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Dunlop Primary School & ECC
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to my first Head Teacher newsletter of our new school session. I would first and foremost like to thank all the parents/carers, pupils, and staff for the warm and friendly welcome I have received in my first two weeks of joining Dunlop Primary and ECC. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming weeks and months.

Our new Primary 1 pupils and nursery children are settling well into their new school routine and our returning pupils are enjoying their new classes.

Communication

As we are not to be able to invite parents/carers into our school at this time due to Covid 19 guidelines, we will continue to think of creative ways to ensure you are as informed as possible to the life and work of the school and about your child's education.

Our school app will always be our main source of communication and where we will post important information. Please remember if you have set filters for your child's class to update them to reflect their new school stage for this year. If you have any issues accessing the app, please contact the school office for information.

We are in the process of updating our school blog which can be accessed via:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/dunlopprimaryschool/>

Our school blog will provide useful documents and information, school and class updates.

Our class updates will provide information on activities pupils are participating in both within the classroom and the outdoors. Class blogs can be accessed via the news section of the app, the drop-down menu within the school blog, or items also filter through to the news section within the app. Our class teachers have updated the blog with this terms newsletter and our ECC blog will be updated with their weekly reflections.

I am keen for the good news stories from our school reaching not only our parent body but our community and beyond so, we will shortly be relaunching our school Twitter account to share all the wonderful learning opportunities our pupils are receiving within the school and ECC – please look out for Twitter details coming soon.

We will also be launching Learning Journals as a tool for communicating learners' progress with parents/carers, this will be piloted initially with our ECC. P1-P3 will use these should we move to remote learning – more details to follow.

Partnership with Parents/Carers

Following feedback from last year's parent/carer consultations, we will be providing three opportunities for parents/carers to consult with staff regarding their child's progress in October, February and May, followed by the short format end of year written report in June. Pupils who receive targeted additional support will have opportunity for Child Plan targets to be reviewed in November and March.

We will be working closely with our Parent Council to benefit all pupils in Dunlop Primary and ECC. We welcome and encourage parent/carer involvement in the life of the school and will often seek views and opinions on aspects of school improvements, priorities and events with the parent forum

School Improvement Priorities

Our school priorities for this session are developing:

- Improved outcomes in Literacy
- Improved outcomes in Numeracy
- Improved outcomes in Health & Well Being
- Skills for life, learning and work

I will upload our school improvement priorities in the coming weeks to our app and website.

Vision Values and Aims

The school Vision Values and Aims were consulted upon with pupils, staff and parents/carers prior to lockdown and we are keen to ensure these are embedded within the life and work of the school. Our children will be working towards the Silver Rights Respecting School award and through promoting our shared values and a positive rights respecting attitude on a daily basis, will ensure our pupils feel valued and encouraged to be the best they can be. We will be updating our Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy to reflect our school values, restorative practice, and children's rights.

Covid 19

As you will be aware, we are continuing to work with the Covid 19 mitigations in place prior to the summer break. We have had updated guidance for self-isolation, close contacts and symptoms as per my app message dated 26/08/21. We appreciate that although rules may be relaxing in other areas of our lives, within the school setting, at present, they are not and are subject to review following the first six weeks of term by the Scottish Government. I would like to thank you all for working alongside us and our guidance for the benefit of all pupils and staff within our setting.

I have added to our school blog under the Covid 19 tab our Covid Contingency Plan should schools have to return to remote learning or in the event of whole class isolation. Please familiarise yourself with this document and contact the school office should you have any queries.

Please know that although our setting may be closed to parents/carers at present, we are always available for any questions and queries you may have. Please contact the school office or email eaDunlop.PS@eastayrshire.org.uk in the first instance.

I would again like to extend my thanks to our school community for the welcome I have received, and I am looking forward to working alongside you to continue to deliver high quality learning experiences to the pupils of Dunlop Primary and ECC.

Kind regards,



Laura Kelly
Head Teacher
Dunlop Primary School & ECC

