



Newsletter – August 2020

Dear Parents and Pupils

I would like to thank our school community once again for your help and understanding as we adapt to new routines and settle back in to school and ELC.

Headteachers are being updated weekly with both local and national decisions and I will keep you informed of any new information and changes to school procedures. We are also regularly reviewing our routines to make sure we are doing our very best to keep both learners, staff and the wider school community as safe as possible.

**Infection Control**

One of the key priorities is personal hygiene and infection control. Pupils have settled very quickly into regular handwashing throughout the school day and please do encourage this when arriving home too. Please do keep children off school if they are unwell and, as in previous years, when a child has had diarrhea or vomiting then they must stay at home until 48 hours after the last symptom has gone.

**Covid-19 Symptoms**

If you have concerns about any family member who has Covid-19 symptoms – high temperature, a new continuous cough and loss of taste or smell – then all family members should self-isolate and please contact NHS for advice and arrange for a Test.

Link to Dumfries and Galloway NHS Website - <https://www.nhsdg.co.uk/covid-19-what-to-do/>

**COVID-19**  
CORONAVIRUS

**STOP**

**If you or your child has the following symptoms**

- A New Continuous Cough
- A High Temperature
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

**STAY AT HOME**  
(self-isolate for 14 days) – do not leave your home or have visitors. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also self-isolate.  
**GET A TEST** to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.

**DO NOT ENTER**

**If your child has the following symptoms**

- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting

**They must stay at home for 48 hours, after the symptoms have gone.**

**Clean your hands and help protect us from germs that can make us sick**

#SupportDG

Dumfries & Galloway



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### Castle Douglas Primary School

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#### Diary Dates.

At this time schools are not allowed to organise any additional Lets so there no after-school clubs and meetings such as Parent Council and PTA will need to be online. Activities such as class visits that involve transport and parents Evenings are also not able to be held just now

There are therefore not a lot of diary dates for the months ahead and I look forward to when we can start to fill them up again.

#### **Dates of events and holidays can also be found on the School App and website**

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/cdps/> - click on the CD Diary link.

<b>September</b>	
7th	Parent Council AGM – 6:30 pm – all parents are very welcome. Online meeting to be arranged.
<b>October</b>	
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	October Holidays
28 <sup>th</sup>	Pupil Flu Vaccinations (permission letters were sent home via pupil post on Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> August)
<b>November</b>	
tbc	Sharing Learning Conversation - tbc
<b>December</b>	
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> – Tues 5th	Christmas Holidays (Staff return 5 <sup>th</sup> – Pupils return 6 <sup>th</sup> ).

#### P1 Information session

We usually hold an evening information session for P1 families early in the new session when we share details of school routines and P1 learning activities such as reading and number skills and how families can be involved in learning at home. As we are unable to hold Parents Meetings just now Mrs Baird, Miss Conacher and I will prepare an online resource which we will share with families soon.

#### Home / School Communication

We will continue to share our learning and activities with the School Community through our Weekly Class Updates - news collected by our pupils which will be posted on our school Facebook page, Website and App on a Friday.

Our upper primary classes are going to share learning using either class Twitter posts or a class Facebook page.

Please do let us let us know of any new or changes to email addresses and mobile phone numbers.

Please do let us know about achievements that your child(ren) have outside school.

Our School App is free to download on both Apple and Android platforms. Search for School App for Parents and once the app has loaded search for Castle Douglas Primary. The App has

- a diary tab which lists the daily meal menu as well as school activities and holiday dates
- a news tab which links to our school website and Twitter accounts.
- a message Tabs for regular updates such as wet/very windy weather arrangements.

School texts will be sent out using Groupcall e.g. for an emergency school closure and parents are asked to keep the School Office informed of any changes to mobile numbers – thank you.

**Staff Information** – We have welcomed Mrs N Rozniakowska (P5 class teacher) and Mrs L Little will be joining the Office staff very soon.



Please do let us know of any Wider Achievement stories (events and activities children take part in out of school) and also any community news that we can share.





### **Class Organisation during the Session.**

Classes are organised by age with a maximum of 25 children in P1, up to 30 in P2 and 3 and 33 in P4-7. Composite classes have a maximum of 25 pupils. Once again we are almost full with only a few spaces at P1 stage and some in the upper Primary. To comply with Council policy, it may be necessary to make changes to class compositions if there are any **enrolments during the session** which increase class numbers over the permitted maximum. It is hoped that any mid-session enrolments will not cause undue disruption but it is as well to be aware that changes may have to be made depending on circumstances.

### **Parent Voice**

#### **PTA**

We have a very supportive Parent Teacher Association which helps organise social and fundraising activities during the session. Further information to follow about the next meeting.

Meetings are informal and we would like as many Parents / Carers to join in. It is a good way to meet people in the school and we are always looking for new, fun ideas for social events for children and parents that may also raise some funds for the school.

#### **Parent Council**

We also have a busy Parent Council which is a forum to share ideas and developments between home and school as well as giving a Parent Voice with the local Authority. All parents are very welcome to join the Parent Council and the first meeting of the new session is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30pm. Details about joining an online meeting will be shared soon.

**You will be very welcome to either the PTA and Parent Council – please do think about coming along.**

### **Medicines**

If your child requires medication during school hours e.g. asthma then please ensure that you **complete a medical permission form** which can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the School Website (Admin – Forms link). <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/cdps/admin-forms/>

### **School Uniform.**

The school encourages the wearing of school uniform. **Please** ensure that all clothing brought to school **is marked with your child's name**. This is particularly important for sweatshirts/t-shirts and coats which are often muddled up - thank you.

**A reminder that football strips or related clothing, fashion clothing, make up or large jewellery items such as dangly earrings should not be worn or brought to school please.**

**Outdoor Learning** – Classes use our MUGA (Outdoor Sports area) and take part in Outdoor learning activities throughout the year. Pupils should please bring a coat to school so that we can access our outdoor areas at all times.

**Spare Clothing** - The school would be pleased to accept any used sweatshirts and poloshirts which we can keep in a nearly new box and these will be available for a small donation to school funds. Coats would also be welcome so we have a supply for outdoor use in case a child forgets theirs.

### **Pupil Absence and Punctuality**

A reminder that parents are asked to please contact the school office if your child is going to be absent from school. An early call is much appreciated.

If a pupil is late arriving to school then they should please report to the School Office so that registers can be updated and school meal ordered– thank you for your help with this.



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### **School Meals.**

Primary 1-3 pupils are entitled to a free school meal. For other pupils a reminder that school meals cost £1.90 daily or £9.50 per week and this is collected on a Monday morning or several weeks can be paid in advance. Cheques should please be made payable to **Dumfries and Galloway Council** and not the school. Please note that children will not be given a meal unless it has been paid for or the child(ren) is/are entitled to receive free school meals. Please contact the school if you have any queries regarding free meal entitlement. Children may also bring their own packed lunch if preferred.

### **School Handbook - Annual Information**

Attached to the newsletter are updated pages 1-3 from the School Handbook. The pages contain annual information including holiday dates for the session and a summary of the Nursery and School Development targets for the session ahead.

### **Allergies**

Please do keep the school informed of any allergies your child may have. A separate letter, where food allergies are already known, will be sent home soon from the School Meals Department seeking information from parents. A reminder please that we are a **Nut Free School** due to severe reaction some of pupils have to nut products.

### **Family Helpers – Classes / Playground / After-School Activities**

We welcome family helpers in our school but, at this time, we are unable to accept any offers of help until Covid-19 restrictions are eased.

### **Homework**

It is planned to start some homework activities during this term. The current advice is to keep the transfer of resources between home and school to as little as possible. Staff are working on resources that will be a mixture of online via class web pages or materials that will be sent home and would not need to be returned to school e.g. key words cards for early reading.

Older pupils (P3-7) are welcome and encouraged to log in to their Accelerated Reading and Sumdog accounts to support and share their learning at home. Quick links to these are on the school website and class webpages.

### **Traffic Management Scheme**

Thank you for observing the no parking rule (unless for Additional Support Need Access) in the school car park. Families are finding it much easier to drop-off children and the car park area is definitely much safer.

### **Bicycle Rack**

We have a covered cycle rack in school and pupils are welcome to cycle to school. Pupils should wear a helmet and are asked not to cycle in the school grounds for safety reasons – please dismount and push your bicycle in through the pedestrian gates access.

### **Council Policy – Smoking and Dogs**

A reminder please that the school and school grounds is a No Smoking area and parents are asked not to smoke in the playground when dropping off or collecting pupils. Dogs are also not permitted in school grounds – thank you.



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**Arrival and Home Times – Poor Weather**

Arrangements for dropping off and collecting children when the weather is poor, particularly when there are very strong winds which make our classroom doors difficult to hold open.

a) Morning

When the weather is very wet pupils should come to the hall door which will be open from 8:40 am for P1s and 8:45am for P2-7 instead of having to go all the way round the school. Parents are asked to drop children off near the door and a reminder for adults to please keep social distancing.

b) Afternoon

Due to the design of the building on very windy days we do not use the external classroom doors. On these days downstairs classes (P2/3-6) use the main door downstairs and pupils then leave by the usual route through the playground and up to the 'green gate'.

On these days P1a, P1b and P2 (upstairs classes and also P7s) will be dismissed from the hall. P1a (right hand door) and P1b (left hand door) at 2:50pm and P2 class from the right hand door at 3pm.

**Water Bottles**

Pupils are encouraged to bring water bottles to school and we have chilled water fountains throughout the school. Bottles can also be bought from the School Office for £1.50.

Thank you.  
Best wishes and keep safe.

David Tyson  
Headteacher

**Holiday Dates for Session 2020 – 2021**

<b><u>Staff return</u></b>	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> August
<b><u>Pupils return</u></b>	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> August
<b><u>Term 1</u></b>	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> August - Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October
<b><u>Autumn Holiday</u></b>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October - Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
<b><u>Term 2</u></b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
<b><u>Christmas Holiday</u></b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December – Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January (Staff Training days – 5 <sup>th</sup> January)
<b><u>Term 3</u></b>	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
<b><u>Mid-Term Holiday</u></b>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February (Staff Training Days – 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> February)
<b><u>Spring Holiday</u></b>	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> April
<b><u>Term 4</u></b>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June
<b><u>May Day Holiday</u></b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
<b><u>Summer Holiday</u></b>	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June – Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> August
<b><u>2021 - 22</u></b>	
Staff return	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
<b><u>Pupils return</u></b>	<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021</b>



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### Contact Information

Castle Douglas Primary	Jenny's Loaning, Castle Douglas, DG7 1JA	01556 502071
School Telephone	01556 502071	
School Email	gw08officecastle@ea.dumgal.sch.uk	
School Website	<a href="https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/cdps/">https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/cdps/</a>	
Facebook page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/cdpschool">https://www.facebook.com/cdpschool</a>	
School App	School App for Parents (Apple and Android downloads)	
Council Website	www.dumgal.gov.uk	
Education Office	Headquarters, 122-124 Irish Street, Dumfries DG1 2PB	01387 260432
School Nurse	Garden Hill Health Centre	01556 505712

### School Development Priorities 2020 - 2021

Priority	Outcomes for learners
Modern Languages	All pupils will further develop French (Year 4 of school programme) and P5-7 pupils will also be introduced to a second Spanish topic this session. Aim is to continue to develop confidence and understanding of communicating in a multilingual world.
Technology Skills and Understanding	To improve the quality and depth of Technology learning and teaching which will have a positive impact on both learning opportunities for pupils and their Technology knowledge, understanding and skills.
Progress and Attainment	School to introduce Authority Tracking and Monitoring system for P1-7 using SEEMIS Progress and Attainment module. This will also include using a new format for reporting to parents.
Raising Attainment and Pupil Equity Fund.	a) Continue to build on the Literacy and Numeracy developments from session 19/20. b) Mathematics – continue with Mental Maths priority and also target interventions to increase pupil confidence in all areas of mathematics and numeracy. c) Continue to raise attainment in all aspects of numeracy and mathematics.
ELC (Nursery)	There are also specific Nursery Development priorities. a) National Health and Social Care Standards – link with current Care Plans to assess and plan next steps for child learning. b) Further develop Outdoor Play provision to provide more opportunities for creative, challenging and stimulating play. c) Preparation for introduction of 1140 hours full time sessions from August 2020



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