9.30am</b>	<b>P7B Class Assembly</b>
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>9.05am – 9.30am</b>	<b>P7A Class Assembly</b>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>All week</b>	<b>P7 pupils at Lagganlia</b>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>7pm – 8pm</b>	<b>Parent Council Meeting (online)</b>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9am – 9.40am</b>	<b>P1 Nativity Performance</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9.05am – 9.30am</b>	<b>P3/4 Class Assembly</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>All day</b>	<b>Christmas Jumper Day!</b>
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>	<b>6.30pm-7.30pm</b>	<b>Parent Council Meeting</b>
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.05am – 9.30am</b>	<b>P6 Class Assembly</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>		<b>Primary 2 Class Assembly</b>
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>9.05am – 9.30am</b>	<b>Primary 4 Class Assembly</b>
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025</b>	<b>7pm – 8pm</b>	<b>Parent Council Meeting (online)</b>
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025</b>	<b>9.05am – 9.30am</b>	<b>Primary 5 Class Assembly</b>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	<b>9.05am – 9.30am</b>	<b>P1B Class Assembly</b>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	<b>9.05am – 9.30am</b>	<b>P1A Class Assembly</b>
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>	<b>9.05am – 9.30am</b>	<b>Primary 3 Class Assembly</b>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>	<b>9.05am – 9.30am</b>	<b>P5/6 Class Assembly</b>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>	<b>6.30pm-7.30pm</b>	<b>Parent Council Meeting</b>