



James Hamilton Primary Sgoil na Coille Nuaidh & Sgoil-àraich na Coille Nuaidh

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Issue 1

September 2021

Head Teacher Welcome

We are delighted to see all our children back in school and welcome all new children and families that have joined us in Session 2021/22. Pupils have settled in well and staff are reporting that everyone is making a great effort with the work in their new classes.

This is an excellent start to the session everyone, well done!



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School App for Parents/Carers

Our school app is live! Please download the app by searching 'PSA' (Primary School App) in the Apple or Google Play app stores. There will then be an option to select our school, James Hamilton Primary School & Sgoil na Coille Nuaidh. We use the app to share newsletters, school dinner menu and many other important pieces of information.



School Improvement Plan- Session 2021/22

We appreciate the feedback regarding priorities for our School Improvement Plan that were submitted last session via the electronic survey. This has helped to inform our planning and identifying what parents/carers deem to be their main priorities for the school to take forward this coming session.

Our School Improvement Plan priorities this session are:

*Raising Attainment in Literacy & Numeracy.

*Pupil Equity Fund (to close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged pupils).

*Health & Wellbeing (Respect Me, Rights Respecting Schools, Neurosequential Model in Education).

*Digital Technologies.

Further details of our School Improvement Plan will be issued in due course and will also be shared in more depth at our next Parent Council Meeting.

Communication with the School

If you need to contact the school these are the following methods available:

- School phone line (answering service for absence and messages available) - 01563 558505
- School mailbox (general information) - eaJamesHamilton.ps@eastayrshire.org.uk
- Mrs Abercrombie (confidential information) - lynsey.abercrombie@eastayrshire.org.uk

Parent Pay

Parent Pay allows us to be a "cashless" school and is also an important method of communication between school and home. Many letters, updates and public health information will be shared via this forum.

A letter to activate your child's account has been sent home, please activate this as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss any important information.

We have noticed that some new P1 accounts are showing a negative balance but please be assured that the parent pay team are working on this discrepancy and any incorrect charges will be amended electronically.



Warn & Inform

Children and education staff will no longer be automatically asked to self-isolate if there is a positive COVID-19 case identified within a school or nursery.

All **significant** close contacts (generally household or sleepover) of any cases will be identified by Test and Protect and advised to follow the latest guidance regarding self-isolation and testing.

Pupils that are not significant close contacts but are, for example, in a class with someone that has tested positive, will receive a "Warn & Inform" letter from the school which shares important information regarding symptoms to look out for and next steps if your child demonstrates any COVID symptoms.

Annual Data Check

Please complete these forms and return if you have not already done so. We ask that you ensure that all contact details are up to date and please amend any changes then sign the bottom of both sides of the form.

It is essential that we have the correct emergency contact information for every child as early as we can in the session.

Photo Consent

A link has been sent via our school app, please ensure that this is completed for your child if you have not already done so. This will allow class teachers to share your child's learning experiences on our school GLOW Blog for you to see from home.



School Handbook-Session 2021/2022

Our school handbook has recently been updated and this will be available to read on our GLOW Blog within the next week.

School Lunches

School dinners are still being served within classrooms in conjunction with the mitigations in place for both the school and catering staff. EAC have now gone plastic free with their milk supplier and milk is now served in paper cups. Bottled water is still being provided for those that request water with their lunch.

Menus for the rolling 3 weekly rotation of school meals are available on the school app daily.



Homework

I know that many of you are desperate to get started with homework this session. We are only distributing Reading homework or encouraging Reading for Enjoyment (either independently or with a family member) up until the September Holiday.

The reason for this is that staff have been collating the very varied responses to homework from our Evaluation of Service questionnaire in regards to homework.

We have a working group that are designing the revised format for homework that will run in blocks beginning 21st September through to 3rd December for Block 1. This will be shared with pupils, parents/carers both in paper format and digitally as soon as it is complete.

Breakfast Club

We continue to have enquiries about when Breakfast Club will reopen. At the moment, when we and the associated ECC's are still using staggered entry and exit times, this will not be possible.

We do hope to get this valuable service back up and running as soon as we can this session. I will share information as soon as I have any.



Parent Council

Our first parent council meeting of this session will take place on Monday 13th September at 6.30pm via Vscene.

All parents and carers are welcome to attend. If you would like the link for this meeting it should be requested by contacting: wmcilvanneyparentcouncil@gmail.com

Social Distancing & Face Coverings

We have returned to school with all of the same mitigations in place as we had before the Summer Holiday. All schools are adhering to this structure and we will keep you updated of any changes as and when they come.



Scottish Government guidance on 'COVID- reducing the risks in schools', states:

***if parents/carers are dropping off/collecting children, they should wear face coverings to all school sites (including outside).**

***if parents/carers are dropping off/collecting children, they should be discouraged from gathering outside the school and should maintain distancing (1m) as far as practicable, when dropping off/collecting their children.**

***car sharing with children and young people from different households should be discouraged.**

We thank you for complying with this guidance in and around our school to ensure the safety for all.

Electronic Form- Evaluation of our Service- Session 2020/21

I would like to thank you for your continued support and feedback given via our electronic 'Evaluation of our Service' form which many of you completed before the Summer Holiday. Findings from this have been very informative to shape the progress of our school community this session and in the future.

Sgoil na Coille Nuaidh (GME)

Fàilte mhòr chridheil gu Clas 1 agus fàilte air ais gu Clas 2-7.

A huge warm welcome to Clas 1 and welcome back to Clas 2-7.

1. Bidh sgoilearan Clas 1-3 a' gabhail pàirt ann an seiseanan 'Leugh is Cluich le Linda' gach Diardaoin suas gu an Damhair. Primary 1-3 pupils will be taking part in Gaelic 'read and play with Linda' sessions through Teams, every Thursday up until October.

2. Bidh Cruinneachadh Gaelic againn on Teams gach dàrna seachdain. Cothrom againn a' tighinn còmhla, a' comharrachadh soirbheachas is a' seinn ann an Gàidhlig. We will have fortnightly Gaelic assemblies through Teams, watching from our own classes and look forward to this opportunity to celebrate Gaelic achievements and sing in Gaelic. We look forward to coming together as a whole group soon!

3. We will be looking to support the launch of a new 'Comann nam Pàrant' group in the area which relies on parents getting involved in a committee to promote and develop all things Gaelic - date for meeting to follow. More information about Comann nam Pàrant can be found here: <https://www.parant.org.uk/index.php>

Dates for the Diary

- 17th September- Holiday
- 20th September- Holiday
- Week beginning 4th October- Parent Phone Calls (information to follow)
- 11th October-15th October- Holiday
- 18th October- In-service Day 3 (No pupils attend)
- 19th October- Pupils Return



Once again, I'd like to thank our parents and carers for all of their support throughout what continues to be difficult and challenging times for us all.

If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact myself at the school.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynsey Abercrombie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynsey Abercrombie
Head Teacher (Acting)