

Making Friends	Eco Friendly	Responsible	Respect	Yes we can!	Learning Outdoors	Enjoy a healthy lifestyle	Exciting Opportunities
-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	----------------	--------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------



20 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing October break. It was lovely to have some Autumn sunshine, although sadly this doesn't seem to be the case on our return this week.

I hope you find the following information useful as we head into term 2.

Kind regards,

Colette Haddock

Covid-19 update

We continue to follow all government and public health guidance in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our school community. This includes making sure all the classrooms are well ventilated and getting the children outdoors as much as possible. While we still encourage pupils to bring only what they need to school, please ensure your child is warmly dressed and has a waterproof jacket. Pupils are permitted to wear a non-uniform hoodie or jumper to wear in the classroom. Please make sure everything is clearly labelled with your child's full name.

Temporary Lunch Arrangements

As you will be aware, there is increasing exposure to people having to self-isolate in response to the test and trace process. I am afraid this has also affected our catering service. From Monday 19th October until Wednesday 21st October inclusive, lunches will be a cold packed lunch for all pupils. The time period is based on current numbers of staff self-isolating. I am pleased to report that all self-isolating staff are well and we look forward to returning to full service on Thursday.

Car Free Zone

This week sees the start of the car free zone as part of the council's Spaces for People initiative. As a school community, we have campaigned since the school opened to make the streets around our school safer for our young people. It is good that something positive has come out of the Covid-19 situation and I hope this will make a difference not only to the safety of our pupils but also to parents as you will now have more space when waiting to pick up at the end of the day.

This will also help support our Primary 7 pupils who are participating in the Bikeability Level 2 training. Having successfully completed level 1 in school, many of our pupils are now ready to embark on Level 2 which involves getting experience of cycling on real roads. I am very grateful to the P7 teachers for their hard work and commitment in making this possible for our pupils. Thanks also to our parent volunteers who are supporting this real life learning in manning the streets and helping to ensure the safety of our pupils while they are out on their bikes.

Please note that car free restrictions are in place from 8.30 until 9.15am each morning and from 2.30 until 3.15pm each afternoon. You should not drive or park in the area during these times. As part of the consultation process, we had indicated that the restrictions should be in place until 3.30pm each day as

our school does not dismiss until 3.10pm. I believe this is under review and this has been brought to the attention of our local councillors.

Halloween Fun!

Sadly, with all of the restrictions in place as a result of the current situation, it is likely that our children won't be able to enjoy their usual activities during Halloween. However, at Merrylee we always try to find a creative solution and I am delighted that the Parents' Association have taken up this challenge and come up with some innovative and fun ideas for our children to enjoy. This includes a 'Dress as you please day' on Friday 30th October. Pupils can wear their own clothes to school, with an optional Halloween theme although we would request that any costumes are very low key and practical for school! Perhaps add a Halloween accessory or some face paint rather than a full costume. To support the PA in their fundraising, we are asking for a very small contribution to this event. I will send further information about this separately. Many thanks to the parent volunteers for their support and enthusiasm!

Parents' Nights

Usually at this point of the year, we would be inviting parents into school to meet the class teacher for progress reports. You will continue to receive information about your child's learning experiences through Seesaw and you will also receive a tracking report very soon. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or progress, please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of the school management team.

Lost Property

Lost property is stored at the community entrance. You are able to access this at the end of the school day to reclaim any items. Please help us to return belongings by ensuring everything is clearly labelled.

Dates for your diary

Monday 26 October	Parent Council and Parent Association AGM (Please contact the PC for details in joining this meeting)
Friday 30 October	Dress as you please (more details to follow)
Monday 2-Friday 6 November	P1 enrolment week (please see information on Glasgow online)
Friday 6 November	Pupil Tracking reports issued
Friday 13 November	Children in Need (more details to follow)
Tuesday 22 December	School closes at 2.30pm for Christmas holidays