



August Newsletter



As always, at the start of a new school year, I am really excited to see what new adventures lie ahead for the staff, pupils, and families of Sprouston Primary School.

It was lovely to welcome our pupils back to school after the holidays and hear all about their adventures during the summer break. Walking through the doors on the first day and seeing all the smiling faces, noticing how much everyone has grown, listening to their stories, and hearing the laughter as they learn and play are some of the very best things about working here.

Over the summer holidays, we had a new fence installed in the playground around the paved area leading to the classroom door. This will allow us to create a free-flow outdoor learning space between the classroom and outdoors that can be used by the children throughout the day. We have already purchased some loose parts and resources for the area and will continue to develop it over time as we explore how it can best enhance and enrich learning experiences.

We are such a unique and special wee school, offering so many opportunities that larger schools simply cannot. It is important that we continue to promote all that our school has to offer whenever we can. Your support as families is vital in helping us achieve the very best outcomes for your children, and the staff and I look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year to make this happen.

As always, our door is open. Whether you would like to pop in and volunteer, share an idea, or simply have a quick chat about your child, we are always happy to welcome you.

Take care.

Mrs Shiel



Staffing

Head Teacher	Mrs Barbara Shiel
P1-7 and Principal Teacher	Ms Bethany Jamieson
P1-7 Teacher (Wed and Thurs Am)	Vacancy
Learning Support	Mrs Vicki Wauchope (temp until Oct)
Classroom Assistant	Mrs Heather Waddell
Pupil Support Assistant	Mrs Jade Ford (Fridays)
Art	Mrs Janey Lowthian
P.E.	Ms Denise Fairbairn
YMI Music Instructor	Mr Ian Lowthian (volunteering)
KHS Work Experience	Miss Saskia Ashby
School Administrator	Mrs Tamsin Ashby
P/G Supervisors	Mrs Heather Waddell and Mrs Tamsin Ashby
School Cook	Miss Katharine Kokot
Janitors	Janny Raymond and Janny Alan

Staffing Updates

We currently have a vacancy for the teacher who covers Wednesday and Thursday mornings, enabling Miss Jamieson to have her management time. We hope to fill this position as soon as possible. In the meantime, a supply teacher, Mrs Erwin, will be covering these sessions.

Mrs Ford will be joining us on a Friday as a Pupil Support Assistant (PSA).

We will be having weekly art lessons with a dedicated Art Teacher this year instead of music lessons. Mrs Janey Lowthian will be starting with us next week.

Mrs Vicki Wauchope will be our temporary Support for Learning Teacher until the October holidays.

Mr Ian Lowthian, who is an instructor with the Youth Music Initiative, has volunteered to come in and work with the children in small groups fortnightly on Thursday afternoons.

Saskia Ashby, a S6 pupil at KHS, will also be volunteering in the school on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon from 2pm (tbc).

Pupils

We are delighted to welcome one new pupil this term, Maverick Pinder, to P1.

School Improvement

All staff have been busy over the last two days preparing for the year ahead and engaging in professional learning and training. Our school improvement priorities for this year are:

Priority 1: Teaching, Learning and Assessment - Writing

Improving P1 writing attainment through high-quality, explicit teaching of writing using the SBCWay Writing Bundle. We will also be introducing the CYPIC National Improving Writing Programme across P2-P7.

Priority 2: Inclusive Practices - Wellbeing Indicators and Pupil Interventions

Through a clear and progressive framework, the Wellbeing Indicators will be consistently embedded in daily practice. They will be used to ensure that 100% of learning interventions, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), and pupil plans are clearly linked to individual needs.

Priority 3: Curriculum - Health and Wellbeing

Staff, in conjunction with SBCWay, will create and develop a progressive framework for Health and Wellbeing across all stages. This will ensure consistency in pupils' understanding and application of wellbeing throughout the school, while also supporting effective tracking, pupil voice, and self-evaluation.

Priority 4: Leadership - Self-Evaluation and Vision

We will continue to strengthen leadership at all levels, including amongst pupils, to promote and sustain the school's shared vision through everyday practice. We will also provide structured opportunities for all stakeholders to engage in high-quality self-evaluation. This will directly inform strategic planning and school improvement through increased ownership, collaboration, and measurable impact.

Towards the end of last session, we revisited our Curriculum Rationale to ensure that the school's Vision, Values, and Aims remain current and relevant to staff, pupils, families, and the wider community. Over the coming term, we will share our progress and, alongside staff, pupils, and parents, review our Respectful Relationships Policy.

Our school values remain unchanged: Kindness, Perseverance, Inclusion, and Respect. These values will continue to underpin our School Charter, and we would be grateful if you could continue to discuss and encourage them at home.

Stay Up to Date – Showbie, Facebook, Xpressions App, Parent Portal and Website

We appreciate that there are several ways in which the school communicates with families throughout the day, week, and year. Hopefully, this explains how we use each platform. They are all equally important, and it is helpful for families to have access to them all.

Showbie

The best way to stay up to date with your child's progress and learning is through the Showbie app. Ms Jamieson and Mrs Murray will be posting weekly, and sometimes daily, updates about all the activities taking place in school, along with any additional information you may need about your child's learning, in the Sprouston Primary Community on Showbie. There is already a wealth of content showcasing the children's learning and achievements from last year. However, at the moment, only two parents are accessing these updates. We would love to see more families joining our community, sharing in and commenting on the children's successes. You can join the Sprouston Primary Community through the Community section of Showbie using the code **EY6JH7**. Please get in touch if you need any help accessing or joining the group.

Facebook

Moving forward, we will be using our Facebook page primarily to promote the school and celebrate our achievements with the wider community.

School Website

Mrs Ashby is currently in the process of setting up a new school website, so we do not have one available at the moment. We hope to have the new website up and running within the next few weeks.

Xpressions/Eduspot App

All important communication, such as messages about lunches, sporting activities, absences, and other updates, comes to you through the Xpressions/Eduspot app. Please get in touch with Mrs Ashby if you need support to help you access this.

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is where you will find all newsletters, trip details and permissions, personal details and the Annual Data Check. Again, please speak to Mrs Ashby if you need support setting this up. Mrs Ashby will be in touch soon to ask you to complete the Annual Data Check as it is currently being updated. Please do not do this until advised.

ParentPay

This is used to order your school lunches. They need to be ordered at least 2 weeks in advance. All children in P1-P5 are entitled to free school meals; pupils in P6 and P7 are required to pay. If you need any support with paying for meals, uniform or trips please just get in touch with any member of staff.

School Uniform

The children always look very smart in their school uniform. We ask that all children wear our school uniform, consisting of a navy-blue sweatshirt or cardigan (P7 pupils now have a teal jumper), a white or light-blue polo shirt, a dark skirt, trousers or shorts, plain tights or socks, and dark shoes. During warmer weather, girls may also wear gingham dresses.

School uniform can be ordered from **www.border-embroideries.co.uk**.

We kindly ask that all items of clothing and PE kit are clearly labelled. This makes it much easier for us to reunite children with any lost belongings. Thank you for your support.

If you need name tags, please remember to use www.mynametags.com and quote the school's ID number, **30388**, when placing your order. The school receives a small percentage of each sale, and as you know, every penny counts.

PE

Children will have PE with Ms Fairbairn on Wednesday afternoons and with Mrs Murray on Thursday mornings (to be confirmed).

Please remember to send your child dressed appropriately for PE on these days. To help maintain the smart appearance of our pupils, we kindly ask that children wear:

- Black or navy tracksuit bottoms or shorts
- A plain T-shirt
- Their school jumper

Lunches

Meals have been booked for the first three weeks of term. Please log into ParentPay and book meals from 7 September onwards if you have not already done so.

Please remember to keep bookings at least two weeks in advance.



Essentials For School

- Please send children with a water bottle and raincoat. **Water only in bottles**, in line with Healthy Schools guidance.
- Please provide a healthy mid-morning snack.
- Please pack a spare change of clothes in your child's bag for wet or muddy days.

Before School and Parking

- Playground supervision is available from **8.25am – 8.40am**. Children should not arrive before this time.
- There is **no parent parking** in the school car park.
- Parents may either park along Dean Road and walk their children to school, or drop them off quickly at the school gate.
- Please do not park on the grass.

Klondyke Garden Centre Vouchers

If you shop at any Klondyke Garden Centre (including Kelso), please ask for '**Gardens for Schools**' vouchers.

- 1 voucher for every £10 spent
- Every 250 vouchers = £100 Garden Centre voucher
- You must ask for the vouchers at checkout
- Current total: 247 vouchers. We are only three vouchers away from earning another £100 garden centre voucher. Thank you for your support!

