

Hello everyone

Well here we are, our last Friday Round Up of 2021! It has, again, been an interesting year and I would like to thank each and every one of you and your extended families for being so supportive of the school in so many ways. COVID has had such an impact on all of us but we appreciate your smiles and chat during pick up and drop off and we really do hope that it won't be too far in the future before we welcome you all back into the building.



I am sure you would want to join me in thanking all of the school staff for their hard work in ensuring our children have the best experiences, whilst they are in school, and for them offering as much normality as they are able to under strict guidance and mitigations. Each year I say this but I am so proud to be leading such a hardworking and dedicated team of staff in such a well-supported school.

COVID 19 - UPDATE:

You will no doubt be aware of the concerns around the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 and updated guidance issued by public health and the Scottish Government, particularly around self-isolation. Any close contacts of a positive Omicron case are required to isolate for 10 days. This is regardless of age, vaccine status or the receipt of a negative PCR test.

We continue to follow public health guidance using our own education risk assessments. Safety measures include regular handwashing and surface sanitising, staff wearing face coverings in communal areas and appropriate ventilation in all rooms. As well as our programme of lateral flow testing, adults in school maintain 2m physical distancing from each other. They wear face coverings when working closely with groups of children or individuals. As far as possible, children remain within their class groups indoors. The exception to this would be lunch time clubs.

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID in school, we will continue to issue advisory letters to those we believe to be low risk close contacts. However, if a confirmed case is found to be the Omicron variant, we will work closely to support NHS test and protect to accurately carry out contact tracing, enabling the NHS to provide guidance specific to Omicron to close contacts.

Anyone who has any of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and arrange a PCR test at NHS Inform. The cardinal symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of a new continuous cough, a high temperature and a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell.

Anyone contacted by Test and Protect or public health teams should please co-operate and follow their advice.

I understand that this is a worrying time and once again thank you for your continued support and resilience as we again react to a changing landscape regarding COVID.

WINTER WEATHER CONTINGENCY INFORMATION

After the icy conditions last week, we hope that the winter weather will not become too extreme however we always need to be aware of the possible disruptions that it may cause. On snowy and icy days, a path into the school will be cleared to allow children to enter the building. During the winter months there may be occasions when emergencies make it necessary for children to be sent home early. Although it is rare for a school to close, we have experienced it over the last few years. If a decision was made for the school to close, we would use the following communication to inform you of this: Email, Text Messaging, School Website and Twitter updates (@UplawmoorPS and @EastRenCouncil). The decision to close a school rests with the Director of Education and parents will be notified as early as possible using the communication above if it were to happen. Further information about winter weather contingencies can be found on the school website. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Uplawmoor/school-information/adverse-weather-information/>

Children should wear suitable clothing to school in case of inclement weather. A warm school jacket with hood and appropriate shoes / boots should be worn when the children are outside. Our playground staff are finding lots of children are reluctant to put their jackets on or put their hoods up, however we try our best to encourage them to do so. If we experience extremely adverse weather, then the children remain in their classrooms at intervals and are supervised by prefects and support staff.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Just a quick reminder that Primary 1-4 are having their Christmas Party on Monday afternoon and P5-7 on Tuesday afternoon. The children can come dressed in their party clothes - we will ensure, as much as we can, that they stay off the muddy grass! We have a special visitor who will be coming to see Primary 1 and 2.

CAROLS AND SHORTBREAD

Carols and Shortbread is planned for Wednesday 22nd December. As I said last week, there will be songs, music and dance but unfortunately I think it would be best to cancel shortbread and a hot drink to ensure we are keeping each other as safe as we can be. We would love if you could join us in the playground from 1.30 pm. We ask that the children come dressed in their own clothes and with jackets, hats, scarves etc for being outside. The Dance Group have been advised on what they should wear. It would be really helpful if you complete the form [here](#) to let us know if you are planning

on joining us. Again we ask that you support us in adhering to our COVID mitigations to keep everyone safe and healthy as we go off to enjoy our Festive Break. Children can be taken home as soon as the event is finished.

Please be aware that there is an early finishing time of 2.30pm on Wednesday 22nd December. If you are not at the Carolling, please ensure you have made arrangements to collect your child(ren) at 2.30pm.

Please note that in these uncertain times, all of our plans are subject to change. If updated guidance is issued in advance of any of our remaining Christmas activities, then plans may be subject to change or even cancellation. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

You will have received an email with regards to purchasing your child's Christmas tree ornament. We have set up Parent Pay for this purpose. Any items which are not purchased will be put to good use on our Christmas Tree next year.



STAFFING:

As you will remember from earlier correspondence, Mr Blackwell is leaving us on Wednesday 22nd to take up his post as Senior Business Support Assistant at Carlibar Primary. We are always sad to say goodbye to a member of our team but I want to thank him for all of his hard work and support and we wish him the very best of everything for the future.

CHILDREN 1st

Our colleagues at Children 1st have asked us to share their contact details with you. Clicking on the image will take you to their website.



As I am sitting writing this, the children are all enjoying their Christmas Cinema event in the hall. The children have had so much fun engaging in our 12 Days of Christmas activities and I would like to thank you all for your support with this. I would like to give a special thanks to the members of the Parent Council who have listened to our ideas and then taken responsibility for organising the Scavenger Hunt and Santa Dash. It is truly appreciated and as always, it's the children who benefit from your hard work.

And finally, I hope you all have a fabulous Christmas and peaceful New Year and I look forward to welcoming all of the children back to school on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Best Regards

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

Fiona McKay

Head Teacher