



NETHERLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL and NURSERY CLASS
Clarkston Road, Netherlee, East Renfrewshire G44 3SF ☎0141-570 7260
email: schoolmail@netherlee.e-renfrew.sch.uk
Website: www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/netherlee



TWITTER: [NetherleePSandNC](#)

Parent/ Carer Update: Netherlee's Recovery Curriculum and Supporting Learning at Home

Hello everyone,

We have been delighted to welcome our pupils back to school and nursery and have been very impressed by their readiness and willingness to learn and also by how quickly they have all settled back into life at Netherlee. Thank you for everything you have done, and continue to do, to support this. We will, of course, continue to support all children going forwards to ensure that they feel happy, safe and nurtured in school. We are very mindful of the possible consequences of the pandemic on all children's mental health and wellbeing and staff are familiar with a suite of resources published by Education Scotland to support us with a more targeted approach for some children if necessary. Please do get in touch with us, via the usual email address, if you feel that your child requires some additional support or help in this area. We will be happy to help.

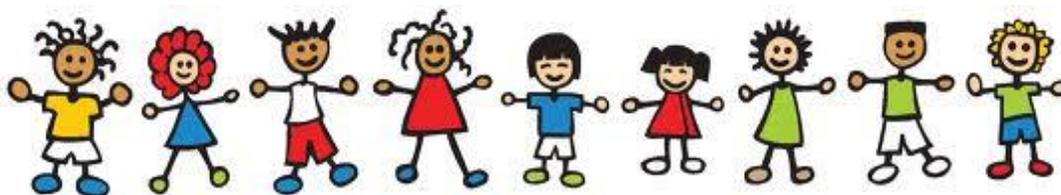
Our new Primary 1 children have been simply amazing, they have taken to life in Netherlee like ducks to water and we are thoroughly enjoying getting to know each and every one of them as little individual personalities. Mrs Sweeney and I have loved joining P1a and P1b at their PTA-organised P1 Virtual Welcome Parties this week and we can't wait to join P1c's and P1d's next week too! P1 parents - please remember to get in touch if your child is worried about anything at all or if we can help make sure that your wee one remains happy and settled in school.

Our wonderful P7s have indeed risen to the responsibility of life as the most senior pupils in Netherlee. Although their final year with us in primary isn't quite how it would be in normal times, we will do everything we can to provide a school year filled with leadership opportunities and new experiences, as befit our extremely capable and enthusiastic P7s. Mrs Roberts and I plan on speaking to the P7 classes next week in order to get their ideas and suggestions of how they would like their P7 year to unfold and we will use these, as well as our own thoughts and ideas, to get a plan in place for the year ahead.

Across all year groups, one of the most important tasks for us right now is that of assessing children's learning and this is very much the focus in every class. As I had previously described, during these initial weeks of the new school term, priority will be given to the three key areas of the curriculum: Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and English and Numeracy and Mathematics, and all pupils will engage in learning experiences in these areas each day in order to move their learning on.

In line with Health and Wellbeing, we have started the session with a three week focus across the school and nursery on our Netherlee Values of **Friendship and Fairness** (this week, Week 1), **Respect and Responsibility** (Week 2) and **Courage and Compassion** (Week 3). It would be lovely if you could work alongside us to support our values by also spending some time talking to your child about what these values mean - both inside and outwith Netherlee, possibly linking them to your own family unit and indeed the world and society in general. This work will also be complemented in school by making links to Netherlee's vision statement of "**Our Netherlee Community: Working With and For Our Children**". In order to re-establish the strong sense of identity and community in Netherlee and the feeling of belonging, we will also use our vision as a whole-school context for learning in order to highlight the many and varied aspects of our neighbourhood, community and surrounding area. The Leadership Team will also continue to use digital technologies to engage with these themes at weekly online assemblies.

Going forwards, teachers will introduce further contexts for learning that will engage children in learning and application of new skills across the curriculum in a variety of stimulating and motivating ways, whilst retaining a clear focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing.



Working With and For Children

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Wherever appropriate and possible, children's learning will take place in our outdoor spaces and we ask you to help us with this by ensuring they have outdoor trainers and an appropriate outer garment each day. Children are very welcome to keep these in a named bag in school, if that is more convenient for you.

Homework – consolidating your child's learning at home

I am sure that you, like me, very much hope that another lockdown situation does not arise, but if it should, we would like to be prepared to ensure that all children can continue to learn. Therefore, in order to keep our pupils and yourselves familiar with logging into Google Classroom and to keep individual passwords active, Google Classrooms will be used for teachers to post homework tasks for their classes. However, please be reassured that whilst our children are all participating in full time learning in school, we will only use Google Classrooms to post **instructions** for the whole week's homework or to post links to useful videos clips etc. Again, to help you manage this and taking previous feedback from parents during lockdown into account, your child's homework instructions will be scheduled to go live on Sunday evenings at 18.00 and will be available for access all week. This should enable parents, should they choose, to have time to discuss the coming week's homework prior to the busy week ahead.

As we understand that many families require siblings to share devices at home, children should not post comments or spend time uploading completed work onto Goggle Classrooms (these facilities will be unavailable at this time), nor will any materials need to be downloaded and printed at home. Each Monday, we will provide your child with everything they need as a hard copy, e.g. worksheets, and they should bring completed work back to school, please. We have put in place recommended and appropriate safety and hygiene procedures to allow for this to happen. For the time being and in line with our Recovery Curriculum, home tasks will focus on work on Literacy and English, Numeracy and Mathematics and Health and Wellbeing.

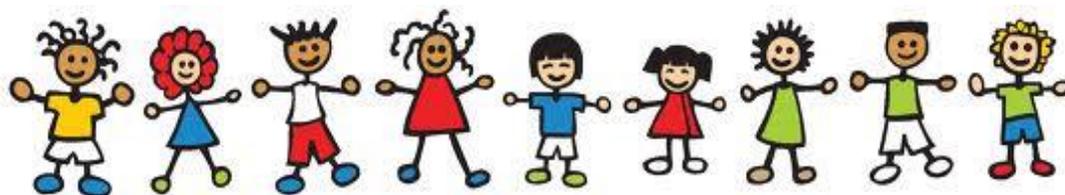
I have indicated below some information that I hope will be useful for you as a guide as to roughly how long we would suggest that your child should spend on home learning **each evening**:

Primaries 1 and 2	approximately 15 minutes
Primaries 3 and 4	approximately 15-20 minutes
Primaries 5 and 6	approximately 20-30 minutes
Primary 7	approximately 30-40 minutes

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself, or any member of staff at any time, if we can be of any help to you or your child. Have a lovely weekend.

Warmest wishes,

Yvonne Donaldson
(Head Teacher)



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