



Laurieknowe Primary School

November 2019 Newsletter

It seems like no time since the last newsletter, yet here we are nearing mid November. Already classes are rehearsing for our forthcoming carol concerts, the dates of which are included at the end of this newsletter. Information about tickets will come out in a separate letter in the next few days.



Mrs McLellan

May Day Holiday - Change of date

Please note that Dumfries and Galloway Council recently agreed that the planned May Day holiday is to be changed from Monday 4th May, to Friday 8th May 2020.



This is to coincide with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. **Previous versions of school term and holiday dates will be incorrect, so an up to date one on the back page.**

Harvest festival

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Harvest Festival on the last Friday of term. Thanks to you your generous donations, several food boxes were donated to the local First Base Agency.

School photos

Despite us booking Tempest Photography a year ago, the photographer managed to double book, so we now have new dates: **Weds 27th Nov & Fri 29th Nov**, for individual and primary aged sibling photos only.

There is no obligation to buy any of the photos, so no consent form needs signing.

Also, we have been advised that Tempest are changing the way that orders are placed as they try to move to an ever more digital/paperless world, so we would encourage everyone to now place their orders online, if possible. We can of course still accept your envelopes to be posted to the company, so these can be returned to the office in the usual way.

You can see details on their website www.tempest-orders.co.uk



Contact: Tel: 01387 252604 Email: gw08officelaurieknow@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Weds 20th Nov Learning conversations: 3.30 till 5.30 pm & 6.00 till 7.00 pm *

Thurs 21st Nov Learning conversations: 3.30 till 5.30 pm *

Weds 27th Nov & Fri 29th Nov School photographer

Weds 4th Dec Pupil flu vaccinations for those who have requested** **See below**

Mon 9th Dec School carol concert dress rehearsal *

Tues 10th Dec School carol concert am & pm performances *

Fri 13th Dec Christmas Jumper day

Thurs 19th Dec School Christmas dinner *

Fri 20th Dec School Christmas service & last day of term



* separate letter has, or will soon be issued with more information

Influenza immunisation programme **

Dr Gillian Brydson, Head of Education (Curriculum and Quality), has written to all schools to advise that there are issues nationally, with the availability of the Fluenz vaccine. As a result, the flu clinic scheduled for Wednesday 4th December, may not go ahead if NHS Dumfries and Galloway cannot acquire sufficient stocks of this flu vaccine. Dr Brydson advises that it is hoped that schools' flu clinics will be scheduled at a later date.



We shall of course keep you informed once we know for sure.

Reminder from the school kitchen

Please remember that we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**.

Mrs Wilson, our Catering Manager has asked me to remind you of the importance of having no nuts in packed lunches, as we have some children with nut allergies. This includes fillings such as 'Nutella' and also chocolate bars such as 'Snickers'.



Thank you for your co-operation.

#HELLO YELLOW

£128.73 was raised during the World Mental Health Awareness Day back in October. All the money has been passed to 'YoungMinds'. Thanks to all who supported this extremely worthwhile issue.

P4 Swimming

Recently all our P4 pupils underwent curriculum swimming at DGOne. They all gained a great deal from the experience including some of our non-swimmers; many of whom are now more confident in the water and are no longer non-swimmers. Well done to all and thanks to the swimming instructors and poolside staff who ensured our children had an enjoyable and meaningful swimming experience.



Reminders:

Start of day: The school day starts promptly at 8.55 am, with a warning bell sounding 5 minutes before. Pupils need to be on the playground at this time, so that they can then be in class, registered and ready to start their school day. Children should not generally be arriving via the front office. Once again, the cold and wet weather seems to be increasing our number of late arrivals, so you may need to leave home a little earlier to avoid being late. We have some children who are regularly late, which is not acceptable and unfair to them as they arrive late to their class, which has already started. Office staff are then taken away from their core office duties of answering telephones and responding to the every-day needs of our very busy school.

Absence: If your child is unwell or has an appointment that will affect their attendance then we do need to be notified, as legally children need to be at school. You can call the office to speak to staff or leave a message on the answerphone, remembering to leave a clear message with the child's name, their class and reason for absence.

If you get a text from the office, it means we haven't had any contact so **please contact us immediately to avoid the absence being logged as unauthorised**. Thank you for your help.

P5J Parental session

Our parents/guardians came into help us begin our new project. We are taking part in the Edina Bulb project from now until March, helping scientists measure climate change.



Nithsdale Sports Awards



We were delighted to be invited to attend the Nithsdale Sports Awards where our Netball Team were finalists in the 'Team of the Year' category. It was great also to celebrate with our Netball coach Andrea who was a 'Coach of the Year' finalist. It was fantastic to be part of this event and to hear of all the sporting achievements across Nithsdale.

Considerate parking

Please be mindful of our neighbours in both James Avenue and School Lane when parking. There have been instances of late where the school gates in James Avenue have been blocked so that staff cannot get in or out.



Remembrance service

On Monday 11 November, Primary 7 accompanied by Mr Newlands and Miss Morton held a Remembrance Service at the Maxwelltown War Memorial. They read their own poems, recited 'In Flanders Fields' and observed a 2 minute silence where they were joined by members of the public and other Laurieknowe Staff.



On returning to school Primary 7 led a Remembrance assembly for the whole school and had the opportunity to share their work. We are all very proud of you!

Roots of Empathy

A warm welcome to our very own Roots of Empathy baby Reuben, who will be coming into visit P3D over the next few months to let the children see how a baby grows and develops. His first visit stole the show!

School term and holiday dates

Term and holiday dates for schools in Dumfries and Galloway

Current School Year (2019/20)

Term 2

First day - Monday 28 October 2019

Last day - Friday 20 December 2019

Christmas holiday - Monday 23 December 2019 to Tuesday 7 January 2020

Term 3

Teacher training - Monday 6 January and Tuesday 7 January 2020

First day - Wednesday 8 January 2020

Mid-term holiday - Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2020
(Teacher training - Thursday 20 and Friday 21 February 2020)

Last day - Friday 3 April 2020

Spring holiday - Monday 6 to Friday 17 April 2020

Term 4

First day - Monday 20 April 2020

May Day holiday - Friday 8 May 2020

Teacher training - Friday 29 May 2020

Last day - Thursday 2 July 2020

Summer holiday - Friday 3 July 2020 to Wednesday 19 August 2020