

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

November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our November newsletter! I hope you and your families are doing well and had an opportunity for some quality time together over the October break. Term Two is now in progress, and it's been great to see all our pupils return, excited to learn and ready to give their best during this active term.

As we approach the festive season, we have several events planned. A Christmas Nativity is in the works with our Primary One classes, and Christmas parties are scheduled for the final week of term. We also have a Christmas sing-a-long planned with all classes and our school choir (please see below for more information). Look out for a Christmas Enterprise project from each class too! The dates for our Christmas events are provided at the bottom of this newsletter for your calendars and more information will follow nearer the time.

As always, don't hesitate to contact us at school with any questions about the newsletter or any other topic. I look forward to seeing you at school in the days and weeks ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Douglas Bruce  
Head Teacher

### **Children in Need**

Just a reminder that we will be supporting Children in Need on **Friday 15th November**, with a variety of activities, including a Mini-Olympics for all classes. Children are welcome to wear yellow or bright clothing (and Pudsey ears, if available), but we kindly ask that no football shirts or team-related attire be worn. **Please note that there is no need to purchase anything new for this event.** If you would like to contribute, a voluntary donation of £1 is appreciated.



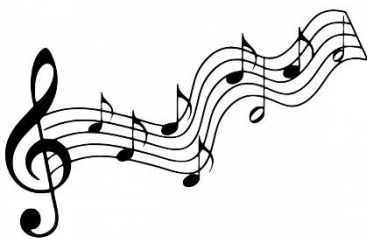
## Christmas

The Fox Covert team is always incredibly grateful for the generous gifts from children, parents, and carers during the festive season. However, we want to make sure that the focus remains on our children and families.

**We kindly ask that no gifts be purchased for staff**, and instead, encourage any gift-giving to be directed toward our children and families. This will help ensure that you enjoy a joyful holiday period with quality time spent together.

## Christmas Enterprise

All classes will be hosting their own Christmas Enterprise event in each class this year as part of a whole school Enterprise project. All classes are creating a product through a carefully thought-out business idea and will be learning to challenge themselves to come up with new and unique products - and to market them. Our doors will be open on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** from **2pm to 3pm** to proudly display and sell the fantastic products! We very much look forward to welcoming you and your extended families to this event!



## Christmas Sing-a-Long!

We are planning a Christmas sing-a-long with all classes this year as part of our festive celebrations, to be held at St Ninian's Church. Every class will sing a festive favourite, led by Miss Brown. Our school choir will also perform as part of the celebrations. Performances will be held on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**beginning at 9.30am** - more information to follow! **We would very much welcome support from any parents/carers who could help us to walk to and from the Church on this morning, especially with our younger classes.**

## Christmas Post Box

The Fox Covert Primary School Christmas post box will be available for Christmas card posting again this year. Children can bring their cards into school and will have an opportunity to post their Christmas cards into the post box during the school day from **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**. Christmas cards will then be delivered to their friends in school.



### October Parents/Carers Evening

Our parent/carers evening and afternoon in October was very well attended with a 95% turnout of parents and carers over the two sessions. Our House Captains did an excellent job in their first official role of welcoming everybody, and also of gathering views from everybody during the appointment sessions.

Thank you for your valuable feedback regarding our school community. We have carefully reviewed the responses from our recent survey, and I am delighted to share some of the positive highlights with you.

### Strengths about our School:

- **Community Spirit:** Many of you emphasised the strong sense of community within our school. Our school was identified as an environment where both children and parents feel welcomed and valued. Many people commented on the friendly interactions amongst pupils, parents, and staff that contribute to a nurturing atmosphere.
- **Exceptional Teachers, Principal Teachers and Support Staff:** The positive remarks regarding our staff were very much welcomed. We are thrilled to hear that many of you find our staff so approachable, supportive, and dedicated to the growth and well-being of your children.
- **Effective Communication:** We are pleased to see that many parents appreciate the communication practices we have in place. The updates provided through newsletters and other platforms have been acknowledged as helpful in keeping you informed about important school events and activities.
- **Inclusive Environment:** Your feedback highlighted the inclusive nature of our school. Many parents expressed appreciation for the efforts made to ensure that every child feels included and valued, contributing to a sense of belonging among all children.
- **Outdoor Learning Opportunities:** It's wonderful to see that many of you value our commitment to outdoor learning. The feedback reflects your recognition of the importance of providing children with opportunities to learn and play outside, fostering their connection with nature.



**Areas for us to work on:**

- **Communication processes:** We will continue to review our communication processes on an ongoing basis to ensure that communication is reaching you in a timely manner and is meeting everybody's needs. We are also streamlining daily communications by sending emails at the end of each week of events and other community projects, to ensure communication is not excessive.
- **School facilities:** We are constantly looking at ways to ensure our school environment fits the needs of our learners and that it maximises learning opportunities. Our school facilities are under constant review, and we aim to get the best from the facilities we have.
- **Homework:** We aim to meet all our learners needs with our homework approaches, but we do constantly keep our approaches under review to ensure that we are getting the balance right for everybody.

Thank you for taking the time to feedback to us, your input is vital to our continuous improvement and we very much value your feedback. I would also like to thank our fantastic House Captains who did such a great job ensuring that we surveyed most of our visitors!

**Raring 2 Go! Autumn Edition**

The autumn edition of the Raring 2 Go! magazine is still available through the link below:

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/edinburgh/autumn2024/>

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.



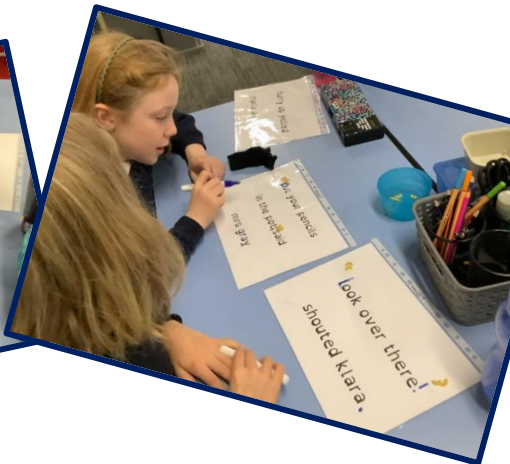
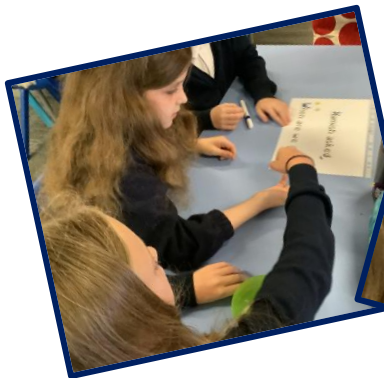
## Classroom News from our P2, P5 & P6 classes:



'In



Primary 6 we have been learning about Space as part of Science. As well as doing research to find out facts about the planets we have each written a descriptive poem on a planet of our choice. We also recreated Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night* painting. In PE we have been looking at possession and invasion games and have enjoyed developing skills in hockey. **Mrs Thomson, P6.**



Primary 5 are currently busy working on VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation). Recently, they particularly enjoyed demonstrating speech marks in sentences and creating some of their own sentences to punctuate. Primary 5 also enjoyed a lovely walk up Corstorphine Hill to collect pine cones for our Eco Winter Crafts. They never expected to find quite so many wonderful pine cones. They can't wait to use their imagination and get creative with them! **Mrs Gray, P5.**





The children have been learning about the importance of trees through the story of the Lorax by Dr Seuss. They have been looking at the tree art by Eli Halpin. This week they went outside to draw their own tree sketches and make bark rubbings. They were focusing on the shapes of the branches and trying to draw what they see. **Mrs McAlpine, P2.**



## A message from our Active School Co-ordinator:

Active Schools have been working with parents to offer lots of different opportunities for our pupils to be active. Over the last few years, we have had many parents support with either after school or lunchtime sport clubs. This term we have managed to run seven clubs that children can participate in free of charge. Two of these clubs are run fully by parents. We are always looking for parents to help support clubs that are already running or if there is a club that you would like to deliver, we can support this too. Parents do not need to be a fitness fanatic or have qualifications in sport, you just need to be enthusiastic! Clubs work well when we have groups of parents willing to help so you don't have to commit as much time.

The benefits to the children, and yourself, are huge - from physical health to increasing positive mental health and the feel good factor of making a difference. If you would be interested in volunteering, please Email our Active Schools Coordinator [cat.mccready@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:cat.mccready@ea.edin.sch.uk).



**Many thanks to our Active Schools parent volunteers!**

Does your child struggle with worries or anxiety? Please see the new App below to support children who are experiencing this. Please see the short video below for more information:

<https://youtu.be/mmgrU4zXU3M>



**Does your child struggle with worries or anxiety?**

Help your child build confidence with a new digital therapy game

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### Volunteer Opportunities

We deeply appreciate the support and voluntary work of our parents and carers, as many aspects of school life progress thanks to the generosity and kindness of those who support us. If you're able to volunteer—whether for a short or long-term commitment—we would love to hear from you. Currently, we have volunteer opportunities with our Active Schools team and our Rights Respecting team, and we always welcome volunteers who can enrich our curriculum by sharing with our students about various careers and roles within the community.



Many school trips are able to go ahead because of parents and carers who generously give their time to support trips within and beyond our school local community. If you are able to help with school trips, please let us know!

### Rights Respecting Schools



We are pleased to announce our new FoxC Rights Rangers group for 2024-25. We will be working on various projects this year to raise awareness of child rights. Our group meet on Fridays at 11am in school. If you would like to join our group, we are always looking for parent/carers participants too. Please email [admin@foxcovert.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@foxcovert.edin.sch.uk) if you would like further information.

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

Thank you to everybody who supported and attended our Hallowe'en party evening – it was a fantastic success! There were some incredible costumes on display – what a fantastic effort. We have a few fundraising events planned and have listed the Parent Council AGM and meeting dates at the end of this newsletter. Our next Parent Council meeting will be held online on **Wednesday the 4th<sup>th</sup> of December from 7pm-8pm**. All are welcome and the link for the meeting will be shared nearer the time.



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:	Sarah Sherriff

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/>

**Parent Class Reps for 2024/25:**

P1A	Catriona McShane
P1B	Megan McKenzie
P2	Daisy Johnstone
P3	Kirsty Cassidy
P3/4	Bel Brown
P4	Lisa Simpson
P5	Mhairi Kelly
P5/6	Michelle Hofmeyr/Jade Gillies
P6	Louise Duncan
P7A	Joanne Farrell
P7B	Heather MacDonald

**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 school assemblies with all staff re-enforcing this important message to all.

Please ensure that bikes and scooters are taken home at the end of each day, as we have unfortunately had some bikes stolen and damaged recently. Please also ensure that locks are secured before leaving any bikes or scooters unattended.

**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.

Further to this, many parents/carers are donating food items such as cakes and sweets as part of birthday celebrations. We respectfully ask that **no** food items are handed in to school due to the amount of pupils who experience food allergies.

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 20 <sup>th</sup> December at 12pm/12.05pm	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 8.50am
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 12pm/12.05pm	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 8.50am
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 12pm/12.05pm	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 8.50am

## In-Service and Mid-Term dates:

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

## Dates for your diary:

  Change or new information   Parent Helpers Required

Date	Time	Event/Item
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	All day	Flu immunisations
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	All day	Children in Need Day (please see above)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	9.05am – 9.30am	P7B Class Assembly
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	9.05am – 9.30am	P7A Class Assembly
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	All week	P7 pupils at Lagganlia
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	7pm – 8pm	Parent Council Meeting (online)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Morning	Christmas Pantomime
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9am – 9.40am	P1 Nativity Performance
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	9.05am – 9.30am	P3/4 Class Assembly
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm – 3pm	Christmas Enterprise Event – all welcome!
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am – 10.30am	Christmas Sing-a-Long at St Ninian's Church – more details to follow...
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Lunch
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	All day	Christmas Jumper Day!
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	6.30pm- 7.30pm	Parent Council Meeting (in school)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	9.05am – 9.30am	P6 Class Assembly
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	All day	School photographer in to take P1 and P7 class photos

Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025		Primary 2 Class Assembly
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	9.05am – 9.30am	Primary 4 Class Assembly
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025	7pm – 8pm	Parent Council Meeting (online)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2025	9.05am – 9.30am	Primary 5 Class Assembly
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	9.05am – 9.30am	P1B Class Assembly
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	9.05am – 9.30am	P1A Class Assembly
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	9.05am – 9.30am	Primary 3 Class Assembly
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	9.05am – 9.30am	P5/6 Class Assembly
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	All morning	Sports Day
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	6.30pm- 7.30pm	Parent Council Meeting (in school)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	All day	P7 Transition Days at Craigmount High School
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	All morning	Sports Day (if June 6 <sup>th</sup> Sports Day is cancelled due to poor weather)