

# Parental Information and Update 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020



Dear Parent/ Carer

It has been wonderful to be back with the children this week and to welcome all of our new faces across the classes. The children themselves have been simply fantastic and the shared laughter and renewing friendships have been joyful to be around. It has also been great to see many more of you (admittedly across the gates/ railings) and for us all to begin to get the school community moving forwards together.

I would like to thank you for your understanding and respect for one another in adhering to social distancing and the new routines that we have put in place. The start and end of day processes have gone as well as we could have hoped so far and, as the next week passes by and all families become fully familiar with them, will soon simply become part of school life.

As many of you will know, we have had daily police and community warden presence to assist everyone's safety and they have been very happy with the school community's arrangements so far. I would also like to thank the Parent Council again for their help at these times.

## **Social Distancing and avoiding use of vehicles during start/ end of day:**

We would continue to ask all adults to maintain their 2 metre distancing from one another outside of school grounds and to vacate the immediate area of the school as soon as possible. A number of our families have arranged meeting points with some of our older children slightly away from the gates/ Academy Road, which has also worked well for them.

We would continue to ask that, where at all possible, you would not drive down Academy Road during the start and end of day timings. There has been a very significant reduction in vehicles so doing which we are very grateful for. As many of you know, the school and Parent Council have been in contact with the Roads Department on a number of occasions over the last two years regarding safety and I have personally suggested, on several occasions over the last six months, that I believe a temporary road closure for vehicles at these 'peak times' would be the best solution. I have reiterated this in communication within the authority this week, though of course the school itself does not have any direct control over road use and regulations.

## **Primary 1 start of day:**

Our Primary 1 children have taken to the start of day arrangements really well this week. Therefore, we will be changing to our Primary 1 children entering school at the same time as all our other P2-7 children, starting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August. To confirm, Primary 1 children can come to school between 08:40 and 08:55 and enter through the gates which will be open. Our Senior Leadership Team and other staff will be in the playground to support the children at these times and we would ask that Primary 1 parents, as with all others, vacate the area and Academy Road in order to support social distancing after drop-off.



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## Homework:

For the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> August, there will be a whole school focus for all homework on Health & Wellbeing. The homework will link to themes that are being developed in class and will come home on Monday 17<sup>th</sup>. From Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August, homework will then revert back to our usual arrangements for homework including a key focus upon the core activities of Literacy and Numeracy. More information on homework is available on our website and through this link:

[Homework at Giffnock Primary School](#)

Whilst we are delighted to be back in school full time, we know that changes in the rates of infection for Coronavirus remain a possibility for the entire country and for all schools, and so we are of course putting in place the necessary arrangements should we need to move back to aspects of remote learning. With this in mind, all of our classes are in the process of setting up new Google Classrooms through which homework activities will be shared this session. These Google Classrooms could then be further used if needed. Each stage will have slightly different arrangements and we will share all of the information for supporting use of the class Google Classroom for homework in the next few weeks.

## Medical/ personal information:

In particular for any of our new children, could we ask that any outstanding paperwork is completed and returned asap please.

## Personal water bottles:

Given the health & safety guidance relating to coronavirus, it is vital that each child has their own water bottle for school each day; thank-you in advance.

## Twitter and website:

Finally, our school website and twitter feeds remain great places to keep up to date with all the school's latest news and also to see images of our children and their learning:

[Giffnock Primary School website](#)

@giffnockprimary

@GiffnockNursery

Kind regards,

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher