



Parental Information and Update

22nd September 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

As we move towards the long September week-end and complete our seventh week of the school session, I am delighted at the overall progress we have made together. Our children are back into the routines of school learning and, whilst there are of course a range of new aspects with regard to Health & Safety, the children are demonstrating great resilience and determination to learn and develop. These shared values and sense of moving forwards have been evident across the school and they will remain of great importance for our children's wellbeing in the months ahead.

We have tried to provide additional updates and information for you so far this term, including letters such as this, newsletters and of course that which is available through our school website and Twitter feeds. Whilst we understand how busy your daily lives are already, I also know that you will want to be kept informed of developments so we hope that the balance of information feels right at this time. The school continues to work in close collaboration with our Parent Council in order to share perspectives and support the best outcomes in all aspects of school life; our next Parent Council meeting is planned for the end of this month.

With all this in mind, there are a two key matters to share below:

Home Learning and our new school website pages:

All of our classes have a Google Classroom in place. This is being used for homework at this time and will help to support, extend and consolidate all that happens day to day in school. The Google Classrooms would of course be the platform through which Home (or 'Remote') Learning would be shared were a period of self-isolation due to CV-19 for a child/ class be required.

On our school website there is a wide range of information to support learning. However, in addition we have spent time constructing new 'Home Learning' pages. The intention is to provide a breadth of guides to learning, Apps, links to websites and other documents which will enhance and extend learning at home. We hope these pages will be useful in 'normal' school learning situations, in order to periodically augment homework activities. Were a period of self-isolation due to CV-19 be required, we also hope that these pages would be of great use in tandem with class teacher led activities through the class Google Classroom. You can access these through the links below and also on our landing/ home page on the school website:

[Home Learning P1 to P7](#)

[Home Learning Nursery Class](#)

We hope that they are both user-friendly and valuable to you and we would welcome your feedback on them. We also hope that you have enjoyed our 'Meet the Teacher' presentations which are all also available through your class Google classroom.



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End of day arrangements and Academy Road:

As many of you are aware, the school, Parent Council and local Councillors have been in ongoing communication with the Roads Department since before the start of session, regarding safe use of Academy Road at the start and end of day school times. The decision regarding a potential road closure for these short time periods is being considered by the Roads Department and we collectively await their decision.

In the meantime, we now begin to head towards the October week holidays and what is likely to be darkening evenings and worse weather. With these factors in mind, we have spent further time considering our risk assessments and also taking advice from our Health & Safety colleagues within East Renfrewshire Council. Having again considered the matter, we still feel collectively that having parents/ carers within the school playground areas on any further scale would create additional risk for closer proximity of adults, for longer periods of time, and therefore for the potential for greater risk of CV-19 transmission. The narrow exit routes and gates around the school further adds to the possibility for 'bottle-necking' on entry and exit and there would be a need for adults to be more 'static' in given areas of the playground, whilst waiting for collection, which is also challenging when collecting younger children (whereas at least on Academy Road there is a greater freedom for movement and vacating the area independently).

As an interim and additional measure, we will be trialling the following arrangements between Tuesday 29th September and Friday 9th October. We will extend the time that we delay children's exit from the school premises a little. Currently, our Nursery class, P1, P2 and P3 exit school at 3pm. Our P1-P3 children will be released a little slower, in particular at the central double gates where it will be one class at a time. Then, our arrangements have been that P4-7 will be released by 3.15pm. This will be extended up to 3.20pm at the latest. During the last few school days we have been delaying the release of classes just a little right up to the 3.15pm time, however we believe that this extra 5 minutes will further support all families in social distancing on Academy Road.

To further support all our families' health & wellbeing, we would ask all adults to continue using face-coverings on Academy Road at these times. Since last week, the response has been wonderful to this request, so thank you for your support. In addition, we continue to ask all families to carefully consider whether or not they are able to avoid Academy Road with their vehicles at these times, in order to best support one another. Please also continue to vacate the area after collecting your children as soon as is reasonably possible, in order to further support social-distancing.

Following the October break and from Tuesday 19th October, on any wet end of day periods we will also be keeping our P4-7 children in their classrooms in order to avoid them standing in the bad weather. They will be supported by members of the Senior Leadership Team at these 'after school' times. As above, all the children will still then be released from the school grounds by 3.20pm.



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We understand that these arrangements may create certain problems and/ or additional considerations for individual families and we apologise for any inconvenience. We will of course continue to evaluate how these systems are working during this trial period. Having spoken with members of the Parent Council about the matter, we collectively hope that these interim measures will support everyone as fully as possible and we thank you in advance for your co-operation.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Lawson'.

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher