

Welcome Back!



August 2020 Update

We welcomed our children and families back to school this week and we were delighted to see them again. They have been finding out and learning a variety of new routines, hygiene measures and getting to know our new school environment which we know is very different to what they have previously known. The children have again adapted brilliantly to changes and we are so proud of them. School has changed a lot in 2020! What is not different is the relationships and nurturing environment and I was delighted to see lots of smiling faces this week, both children and staff were happy to be back!

Staff across the school have been very supportive in adapting to their working practices from the 19th March when we entered lockdown. They adapted their practice overnight from class-based learning to online learning lots of new skills on the way and engaging daily with their children and families. They truly are an amazing team!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and introduce new members of our staff team. We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Lynne Bradshaw as Depute Head Teacher, I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success in her new role. I wish to personally thank Miss Duddy and Mr Rutherford for their continued support in their acting role as job-share Depute Head Teachers over the last sessions. They will continue in their acting Principal Teacher roles this session. We would also like to welcome Ms Laurie Morrison as part of our teaching team. We now have a full-time nursery and as such I am delighted to welcome our two new Principal Leads Ms Debbie Harty and Ms Jo-Anne McMaster, our new early years worker Ms Louise Kelly and our support workers Ms Nair Moura and Mrs Julie Baxter. We look forward to exciting times ahead in our nursery.

Drop off and Collection Points - Stay Safe Protect Others

In order for us to ensure children are dropped off and collected safely we have systems and procedures in place to support social distancing. We appreciate everyone's efforts so far but would like to provide additional information now that we have implemented our plan in practice and received updates from North Lanarkshire Council. We have worked with members of the Parent Council to ensure our plan is as safe as possible and in line with all current guidelines. We have provided two maps to support this information.

Please take time to read over the following and contact the school should you have any further queries.

The colour coded maps highlight the zones and should help to understand the areas and procedures outlined below. Please inform anyone dropping off/or collecting your child of the system in place and your meeting point or entry point for the P1-3 one way system on the back pathway.

Start and finish times will be staggered to avoid congestion. P1-3 parents/carers can line up socially distanced (using dots) behind the fence at the rear of the school as close to their pick up time as possible. Please do not come early as this will affect the smooth flow of parents walking up the path to collect their child. Arriving early will cause social distancing problems and cause blockages at gates. We are asking all parents to play their part in helping keep our school community safe from the virus.

Please do not be offended if you are asked to leave the pathway if you arrive too early, safety is our priority.

Your child will be attending one of the following times:

09:00-15:00 (P1a, P1/2, P3/4, P4/5, P5/6, P6)

09:10-15:10 (P1b, P2, P2/3, P4, P5, P7a, P7b)

*8.15am Breakfast Club

Should you require pre-school care, our breakfast club is available from 8.15am and children will be supervised until 9.10am in gym hall 2 should it be required. Children can be accompanied by parents to the breakfast club at 8.15am and ensure social distancing with other adults.

Children arriving by Bus, Taxi & Pre-school Providers (e.g. Auchinbee)

Children will be taken to their zones by school staff and children who start school at 9.10am will be supervised in gym hall 1 should it be required.

Procedures for MORNING entry- 9.00AM /9.10AM

- The only entry point will be via gates assigned to your child's class. This will either be BLUE/GREEN (senior gate), RED (infant gate) or YELLOW (main gate).
- Staff will direct children from the gates to their zones.
- Children will line up in colour coded zones, using markers to maintain distance from other class bubbles.
- Children in P1a, P1b, P1/2, P2, P2/3 and P3/4 should enter via the infant gate (RED zone) by using the parent one way system along the red pathway entering from the path leading up to the senior end of the school and following it behind the playground. Social distancing MUST be used and dots are painted on the ground to support this. We want to keep everyone safe and our school open!
- Children in P4, P6 (BLUE zone) and P5/6, P7a and P7b (GREEN Zone) should enter primarily via the senior gate. *If a child is walking a younger sibling who is in the red zone they can enter the nursery side and follow the path to the red gate and follow the internal playground one way system to their zone.
- Children in P4/5 and P5 (YELLOW zone) should enter via the main gate at nursery end of school and walk round to the rear of the school via the main entrance. Again staff will be on hand to assist.

Procedures for AFTERNOON exit- 3.00PM/3.10PM

Staff will be in the playground at home time to ensure children are safely collected.

Children in P1a, P1b, P1/2, P2, P2/3 and P3/4 should stand on their dots and parents/carers then walk to the gate (socially distanced) when the class teacher matches you with your child. This will get faster as people get used to

the procedures. P1 parents - it may take a little while but staff will ensure that children are matched with parents/carers. Please remain in your place in the queue and do not pass anyone in front of you. We will handover children in line order. As staff become familiar with parents/carers this will speed up.

P1-3 Parents/carers must enter the pathway to the rear of the playground from the senior gate end and must follow the one way direction and leave the area via the main gate. It is very important that parents do not congregate anywhere around the school.

Children in P4, P6 (BLUE zone) and P5/6, P7a and P7b (GREEN Zone) Should exit the school via the BLUE/GREEN gate and identify a regular meeting point. Parents/carers should ensure 2 metre social distancing is applied. Children will be encouraged to return to the school gate and inform the school staff if they cannot find their parent/carer. Please help us to help your child by reinforcing this and ensuring your child knows where to meet you.

Children in P4/5 and P5 (YELLOW zone) will be escorted by a member of staff to the main YELLOW gate and identify a regular meeting point. Parents/carers should ensure 2 metre social distancing is applied. Children will be encouraged to return to the school gate and inform the school staff if they cannot find their parent/carer. Please help us to help your child by reinforcing this and ensuring your child knows where to meet you.

Signage will direct children in finding **bus stops** within their zone and staff will collect them from these areas and escort them as a "walking bus" to the bus which will be located in the bus bay. They will follow the playground one way system.

Signage will also identify **aftercare pick-up points** in which staff from your child's aftercare provider will wait. They will walk round the internal one way system and enter the car park from the yellow zone to board the bus.

Remember parents are not permitted to be in the school playgrounds or building. **This is the same for the car park which is strictly for staff only.** If your child is late for school please walk to the main entrance via the yellow nursery entrance. If you can phone ahead please do and a member of staff will escort your child to their class.

Children with siblings who walk home without parental supervision can arrange a meeting point within the school grounds. Should you wish your child to do this

please let the class teacher know and they will identify a route around the one way system which suits.

Please let the infant staff know, by letter, if someone new will be collecting your child. It is a good idea to give your child a code word that anyone collecting them from the school must know if asked. Please do not be offended if we keep your child with us until we are sure of the identity of the person sent to collect them - child protection is our number one priority.

Thank you for taking the time to read our new procedures and routines and I appreciate your full co-operation with them as we enter our "new normal." These procedures are subject to change as we navigate our way through the pandemic.

Kindest Regards,

Lesley McPhee
Head Teacher