



# HILLVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/ Carers,

I would like to first of all thank you for your continued support during this challenging time. Since returning in August we have set high expectations for all pupils following the aims of **'Be Determined, Be Safe and Be Respectful'** with a focus on **'Fantastic Walking'** across the school.

**Enhancing playground experiences**

Following a return from an extended lockdown at home the majority of children are settling well within the playground, with a real focus on our values of **'kindness, honesty and fairness'**. We do have high expectations of behaviour within the playground environment and I would like to reassure you that we are still committed to providing positive playground experiences while keeping children safe. We have now organised and provided each playground with a range of stimulating and fun playground toys and it has been lovely to see the children engaging with this and we have been impressed with their many skills. The equipment is allocated to each playground and is washed down after each session. We ask that children do not bring in their own toys/ equipment from home.

**Uniforms**

Just a gentle reminder that the school uniform is grey trousers/skirt **not black**, as some children are now wearing. This should be worn with a polo shirt or shirt/tie. We do have some recycled uniforms available in school, please contact the office for further information.

**Homework**

Homework will be issued on a weekly basis after the October week on Google classroom.

**Parents Evening**

Communication between the class teacher and parents is essential during this time, Parents evening will take place by allocating telephone appointments in October. Further information will be sent out over the next couple of weeks.

**Outdoor Clothing Equipment**





Outdoor learning continues to take place across the curriculum, please can I remind you to ensure that your child has an appropriate waterproof jacket and shoes to allow for changes in the weather.

**House Captains**

Each year, Primary Seven children are elected to be House Captains to represent their peers across the school and act as ambassadors for their House. All children who were considered for the role were asked to attend an interview, detailing their skills and strengths relevant to these roles. They were then scored on their answers and four house captains and four vice captains were elected.

We encourage all children to participate in leadership roles in the school and to take on additional responsibilities. It is highly commendable for children to nominate themselves, knowing that only 8 children were ultimately selected to be House Captains. We celebrate all of the children who were willing to put themselves forward for consideration and we do hope that although it may be disappointing if they are not chosen, they will recognise that there are still many other opportunities for them to contribute to the life of the school.

House Captains selected are as follows:-

 <b>Grahamston</b>	 <b>Arthurlie</b>	 <b>Dealston</b>	 <b>Gateside</b>
Captain – Zoe	Captain – Callum	Captain – Hollie	Captain – Nathan J
Vice-Captain - Ava	Vice-Captain – Amy	Vice-Captain – Leona	Vice-Captain – Poppy

## Friends of Hillview

Following a recent AGM, the following people were elected for our parent council:

Chair: D Frame

Vice Chair: L Smith

Treasurer: A Meeten

**Next Meeting is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7pm on Zoom. Link will follow.**

### Identifying close contacts

Where there is a confirmed case within schools, Health Protection Scotland will work with the school leadership team to identify any children or staff deemed to be close contacts. This is done very quickly based on the rooms that may have been used by the confirmed case, room layout, activities undertaken and the mitigations in place e.g. face coverings, physical distancing.

The school then advises these contacts, issuing them with a letter instructing them to self-isolate and with clear guidance to follow. Where the contact is a child, we have an identified room for the child to safely wait and parents/carers would be contacted in the first instance.

Some parents were concerned about delays to contacts being identified by NHS Test and Protect. In schools this is done by Health Protection Scotland in collaboration with school staff and is much quicker than contacts identified by NHS Test and Protect.

Please note, if your child has been in contact with a confirmed case out of school e.g. at football or on a play date this would not necessarily be identified by the school but rather by NHS Test and Protect.

### Self-isolation/Online work

We fully understand that the need to self-isolate can cause disruption to a pupil's learning. We will endeavour to ensure that pupils can access high quality on line learning. It is essential that during the period of self-isolation that pupils, who are well, continue to keep up with their classwork through Google classrooms. By accessing the classroom, pupils will find:

1. Teachers will post learning activities including instructions.
2. There will be the opportunity to communicate with the teacher and submit completed work.

We ask that parents actively encourage their son or daughter to fully engage in their learning and to contact us if work is missing via school mail. [SchoolMail@Hillview.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:SchoolMail@Hillview.e-renfrew.sch.uk) Teachers are guiding pupils through Google Classroom in class at the moment to ensure pupils are familiar with the procedures they should follow to access the classroom and submit classwork/homework.

### Enhanced cleaning

East Renfrewshire has invested in a first class electrostatic spray cleaning system which is in use in all establishments. This is used in addition to our normal cleaning routine and is proven to be highly effective in protecting against all germs and bacteria which can live on a range of surfaces. I have attached an information leaflet with this round up that provides more information.

We also have additional cleaning staff in place to continually maintain and sanitise high frequency "touch areas" such as door handles, switches, toilets and stair bannisters throughout the school day.

Facilities Management staff have detailed guidance on cleaning requirements in the event that someone displays symptoms within the school and will take immediate action to clean these areas.

Hand sanitiser and antibacterial surface wipes are in plentiful supply can be used by children and staff to wipe down any equipment e.g. chromebooks, before and after use.

This is in addition to our strong messages around physical distancing, regular handwashing with soap and water, tissue hygiene and avoiding touching your face. All of which remain our best defence against this virus.

### Face Coverings

Despite all of our best efforts, it is impossible to completely prevent cases of Covid-19. However, we would continue to recommend that any parent/carer who is dropping off or collecting their child should wear a face covering in and around the school grounds. I know that there are exemptions and fully respect this, however it can be busy around the gates and I urge you to wear a face covering, if you can, to protect yourself and others.

In addition, as far as possible, please avoid coming in to the school to hand in forgotten items etc. If you do need to come into the school building please telephone in advance to advise the office staff and wear a face covering inside the foyer.

### Dates

This week is September weekend. A reminder that the school will be closed on Thursday 24th September, Friday 25th September and Monday 28th September. We will open again on Tuesday 29th September.

### Communications

Please remember to follow our school Twitter account - **@HillviewERC**

Kind regards,

*Melanie McCurren*

Head Teacher (Acting)