



Community Connections

Issue 2/20, 9th September 2021

Hello from Mrs Gillespie

I was recently fortunate to be able to change my car. It is bright orange – you can't miss it! I am not particularly interested in all the fancy technological additions that are possible – much to the frustration of my other half! For me, the most important thing is that I feel safe in the vehicle. For that reason, I particularly like a car that is slightly higher as it enables me to see the road ahead more clearly. This higher perspective (along with my glasses!) gives me the benefit of clearer vision which makes me feel safer when driving.

Clear vision is important to the success of my journey.

The same could be said about our nursery and school. We need to be clear about where we are going as a learning community – we need to have a clear vision. It is critical to the success of our learning journey.

This vision needs to be much more than a few words of vague intention; it must embody the values of the school community and become the foundation for actions that will lead to school improvement.

I was asked to articulate my vision for our school when I was interviewed for the post of Head Teacher. I thought about this very carefully, and was able to formulate this vision through the lens of established relationships, experiences and understanding in and of our school and nursery.

For a vision to be effective however, it must be communicated, shared, understood and owned by the whole community, and so over the next few weeks, I will share my vision with you and then look forward to figuring out how we can all work together to make it a reality.

Take care and stay safe,

Alison Gillespie

Get to know our staff...

Mrs Victoria Miller, Early Years, Education and Care Officer



What I am grateful for

I am grateful for family, friends and for working as part of a great team.

Interests

I like going on adventures in the woods with my two sons and enjoy Pilates for a bit of me time.

Favourite Food

My favourite food is lasagne.

Places to Visit

I would love to go back to South Africa to visit where I was born.

What I'm learning

I have recently started a BA in Childhood Practice.

What I'm reading and watching

I have just finished reading Play is the Way. I enjoy watching Gogglebox!

Something quirky about me

I have a Dual Nationality. I was born in South Africa and moved back to Scotland with my mum and dad when I was 9 months old.

Whole School Matters...

School and Nursery Staffing

Further to the previous update on staffing, I can confirm that interviews for our Senior Early Years Education and Childcare Officer will take place on Monday 20th September. The post of 0.5 teacher has been advertised; we are awaiting the outcome of the advert and will then be in a position to interview accordingly.

School Uniform

As indicated in the final edition of Community Connections of session 20/21, we had a good response to our school uniform survey, with a clear majority expressing a preference for a blended approach to uniform. This means that children should wear shirt and tie or polo shirts and jumpers / cardigans / sweatshirts for school with trousers / skirts / pinafores as appropriate. Dark self-coloured tracksuit trousers or leggings can be worn on Outdoor Learning Days. Children should wear shorts and indoor shoes for PE. Please ensure all clothing is named. Thank you.

School Grounds

We continue to have a bit of an issue with disruption in our school grounds – particularly in our nursery gardens. Whilst fully understanding and supportive of the need for places for children to play, we would ask for your support in ensuring that children remain respectful of the equipment please and in helping our pupils to understand why this is important. Thank you.

Road Safety

We know that some of you remain concerned about aspects of road safety in our village. Mr William Rice, Community Safety and Resilience Team Leader, has advised that a site survey was carried out by road Safety Officer Eileen Bell earlier this year with a specific focus on the school crossing patrol. The data that is gathered by these surveys is analysed and used to determine the optimum placing of the school crossing patrol. This is a dynamic process and the department will continue to look at any ongoing concerns – please let us know if you have specific concerns so that we can communicate them accordingly. Thank you.

Parent Partnership

The Parent Partnership met on Tuesday 7th September and discussed a number of items relevant to our school, including some fundraising initiatives – please look out for further details over the coming weeks. The Annual General Meeting of the Parent Partnership will take place on Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 6.30pm. At the moment, it seems likely that this will be a virtual meeting. Please contact the school office if you would like an invitation.

The Parent Partnership Team are keen to recruit new members so please get in touch if you would like to be involved – their work really does make a difference for the pupils of our school.

Good to Grow scheme

Our Parent Partnership have signed our school up to the Good to Grow scheme run by Morrisons Supermarket. For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you will get a Grow Token. We can then exchange these Grow Tokens for free gardening equipment to get our children growing produce in school. You can find out more here: <https://my.morrisons.com/blog/community/good-to-grow/>

Learning Matters...

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning is back! The children are thrilled to be back out in the community and in the woods. We are delighted to begin a partnership with the Clyde Muirshiel Rangers who are supporting this aspect of our curriculum. Initially, Ranger Mike will be working with P4/5. Watch this space for further developments and keep an eye on Twitter to see photographs of Mike working with our children.

Please ensure that your child is equipped for outdoor learning. Jackets and sturdy comfortable shoes are a must – our weather is so unpredictable as today has proved! Thank you.

Primary 1 information session

We have now rescheduled the session for Primary 1 parents. We would like to invite you to share with us in a virtual meeting on Wednesday 13th September at 2.00pm. This will be hosted via Webex - an invitation and instructions as to how to join this meeting will be issued on Monday. Mrs Carswell and Mr Pollock will join together to tell you more about exciting developments in play pedagogy in Primary 1 and to answer questions you may have about the Primary 1 curriculum.

Health and Wellbeing Matters...

Mrs Gillespie

Maintaining positive wellbeing in the school and nursery in Covid times

We have now had our first positive Covid cases in school. We are very aware that there is a lot of advice available to guide decisions about what to do when there are Covid related concerns in a family and this can sometimes be confusing.

Here is a summary of the guidance and advice we are working to:

Someone in my household has symptoms / had had a positive lateral flow - who needs to self-isolate or get a PCR test?

People who live in the same household as a person with symptoms or a positive lateral flow test should isolate straight away. If the test result for the symptomatic person is negative, the household can end self-isolation as long as individuals have no symptoms or have not been told to self-isolate because of another source. If the test is positive, the symptomatic person should remain in isolation until 10 days from symptom onset, or longer if certain symptoms persist. The rest of the household should continue to self-isolate and book PCR tests.

Someone I have been in contact with has tested positive - do I need to self-isolate or get a PCR test?

Self-isolation due to close contact is now controlled by Track and Trace and they will contact you to let you know if someone needs to self-isolate. It is recommended that lateral flow tests are used daily 10 days from when someone was in contact with a positive person and of course, if a person develops symptoms, they should self-isolate and book a PCR test. If you are unsure if you are affected, you can check by calling the Greater Glasgow and Clyde specific Trace and Protect line (0141 228 9900).

A child in the same class as my child has tested positive – what should I do?

If a pupil tests positive, Trace and Protect will identify who is a high risk contact. These are defined as those in the same household, those who may have attended a sleepover or close friends the positive child is likely to have spent a lot of time with in school. These will be the only people contacted.

If a child *is* identified as a close contact, then the following applies:

Children Under 5

- Do not have to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms.
- Are encouraged to take a PCR test but this is not mandatory

Children aged 5 to 18 years 4 Months

- Should self-isolate and take a PCR test

- If the PCR test is negative and they do not have symptoms they can end self-isolation.
- If the PCR test is positive they must continue their self-isolation as normal.
- If they have tested positive in the previous 90 days they do not need to do a repeat PCR test as long as they do not have any symptoms.

I am sure my child simply has a cold – what should I do?

Children often display atypical Covid symptoms which are similar to cold symptoms. If a child is unwell the protocols for a possible Covid case will be followed. We will contact you and ask that your child is collected and advise you to book a PCR test.

We will continue to keep you updated with any further changes and how they will affect our nursery and school. Please contact the school office if you have any concerns at all.

Nursery Matters...

Hello!

As the guidance on bubbles has eased, we can now fully open our outdoor space so that all children can play in all outdoor areas at the same time. They can mix with their friends and enjoy a wider variety of play opportunities. Our potting shed and outdoor shelter finally arrived, and the children are having the best time exploring and deciding what they can be used for. We are also waiting on a few more pieces from our friends at Inverclyde shed including large outdoor scales and signage.



We need your feedback please!

As we have made some changes to the outdoor area, we would like to get your thought and opinions on the changes. We would appreciate a few moments of your time to answer a few questions please – here is the link to a short questionnaire:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQctawUZKXGs4xBQD9RFh51is1MDmCNUNERLTThKN1BKQjRYWkhXVU44M05SRUdYUy4u>

Thank you!

Reminders

Please...

- remember that children need wetsuit and wellies and children have sun cream and hats
- ensure that children have a change of clothes – and a few pairs of socks!
- wear face coverings at pick up and drop off unless exempt
- provide only water in water bottles

Thank you!

Donations

We are now able to resume donations for the nursery. These donations help to provide some of the extra treats for our nursery children, enhancing their nursery experience. We will have a bucket available every Monday morning for families who wish to make a donation. Please note that there is no expectation, that donations are entirely voluntary and should not exceed £1 per week.

Thank you.

Coming Up

13.09.2021	Primary 1 information session via WeBex. Invitations will follow
23.09.2021	Community Connections Issue 3/20.
27.09.2021	Maths Week Scotland
04.09.2021	Dyslexia Awareness Week
05.10.2021	Parent Partnership AGM
11.10.2021	School and Nursery holiday week
18.10.2021	In-service Day for school and nursery staff

Outgoing Correspondence

31.08.2021	Primary 1 Information Session August 2021	emailed
02.09.2021	Follow Up Letter WBPS & NC Covid - Guidance on symptoms in children	emailed
03.09.2021	Class Bulletins Term 1 21-22	emailed
07.09.2021	Webex invitation to Parent Partnership Meeting on 07/09/21	emailed
08.09.2021	Nursery: PATHs Information	emailed

Thank you all for your ongoing support.