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| **Allanton Primary Newsletter** **November 2020** |

Dear Parent/Carer,

I want to begin this Newsletter by firstly offering a word of thanks to you all. We have put many things in place for the health and safety of the children, families and our staff team.

Thank you for your support at drop off and home time. It is important to highlight that in light of recent local restrictions and the rise in COVID cases across Lanarkshire, that we must all still continue to play our part. To this end, I have included some reminders within this newsletter so that there can be no confusion to the expectations placed upon us all.

KEEP A SAFE 2M DISTANCE WHEN DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTING CHILDREN

One Adult only (per family) should be within the infant school grounds and all other parents to wait outside the school gate.

ADULTS ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING

You may want to consider wearing one at drop off and collection. Any member of the public entering our building MUST wear a face covering.

DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL BUILDING WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT

If you need to collect your child for an appointment then please call ahead and we will happily help!

 

**School Meals**

TOPPING UP YOUR CHILD’S LUNCH CARD

We are not currently using lunch cards in school at the moment. This means that you cannot send money into school for your child to top their card up. You must do this online. There are a few children who are gaining a fair bit of debt on their lunch account, due to lack of funds being added

online to their card. If you need assistance, please contact Mrs Rae. Many of our P4, P5, P6 and P7 children should be entitled to Free School Meals. However, it appears that one of the following could be the case:

* Parents/Carers with children who have transitioned from P3 to P4 have not realised or have forgotten that they must now apply to North Lanarkshire Council for their child to receive Free School Meals. Only children in P1-3 are automatically entitled to Free School Meals.
* A family’s circumstances have changed in recent months and applying for Free School Meals hasn’t been something the Parents/Carers have considered.
* Parents/Carers are unsure of how to apply.
* There has been a backlog of applications to NLC and Parents/Carers have not been informed of an outcome.

Whatever the issue, if you need some help with this, please contact us at the school or go to www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or you could email FME@northlan.gov.uk for more information.

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**Digital Learning**

Home Learning tasks have been set in grid format on the school blog.

[www.blog.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/allantonblog](http://www.blog.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/allantonblog)

**‘Fun’ November Class Competitions**

As we are unable to have assemblies, we have decided to run some class competitions this month. This month’s class competitions will be:

* Firework Art
* Mile Walk
* Spelling Quiz

**School Uniform**

All North Lanarkshire schools must have a dress code, which encourages pupils to dress in a way that is appropriate to attendance at school**.**

We are pleased with the smart appearance of most our children and this is due to superb parental support. The children are proud to be identified as an Allanton Primary pupil by wearing their uniform. The school uniform consists of:

* Royal blue sweatshirt and cardigan
* Red polo shirt
* Black or grey school skirt or trousers

A few children are coming to school dressed in sports tops over their school polo top. Children will be asked to remove sport jackets/tops while in class. The windows of the classrooms are open during the day so it is advisable to wear a school sweatshirt or cardigan while in class.

WHAT IS THE PROVISION IF MY FAMILY IS HAVING TO ISOLATE?

North Lanarkshire Council has put in place a comprehensive strategy to support families if they have to self- isolate for any period of time.

* The school informs North Lanarkshire.
* The school informs families of what Learning Materials are available and how to access them.
* Community Assistance contacts the family to support (e.g., Free School Meals so that vouchers can be sent to families to continue the provision of daily meals.
* The school will contact the family by telephone each week of isolation.

 Help and support will be available throughout and we encourage you to contact us if you need anything… even something not related to school!

**Parent Portal**

Parent Portal is our new digital system for informing us of updates to emergency contact details, new telephone numbers and change of address. This system replaces the Annual Data Check forms. If you require help to sign up please contact Mrs Rae.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

ht@allanton.n-lanark.sch.uk

Telephone 01501 826703.

Isobel Cook

Head Teacher

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**Dates for your diary**

In-service day: Monday 16 November

Christmas and New Year Holidays: Wednesday 23 December to Tuesday 5 January

Mid-term break: Monday 8 February and Tuesday 9 February

In-service Day: Wednesday 10 February

Spring Break Friday 2 April to Friday 16 April

May Day holiday: Monday 3 May

In-service day: Thursday 6 May 2021

May weekend holiday: Friday 28 May 2021 and Monday 31 May 2021

School closes Thursday 24 June 2021