



Gateside Primary School

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

A note from Mrs Logan



Thank you so much for your continued support over this challenging time and thank you for encouraging your children to engage with home learning. You have all done a fantastic job. I must also thank all the staff who have worked so hard at home to provide activities and support for our young people.

The procedures for starting in August are now being put into place at Gateside based on advice and guidelines from the Scottish Government and North Ayrshire Council. We are doing everything we can to ensure our children return to a welcoming and safe environment. Miss Dunlop's secondment has been extended until December 2020, so I will continue to remain Acting Head Teacher and oversee our return to school.

This newsletter applies to both Primary and Early Years, but future communication may be sent out separately.

Returning to School in August 2020

Classes

The school is due to open on Tuesday 11th August. NAC are following the 2-day model where your child will be in school for 2 days: Monday and Tuesday **or** Thursday and Friday. Groupings will be based on siblings attending the same days. As always, classwork will be differentiated to meet the needs of all the pupils in the group. We are working on groupings at the moment and we hope to share this information with you at the start of next week.

School Uniform

As uniform helps to create a sense of community and equity, we would still encourage pupils to come to school in a uniform. Due to Government guidelines of an increase in outdoor learning we would like the children to be prepared for both environments. This would mean that pupils should wear a pale blue polo (with or without logo) and a navy jumper or cardigan (with or without logo). Pupils can wear track suit bottoms or leggings with waterproof shoes / trainers. Wellies and gym shoes should be put in a drawstring bag and kept in school. We also ask that pupils do not wear branded labels and football clothes. A waterproof jacket with a hood should also be worn. Guidelines have also



advised that children should wear a clean set of clothes each day and that no ties should be worn in order to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

Morning/Afternoon Drop-off Procedure

To enable children to enter the playground safely and reduce a build up of traffic outside the school, we will be staggering entry times. These will be confirmed closer to the time. Please arrive as close to your child's time as possible. Those who have more than one child, come at the earliest slot and the siblings will be monitored closely in the playground. We also ask you not to come through the school gates. P1 will be met at the gate by their teacher, Mrs Reid, on the first days. No adults are permitted into the building. Once groupings have been finalised I will inform you of the start and end times.



Playtime

Playtime will be staggered to ensure we are adhering to physical distancing measures. Children should bring a labelled water bottle to school every morning, as we are not allowed to use the water cooler due to health and safety regulations. If your child drinks more than one bottle a day please put in an additional bottle for the afternoon.

Lunchtime

School lunches will still be provided but we are asking that a packed lunch in a disposable bag is provided, if possible. Mrs Reid's class will eat their lunch in the dinner hall daily. The other two classes will eat their lunch in class and hot meals will be brought to them from the lunch hall. Whilst the weather is dry we will be able to split the field for playing and therefore do not require to stagger lunch routines. This arrangement will be monitored closely and may be subject to change.

Procedure at Hometime

Like drop off in the morning, picking up will follow a similar format and will be staggered. The class teacher and Mrs Cairns will bring one class out at a time to meet parents at the gates or at cars. Can you please refrain from gathering at the school gate so children can safely walk to their adult. Only come to the gate at your child's specified pick up time. You will be given your specified times once classes have been finalised. Please respect physical distancing at all times.



Hygiene Measures

Anyone entering the school will wash their hands immediately. Everyone will wash their hands before and after every interval and before they leave the building at the end of the day. Antibacterial hand gel will be available in all classes and at specific points around the school. Teaching staff will also have disposable antibacterial wipes and will use these as required in the rooms.



Blended Learning

Blended learning is a term to describe face to face teaching and home learning. Further information on what blended learning will look like will be provided. During the recovery period the curriculum will focus on the following areas:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Literacy and English
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Interdisciplinary Learning (learning across different curricular areas)



Opportunities for outdoor learning will also be encouraged. Teachers will set tasks for children to complete on the three days they are at home. This will involve reinforcement and revision of work taught on their two days in school.

Children will require a school bag but not a pencil case as they will be provided with their own resources to be kept in school. Their school bag will carry their water bottle, packed lunch, healthy snack, pupil planner and work set by teacher to and from school.

Termly Review meetings

We will be unable to hold face to face Review meetings in the first term but will endeavour to either use Microsoft Teams for a meeting or a phone call with the class teacher to agree targets. You will then receive minutes from this meeting as normal.

Visitors to the School

Only organised visitors such as delivery drivers and peripatetic teachers will be permitted entry to the school. If you require to speak to someone then please call the school office or drop us an email. We will get back to you as soon as possible.





If your child becomes unwell at school

Adults will not be permitted inside the school without prior notice. If your child becomes unwell then you will be contacted and asked to put arrangements in place to collect your child. Please be reassured that we will ensure they are looked after until they are able to be collected. If your child displays symptoms at home then please do not send them to school.



Childcare Hubs

The Child care hubs will be moving out of schools over the summer holidays to enable them to prepare for August. We will inform you about the changes as soon as the locations and details have been decided upon.

Extra Curricular Activities

In the first term we will be unable to run any sports club. However, we will be creative and try to come up with other ideas that observe physical distancing.

How to contact the School & How the School will contact parents/carers

The methods that we would like parents/carers to use when contacting the school are by email, twitter or phone. All letters will be sent out electronically so please make sure you have shared your most up to date email address with us. All letters will be uploaded on the school website also to enable access.

Transitions

Early Years to Primary 1

Pre-schoolers have engaged well with the See Saw activities provided by Mrs Reid. The children also appreciated receiving their buddy letters, thank you P5 and P6. Our transition programme has nearly finished and we are looking forward to meeting you all next week. Mrs Coia will send you a reminder text with your specified time. Please send an email to the school address if you need to change this.

Primary 7 to S1

Primary 7 pupils have completed a very successful 3-day virtual transition to Garnock. The Classes will be shared with you shortly and I would ask you to contact Garnock directly if you have any queries. Ties and an additional transition booklet can be collected when you come to school to collect your leaving gift from us – please wear your school uniform.



Virtual Prize Giving

Prize Giving is such an important part of the Gateside Primary tradition. It is also our chance to wish those moving on to pastures new the best of luck. Although it won't quite be the same, we are planning to hold a Virtual Prize Giving. The prize winners will be contacted and asked to come into school at an agreed time to get their photo taken with their certificate/medal/trophy. Could we please ask that the children wear their school uniform for this. I will then create a video similar to the online assemblies and share this at the end of the last week of term. A text message will be sent with the link to the video.

As a staff team we find it very emotional not to be able to say goodbye to our pupils in the usual manner. We have loved the seeing the wonderful things you have been doing and please continue to share these with us. We hope the weekly online assemblies, videos and TikTok dances that we made helped to make you smile and feel connected.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, parents and wider community for the incredible job they have done in these unsettling times. I am so proud to be part of this wonderful, caring community.

Stay safe and take care.

Mrs C Logan
Acting Headteacher

