

Wiston Primary School Newsletter

August 2026



Welcome back to all staff, parents and pupils as we begin our new session! I hope you have had a lovely summer with time to recharge, relax and enjoy some sunshine! We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

A special warm welcome to Mr Briers who joins us on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Beck has also joined the teaching team temporarily to fill in for Mr O'Donnell. We are currently recruiting an Acting Principal Teacher to cover for the vacancy. We will keep you updated and share further information as soon as it becomes available.

STAFFING 2026-2027

Head Teacher	Mrs Forde
Principal Teacher	Vacancy
Teaching Staff	Mr Briers(Thurs & Fri)
School Office	Mrs Alcock (Team Leader)
School Support Assistant	Mrs Littlejohn (Mon Tues Wed Thurs)
Catering Assistant	Mr Wearden
Cleaner/Caretaker	Mrs Wearden

School App

The school app we have used over the past few years is no longer available from August 2026. We explored an alternative platform, but we are not yet in a position to confirm whether this will be introduced.

In the meantime, all school communication will be sent via ParentsPortal and, where appropriate, by text message. We will provide further updates as soon as they become available.

A few reminders for starting back:

- ParentsPortal is available as an App and should make access easier. All home school communication will come through this, on occasion a text will be sent.
- Please inform us of any changes to contact details throughout the year – this can be amended at any time via ParentsPortal
- Breakfast Club is available from 8.15am. No need to book.
- We will have a mix of PE lessons outside and in the gym hall. Please send in a pair of black shorts for this. In addition, we ask for each child to have a pair of gym shoes to change into in class and a pair of wellies to stay in school for wet days. If your child cannot yet tie shoelaces, slip on or Velcro would be recommended. With

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our unpredictable weather, please ensure your child brings a waterproof jacket each day.

- We have some items of school uniform (polo shirts and sweatshirts) available free of charge. Please pop into the school and have a look. If you have any uniform you no longer need, please send into the school office
- Each child should bring a filled water bottle to school each day to drink in class. As per SLC policy, these bottles should only be filled with water for use in class
- All children from Primary 1 to Primary 5 are entitled to free school meals. Children in primary 6 and 7 can receive free school meals if their family is also receiving the Scottish Child Payment or other qualifying benefits. Please check your ParentPay details are up to date and you are in credit

Homework

Information on homework will be issued in the coming weeks.

Attendance

Percentages can be misleading. 90% attendance sounds quite good - however, this is what 90% attendance actually looks like for your child. If your child has 90% attendance August - June, they will have the equivalent of:

- ½ a day off per week
- 19 days off per year - almost a month of schooling at 5 days a week

Please do ensure that your child attends school as much as they can and, whilst understanding that holidays are cheaper during term time, your child cannot get that teaching & learning time back.

Please remember you can check your child's attendance via ParentsPortal.



Dates for your diary:

New lunch menu – Starts Monday 25th August

Parent Open Afternoon – Thursday 8th September 2.15pm

September Weekend – Friday 25th and Monday 28th September

Finally, if you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Laura Forde

Laura Forde (Head Teacher)