



# Morningside Primary

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Newsletter - November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are almost in December but with the change in the weather it feels as though winter is here already. With this in mind, please make sure that pupils come to school suitably dressed with waterproof jackets, hats, scarves etc.

A huge thank you to you all for your support over the past weeks and months. I am so proud of the whole staff team and the wider school community in helping with our return and we look forward to continuing another fantastic year at Morningside.

## **Assemblies**

We have been having a virtual assembly every Friday. This is hosted by Mrs Gardiner and watched in each classroom by all pupils.

During these, an overview of work done in each class that week is read by P7 pupils to the whole school. Wider achievements are shared by class on a rota basis and weekly certificates for curriculum awards are given in each class every week.

## **Children In Need**

The House and Vice Captains organised a fun filled day to raise money for Children in Need on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Pupils looked great in their Pudsey clothes and well done to everyone who had a crazy hair-do, some of them were very creative. Everyone seemed to really enjoy Pin the Eye Patch on Pudsey and the activities the teachers provided for them in class. From pupils Dressing Down, Guess the Sweets in the Jar, Guess the Lollipops in the Jar and Design a Pudsey or Blush Competition, we raised a grand total of £307, so well done and thank you to everyone!

## **Christmas Plans**

- Christmas Lunch and Parties – we are going to combine the two but obviously won't quite be the same as normal. This will be taking place on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December. Children can come to school that morning in party clothes, Christmas jumpers or what they are comfortable in. They will be having their party in their own class at some point during that day around the Christmas lunch – the order for lunch will be issued shortly.
- Nativity – we are still planning a Primary 1 Nativity and are hoping to record this for parents, but haven't quite confirmed the logistics yet.
- Santa – as you know our Primary 1 pupils usually receive a visit from Santa during their Christmas party. Due to the current restrictions we aren't sure what this year's arrangements will be and are currently liaising with Santa to finalise plans.
- Pantomime – we have purchased an on-line pantomime that each class will be watching at some point before we finish for Christmas break.

- Christmas Service – this will be a virtual assembly on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. As we aren't able to sing, each class is learning sign language for a Christmas song/carol to perform during the service.
- Cards and Gifts - After discussion at In Service on Monday around further mitigation re: virus transmission, the decision was made that cards or gifts will not be exchanged in school this Christmas. This means that no children should bring Christmas cards or gifts to be exchanged with friends or for staff. This is not only to follow guidelines but also to avoid the financial pressure it can put on families. We always appreciate the thought but please do not send in gifts and avoid the difficulty of staff having to decline accepting a gift given to them.  
If you really wish to contribute something, we will be setting up a Just Giving page for the Food Bank nearer Christmas.  
We appreciate your continued support in these challenging times.

### **Class Showcases**

As we can't do our class assemblies this year, we have come up with a new way for the children to showcase their learning and allow for parental engagement.

Each class will choose one of their topics to create a showcase of learning to share with their families and other classes.

The showcases will be recorded and shared through digital platforms.

Our first one will be Primary 7 who will be showcasing what they have learnt about Black History and Slavery. This will be shared before our Christmas break.

### **Communication**

Messenger 5 (email) is the method of communication that we have been using for the past few years. NLC has launched the Parents Portal as a means of communication between schools and parents. For this to work effectively you need to ensure that your contact details are always up-to-date, to help with this the Data Check letters for your child/children came home earlier in the term. If you have not yet returned these, please check both sides of the form, update where required, include any updated medical information and return as soon as possible for us to update our systems. Thank you.

Details of the Parents Portal and instructions for this can be followed in video available via this link:

<http://bit.ly/ParentsPortalNLC>

In order to be able to sign up to the portal it is vital you are using the same contact details etc. that we have for you and your child/children. Also, if you already have and use "MyAccount" please ensure your details on this are up-to-date.

This portal will become one of the main communications between schools and parents across North Lanarkshire Council; it will however not be used as our main point of communication until the majority of our Parent Forum have signed up for it, we will continue to use Groupcall Messenger until then. We encourage you to sign up to this service as it is a one stop shop to many of our current and future communications.

You can also keep up to date with what the children are doing everyday through our school blog and Twitter feed.

Keep in touch at: **Website/Blog** [glowscotland.gov.uk/nl/morningsideblog](http://glowscotland.gov.uk/nl/morningsideblog)  
**Twitter Account** @morningsideps

### **Digital Learning**

Tutorials and Digital Guides are on our website for Homework and also for Home Learning (which is for pupils who are having to self-isolate).

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings should be worn by all children travelling on school transport, unless your child is exempt from wearing them. Children should store these safely during the school day and these should be washed each night.

### **Infant Registration**

Registration for infants starting school in August next year would normally take place in January after our return from Christmas break. Due to current restrictions and guidelines, we are unsure in what format this will take place. Once again we will update you as soon as things are clarified.

### **Local By-Election**

The local by-election planned for Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> November was postponed that week. We have been told it has been rescheduled to Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021. It has not been confirmed if this will once again entail an exceptional closure of the school. We will keep you updated as soon as we receive clarification.

### **Lost Property**

A reminder to please put your child's name on all clothing, bags etc. Due to current restrictions we cannot keep lost property and if we can't match an item to a child we need to put it in the bin. Thank you for your support with this.

### **PE Guidelines**

Guidance from NLC is that PE will continue to be delivered outside until further notice. Children should wear their PE kit to school on their PE day, and if possible, bring a change of trousers/socks etc. in case of wet weather.

### **Poverty Proofing Schools Policy**

We will be issuing a questionnaire, hopefully before Christmas, to ask parents' opinions to help develop our Poverty Proofing Schools Policy. We would appreciate your replies to this when you receive them. Thank you.

### **Reporting to Parents**

As stated in our previous newsletter we would normally have our first parent/teacher consultation appointments prior to the October break. Due to current guidelines we were unable to offer these, however the decision has been made to issue reports to all parents just prior to the Christmas break. These will provide an update on numeracy, literacy and HWB progress.

### **Road Safety**

Can you please remind your children to be very careful when crossing School Road and remind them of the road safety rules. School Road is very busy in the morning and at 3pm and there have been a few near misses with cars and the school bus. Children crossing the road should wait and make sure there is no traffic coming and the bus is not moving, before starting to cross. If your child is travelling by bike or scooter, they should walk with, not ride these across the road. We will also be reminding children of this in school. Thank you for your support.

### **Social Distancing**

Thank you again for your support with social distancing, particularly at the school gate. We have tried to make the entry and exit of the children as safe as possible. When dropping off and collecting your child, please remember a face covering should be worn and try to stay 2m apart from each other where possible.

### **Safe Use of Internet/Social Media**

It has come to our attention that some children are having difficulty in using the internet and social media safely. As part of our health and wellbeing we will again be teaching the children about this, however we would appreciate if you could make sure that your children are safe online by monitoring their usage and reminding them that anything they post online remains there forever. Thanks again for your support with this.

We as a staff want your children to be safe and happy during their time at Morningside Primary and are more than willing to discuss any concerns. It is always best to ask us directly rather than using other forums to air your concerns. We are teaching your children about the safe usage of social media and how our digital footprint cannot be deleted. Please be mindful of your own usage. Your support in this would be greatly appreciated.

### **Sapling donation from Woodland Trust**

Morningside Primary has received sapling trees from The Woodland Trust. As we don't have enough space in the school grounds to plant all the trees we were given, we would like to gift trees to be planted in the community. Thank you to everyone who has given a tree a new home so far. We still have all varieties of trees available; Dogwood, Blackthorn, Rowan, Silver Birch, Downy Birch, Hazel Hawthorn and Oak. We have lots of Hawthorn which is ideal to be planted as a hedge. The saplings don't require to be planted directly into the ground and could be planted in a large tub. If anyone would like any of the trees please contact the school via email or phone to discuss this with Miss Jones.

Jennifer Gardiner  
Head Teacher

27<sup>th</sup> November 2020