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# St. Gerard's Primary School

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## COVID19 Coronavirus Update

A bit belated but Happy New Year to everyone. I hope the festive season was as stress free and as Covid free as possible. I know of some families and staff who had Christmas day disrupted due to isolation so my sincere sympathies. It seems as though there is no real end in sight but rather a cycle of opening up and closing down again. This can be very challenging for us all but we continue to move forward with hope that spring brings better days. You will have no doubt followed the national news updates regarding Covid and be more than aware of the changes and developments. Below I have an update regarding developments within the school.

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## Arrangements and Restrictions within School

- Staggered start and finish times will continue until further notice.
- Children should attend school without toys or other unnecessary items.
- Children will not need to maintain distancing within class with other children but will be mindful of adult distancing.
- Sanitising stations will continue to be used as before on a regular basis by children and staff.
- Class "bubbles" have been reintroduced and when inside children must remain within their class group.
- Teachers where possible will maintain 2 metre distancing.
- Parents should wear a mask if they are dropping off or collecting the children from the school access points. Staff will not police this and we ask for your cooperation in keeping with school and North Lanarkshire policy.
- Contact with the school should be through email or phone call. Where appropriate the school will facilitate in-school meetings. This will usually be for specific purposes where face to face is significantly in the child's and family interests.
- Children should arrive dressed for PE as we have no appropriate changing facilities.
- Parents' Evening will continue to be online with details in due course.

## Home Learning

Children will continue to use Teams to access their homework. Homework task will begin from Monday and will be posted by staff for each subsequent Monday. There will be no homework in the week before and after the termly breaks at October, Christmas and Easter. All tasks should be completed where possible for the following Thursday and certainly by the Friday. This flexibility allows for family events and various clubs that children may attend.

## Contact Details

Parents should not come into the school office unless instructed to. If, for any reason you need to contact the school please email or phone the school office.

Email : [enquiries-at-st-gerards@northlan.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-at-st-gerards@northlan.org.uk)

Tel: 01698274916

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## Covid lateral Flow Testing & School Attendance

Please use the lateral Flow tests if you think you or family members may have contracted Covid. If so please follow national guidance on isolation. If a child is a close contact of someone in the family who tests positive they may attend school after a negative LFT. This should be completed daily while the close contact is isolating. This is also the same for staff. Due to these arrangements and the rightly ambitious aim to keep schools open, we are tentatively aware that this may cause staffing concerns as we move further into the term; already we are experiencing this in our first week back. Please be patient as we make our way through the term as there may be some disruption to staffing and children may come into someone other than their regular teacher. We hope not but better to be prepared.

## P7 Trip to Glencoe Outdoor Centre

May seems a long way off but our excitement is building towards our P7 residential experience in Glencoe, hopefully without the midges. Can parents please continue to make payments towards the trip and contact the school if there are any questions or issues. We leave for Glencoe on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

## Primary 3 Reconciliation

Our P3 will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February at St. Gerard's Church. We will be in touch very soon with parents/carers to give you more detailed information. Please keep our P3 children in your prayers as they prepare for this sacrament.

## Term Dates Holiday Dates

February Weekend : 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Children return on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Term Ends for Easter Holidays on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2.30pm

## FootPrint Friday Walks

Due to the staffing anxieties and shortages that are and may occur, I am suspending the walking programme for this term. I am hopeful we can begin again after Easter into the Summer term. At present we are not able to include parental support for our walks but if this changes we will certainly look for your support to enable the walks to continue.

## Big Play Fundraising

The initial lockdown resulted in us clearing our infant play area as instructed at the time. We then took the opportunity to throw out old used and tired play equipment. We are now looking to replace and enhance much of the equipment in our infant area. Mrs. Hunter & Mrs. Barr are coordinating this and your help would be greatly appreciated. We will hopefully have further details in the coming weeks given current Covid restrictions are updated to allow some events to take place.

## Names on Clothes!!!!!!!

Please, Please, Please put your child's name on all the clothing and school bags etc. It is very frustrating for parents when a child has left their jacket in school or another child has mistakenly taken it home and developed ownership of it. If names are on clothes, it sorts out small problems and saves parents' time and on occasions, money. Your support in this is enormously appreciated.

## Reminder Re COVID19

**Please be aware that all information in this newsletter is subject to change given that National and Local Government may change or adapt social distancing rules. Please follow press details from the Scottish Government and updates from North Lanarkshire Council.**