



Caskieberran Primary and ELC Newsletter – 9th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is hard to believe that we are in the final term of the session already. I would like to share some arrangements for the remaining weeks so that you are fully informed about what is happening. I am delighted that things are nearing normality but, we continue to take a slow and steady approach to any changes that we make, so that we plan carefully and with everyone's safety and considerations in mind.

Staffing News

I am delighted to say that we welcomed back class teacher, Mr Ian McCracken after his long-term absence on Tuesday 3rd May – it is good to have him back.

Unfortunately, Mrs McMaster is going to be off for a few weeks, so we wish her well and hope to see her back very soon.

I am also very happy to announce that we have appointed a replacement for Mrs Nellies. Ms Hazelton will be our new Admin Assistant and starts with us on Tuesday 7th June. A very warm Caskieberran welcome!

We have also welcomed Mrs Lynda Mullen to the nursery on a temporary basis until the end of this term.

We are at the stage of configuring classes for next year now that placing requests have been decided. At the moment, we will have 10 classes next session which is one more than we currently have. When I have had staffing finalised, I will be able to let you know your child's class and teacher and will do this as soon as is possible. The children will spend a whole day with their new teacher this year on Tuesday 28th June, so this will be our 'Meet the Teacher' day and will serve to enhance our transition plans with children and staff having a good amount of time to get to know one another.

Covid Update

As you will be aware, guidance has changed in May, and we are still ensuring that we continue to follow good hygiene and ventilation practices. Some staff may still be wearing facemasks if they wish in certain circumstances and, you may also wish to do so as well.

A reminder of the new guidance around Covid which is as follows. This is from the school's most recent risk assessment that is Fife wide across all schools:

- [No individual \(staff member, child, young person, visitor, contractor etc.\) should attend the site if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection such as coronavirus and have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities.](#)

Symptoms of coronavirus, flu and common respiratory infections include:

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- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that's unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

- No individual (staff member, child, young person visitor, contractor etc.) should attend the site if they
 - are required any other reason described by NHS Inform to self-isolate
 - have tested positive, even if asymptomatic (symptom free)

It is important that we appreciate that everyone has different personal circumstances and may have differing levels of concern around Covid so, as a school, we will take a slow and steady approach to allow our whole community to feel as comfortable as possible.

End of Session Sharing Learning Performances

We are very conscious that, as parents, you have not had the opportunity to be in school over the past couple of years so all classes will share some learning with you, and we would like to offer you the opportunity to come into school and enjoy a short performance from each class in the Assembly Hall on the following dates and times:

P1 & P2 – Monday 13th June at 2pm

P2/3 & P3 – Tuesday 14th June at 2pm

P4 & P5 – Wednesday 15th June at 2pm

P6 & P6s from P6/7 class – Thursday 16th June at 2pm

All P7s – Monday 27th June – P7 Leavers' Assembly at 2pm

This approach feels right for us as a staff, and we trust that it will feel right for you as parents too. After summer we will identify dates and times for you to come in to see the children in the classroom and enjoy seeing some learning activities so further information will follow, after the summer.

I had a good discussion with parents from the Parent Partnership at our recent meeting and I can confirm that we agreed on the following regarding Sports Day arrangements.

Sports Day – Thursday 19th May – Nursery (1.45-2.30pm)

Friday 20th May – School: P1-3 (11am-12), P4-7 (1.45-3pm)

On the day, the Parent Partnership will be selling raffle tickets to try to increase their funds, which as you can imagine, have depleted over the last couple of years when fundraising activities have been tricky. The raffle will be drawn on this day also.

We would like to invite you along to the Sports Day on these days and times to enjoy the sports. We will have identified areas for parents to stand and it will be further back from the children, so we ask that you adhere to this please for everyone's comfort and safety. We look forward to seeing you there in a couple of weeks.

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Learning Partnership Visit

Just before Easter, we had the pleasure of welcoming 3 Headteachers from local schools along with Rona Weir, our Education Manager. It was a very positive visit and, after a presentation from Mrs Cloy and me, they visited classes to observe teaching, learning and assessment. The findings can be summarised as follows:

The school and ELC's self-evaluation processes were described as strong with visits validating many strengths and development areas already identified.

School Strengths

- The majority of lessons observed were good.
- The school's lesson plan was used in all lessons observed. The learning intention was shared in all lessons and pupils were able to demonstrate that they understood what they were learning and why.
- In the majority of lessons, success criteria were co-constructed with the children. This reflects the impact of professional learning in this area, as in previous classroom visits it was only evident in a minority of classes.
- Pace of learning was appropriate in most lessons with children productively engaged in learning.
- A range of questioning was used in a majority of lessons.

ELC Strengths

- All children were actively engaged in learning indoors and outdoors. Children making good use of all areas.
- Development of literacy and numeracy evident across the learning environment – indoors and outdoors.
- Learning environment had a 'calmness' with soft lighting, plants and natural feel contributing to this.
- New planning documents evidence breadth of curriculum coverage, and discussion with staff highlights increased understanding of curriculum pathways.
- Nursery teacher discussed identified development priorities which were appropriate and proportionate.

School Next Steps

- **Further Curriculum development** sessions identified by 2 rounds of classroom visits during session 21/22–
 - providing quality feedback.
 - self and peer assessment – range of assessment techniques & strategies as a reminder for staff.
 - quality questioning and ways to involve children in this.
- **More focus on attainment of learners during class visits** – adapt observation proforma and provide observers with attainment data.
- Continue to work on displays ensuring they are age and stage appropriate and not too Literacy focused. Ensure balance of curricular areas.
- **Discussion of learning with focus groups** of children – use new recording format
- Continue **monitoring of jotters** – focus on attainment with planning, tracking and monitoring discussions evidenced through this – develop new recording format
- **Self – evaluation** from class visits and opportunities for peer visits

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ELC Next Steps

- Develop more **consistency in PLJs** in terms of regularity of observations, inclusion of children's voice, and use of the language of learning and progression.
- Increased staff confidence in curriculum and planning will allow all **Early Years Officers to take increasing responsibility in leading planning.**

Administration of Medication and First Aid in School and ELC

We recently reviewed and updated our First Aid and Medicine policies and procedures in school. With the following key information for you as parents:

First Aiders – Ms Julie Pryce (M-F)

Mrs Emma Lamb (M-W)

Mrs Hannah Sweeney (M-F) will be qualified from Wednesday 1st June

If your child has had first aid administered, then they will receive a white slip detailing the incident from our accident book and we keep the blue duplicated part for our records. Head/face and other concerning injuries will be followed up by a phone call home.

If your child has medication to take during school time, then we ask that you **always** hand this into the office (never hand medication to a member of staff in the playground) where you will be asked to fill in a form and be given a receipt for it. It also needs to be picked up from the office. We have a PSA on medication duty each day and he or she will ensure that your child is given the medication along with another staff member who will check dosage etc and fill in the record of the medicine being given.

Children with Health Care Plans will have them reviewed on a 6 monthly basis or as and when required and specific arrangements will be in place for their treatment and medication tailored to their needs.

School Dinners

We still have some classes eating their lunch in the classrooms and we hope to move towards all children using the dinner hall and servery as before. We ask that you bear with us around this.

PEF

We have been allocated £79 625 for session 22-23. Last year's allocation has allowed us to increase our staffing to support learners and focus on raising attainment and this session we anticipate will be much the same.

Transition

P7 to S1

Most of our P7s are transitioning to Glenrothes High and arrangements are well underway with details as follows:

- High school staff are visiting primary schools to get to know the children.
- Staff from relevant high schools are attending reviews for pupils.
- Enhanced visits are underway for GHS for identified learners.
- Children transitioning to the DAS have a detailed, enhanced package of visits.
- A Sports morning will take place at GHS on Tues 17th May for the cluster schools.

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- Cluster schools to visit Cairnie Farm on 10th June.
- Transition days are planned for all high schools.
- High school staff have been meeting P7s virtually through TEAMS.

School

- All classes at Caskieberran will work on transition activities towards the end of term. Mrs McMaster will update last year's booklets.
- Dates have been set for Caskieberran staff to exchange important information to the new teachers.
- Meet the Teacher Day – Tuesday 28th June.
- Caskieberran Staff have agreed what information and paperwork will be passed on to new teachers and support staff to ensure smooth transition.

Nursery to P1

Detailed information and dates will be sent out shortly to all parents of children due to start Primary 1 with us in August this year.


- The use of Seesaw has been very successful in the last two years, and this will continue this year. New codes for a P1 transition page will be included with transition information. This valuable resource can be revisited throughout the summer holidays to familiarise children with their new classroom and teacher.
- Parent and child will be invited to two sessions in school, one outdoors and one in the classroom.
- Children will be invited for two further short sessions during the school day (pupils in our nursery will be taken by staff), plus a half day session on the 28th June.
- An evening information session will be offered to parents.

Starting Nursery

Detailed information and dates will be sent out shortly to all parents of children due to start nursery with us in August this year.

- The use of Seesaw has been very successful in the last two years, and this will continue this year. Seesaw codes will be included with transition information. This valuable resource can be revisited throughout the summer holidays to familiarise children with the nursery room and staff.
- Parent and child will be invited to two sessions in the nursery, one of which will include an information session for parents.

With very best wishes,

Elaine Smith
Headteacher 

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Dates for Diary

Thursday 19th May: Nursery Sports Day – (1.45-2.30pm)
Friday 20th May: School Sports Day – P1-3 – (11am-12), P4-7 (1.45-3pm)
Tuesday 17th May: P7s to GHS for a cluster Sports Day
Tuesday 24th May: P7 Substance Misuse talk for all P7s
Friday 3rd June: JUBILEE HOLIDAY - school closed to pupils and staff
Monday 6th June: HOLIDAY - school closed to pupils and staff
Friday 10th June: Trip to Cairnie Farm for all P7s in the cluster
Monday 13th June: P1 & P2 performance for parents at 2pm in hall
Tuesday 14th June: P2/3 & P3 performance for parents at 2pm in hall
Wednesday 15th June: P4 & P5 performance for parents at 2pm in hall
Wednesday 15th June: P7 Transition Day to Glenrothes High School
Thursday 16th June: P7 Transition Day to Glenrothes High School
Thursday 16th June: P6 & P6s from P6/7 performance for parents at 2pm in hall
Friday 17th June: P7 Transition Day to Glenrothes High School
Monday 20th June: Reports go home to parents
Tuesday 21st June: Trip to Lochore Meadows for P7s
Thursday 23rd June: Silent Disco for P7s (2-3.30pm)
Monday 27th June: School Concert - P7 Leavers' Assembly 2pm
Tuesday 28th June: All children spend time with their new teacher - 'Meet the Teacher Day'
Wednesday 29th June: Nursery Summer Performance 2pm
Thursday 30th June - End of Session at 3pm