



Elderbank Primary School, Early Years, Supported Learning and Enhanced Deaf Provision

Newsletter October 2020

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to school and Early Years following the October holiday. We do appreciate that holidays have not been the same this year due to the current government restrictions. However, as always, at Elderbank our focus is on keeping everyone safe, happy and learning.

Early Years

Our Early Years team have distributed a separate newsletter with all the key information. We hope you find these helpful. The children are all enjoying the outdoor experiences and we hope you liked the pictures of them looking smart in their new Wet Wednesday puddle suits. Being warm and dry allows everyone to enjoy the fun and learning the outdoors can bring. We have welcomed a few new children to the Early Years and we are proud of the existing children for making them feel welcome.



Supported Learning

After 6 years our sensory room was needing some updating and TLC. We are very grateful to Irvine Incorporated Trades who donated £2000 to allow this necessary work to

be undertaken. In addition we are also in the process of updating and developing our Physio Room and look forward to sharing the photographs once all the graphics are complete.

School Committees

Life at school is a little different just now but we continue to involve the pupils in all aspects of school decision making. Our Pupil Council and Committees will now operate virtually. This is a new skill being developed for staff and pupils.

JRSOs

Mr Strang is assisting the pupils who have taken responsibility for being our Junior Road Safety Officers.

Our JRSO's are: Izzie Christie, Logan Johnston and Kaiden Wilson



Eco Committee Members:

Payton Rintoul

Madison Reid

Aiden McPeake - P5 Harris

Hunter

Katie Rintoul

Lacey Sutherland

Caleb Logan

Riley Johnstone , Iona Clarke , Andrew Henderson, Mason Boyd, Loujayn Bargouth, Kiera Scrimogeour , Jack Havlin, Amie McNairn



We will share the members of the Pupil Council and Outdoor Learning Groups in the next newsletter.

As you are aware we cannot have **Parent consultation meetings** in the usual format. In November we will offer parents a 7 minute telephone call the week beginning the 23rd November. You will be given a slip to indicate whether you wish a call and you will be given a range of slots to choose from.



Please return the slip to the school by Friday 30th October. We will then text you your allocated time the week beginning the 2nd November.

Staff will only make one attempt to call so please ensure you are available to receive the call.

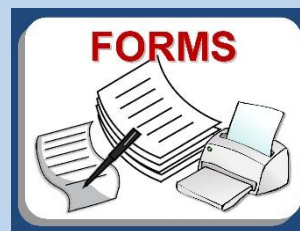
Team Around The Children Meetings (TAC)

If we require to have a meeting regarding your child this will be by using the digital platform Microsoft Teams.

Thank you to all parents so far who have been able to join us virtually.

EV5 Forms

Every pupil has been given a consent form to allow their participation in learning out with the school grounds. Thanks to everyone who has returned their form.



If you have received a reminder to return the forms please do this immediately. Your child will not participate if they do not have the forms. These pupils will be supervised

indoors while the rest of the children take their learning outdoors.

Outdoor Learning

As you are aware we are developing our grounds and expanding our outdoor learning opportunities. To allow all children to participate please ensure your child has suitable outdoor shoes and waterproof jacket. Please ensure all clothing is labelled.



Pupils can go outdoors at any time so please ensure the children are equipped every day.

We are also very grateful to the volunteers who have built us Mud Kitchens, donated tyres, bark and loose parts play items. The Outdoor Learning Group will share the developments with you more fully in the near future.

Primary 7 will unfortunately, this session, not be able to participate in a residential visit, but they will be offered a similar outdoor activity experience by the Arran Outdoor Education Centre staff either the week beginning the 2nd or 9th of November. Mrs Macfarlane has already issued a separate letter to all P7 parents and carers giving all the relevant details.



School Meals

This week we are Week 1 of the School Meals Menu.

The kitchen apologises for the change to the menu on Wednesday 21st October, but this was due to delivery issues out with their control.

We would encourage all children to use the school meals service. Please ensure if your child is entitled to Free School Meals that you apply for them. This entitlement is not automatically renewed even if your circumstances have not changed.

Face Coverings in School

Staff in school are now following the new government guidance to wearing face coverings in work place corridors and communal spaces.

I've felt it was important to share this with you as your child may have commented or asked you about it.



Face coverings in school grounds

As initiated previously staff are wearing face coverings at drop off and collection as all visitors are not maintaining the recommended 2m physical distancing.

We kindly request in the current climate, especially with the local restrictions in place that all parents and carers wear a face covering at drop off and pick up **MUST** maintain 2m physical distancing.

Head Lice

We respectfully ask that everyone check their child's head for Head Lice and if any are found please ensure you apply the appropriate treatment. This usually requires a second application. In addition to the treatment it is also essential that all clothes and bedding are washed.



Medical request



Please ensure your child's Inhaler or EpiPen stored at the school is in date at all times.

Flu Immunisations - Tuesday 3rd November

The Child Immunisation Team will be at Elderbank on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 for the flu immunisation programme. We have forwarded all consent forms to the team that have been sent into school. Please note we do not open these confidential forms, we are simply passing them on. The immunisation team deal with all queries. Primary 7s participating in the Outdoor Activities will be vaccinated first.

As the dining hall is required all day for this programme the cafeteria will only be offering a packed lunch option on this day.

Nut Allergy

We have a number of pupils and staff with varying degrees of nut allergies.

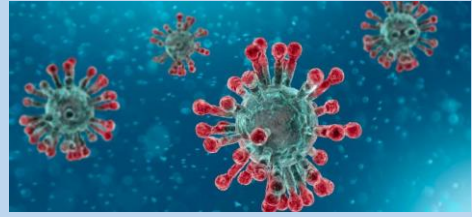
No pupils or member of staff can bring any nut based produce to school at any time.

In the interest of safety any product brought to school in error will be removed and a child will be offered a safe alternative.



Stay Safe

Please remember to keep your child at home if they have any symptoms of coronavirus. The symptoms are:



- **Temperature 37.8°C or above and/or**
- **New continuous cough and/or**
- **Loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste**

If a child has symptoms then **they must stay at home for ten days** unless they have a negative test.

If a child has been in contact with anyone that has had a positive test then they must isolate for 14 days. This also applies if a person they live with has any symptoms. There are no exceptions to this and the school consistently follows the rules as this is so important. The same rules apply to all staff.

Playground

As you may have noticed our playground is divided into areas both within the MUGA and the rear playground. We have now introduced equipment which has been risk assessed and can be cleansed easily. We will be encouraging and supporting the children to be outside as much as possible, so the jackets for outdoor learning with a hood will be required at playtime too.

Car Park

Please note that there is no entry to the school car park for any parent/carer unless they have a permit which must be on display.



We have dealt with a number of complaints in relation to drivers in and around the school. Any cars in the car park must be travelling **at no more** than 5mph.

All Drivers

Please drive slowly around the school. Please follow the signage and be careful at Zebra crossings. In addition parents and carers must ensure their children stop and look before stepping out onto the road and crossing. It has been observed by staff that a number of children have run away from carers and onto the crossings.

Please park considerately and NOT in St Kilda Bank, outside the school, St Kilda Court and St Kilda Place.

We have also reminded all NAC contractors and permit holders of the same expectations.

Pantomime

Although the Pantomime we had booked at the Palace Theatre is cancelled, we have invested in an online Pantomime and the children will get the opportunity to see this in December.



30th October Dress Down Day

The various COVID-19 restrictions have also impacted on some of the usual events we offer. In recognition that it is Hallowe'en next week and there will be no disco, we will have a dress down day on Friday 30th October. The children will participate in some fun activities in class, but there **will be no** dressing up in costumes. The dress down day was one of the suggestions put forward by the Parent Council.

Facebook / Social Media posts

Once again we respectfully ask that all parents and carers do not post inappropriate or factually incorrect posts on Social Media about the school or staff. As we have highlighted many times, we do not post our thoughts or observations on Social Media as this would be inappropriate, so in the same respect we ask for the same courtesy.

Together this promotes a more positive ethos. If you do have any queries or complaints, then please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Senior Management Team.

Late coming and Absence Letters

All of our start and finish times for every class have been clearly communicated and it is essential that all children arrive in school on time. We have issued a number of letters as a gentle reminder of the importance of good time keeping and attendance.

If you have received a letter please return the reply slip to acknowledge you have received it.

We have emailed the attendance grid separately for ease of reference.