



# Auchinloch News

October 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all. Thank you for your patience, understanding and your overwhelming messages of support these past few weeks. The closure of schools and subsequent return is a situation very few could have predicted. The way in which this community responded is one of the many reasons why we all love this school. So, thank you; for your patience, support, encouragement and understanding. We did not plan for this to happen but together we responded in a manner like no other. I hope you all have a lovely October break and I look forward to welcoming you back for a new term.

Kind regards,

Mr Brown and all staff at Auchinloch

## Sports Committee

The first action of our Sports Committee this year was to approach Mr Brown and ask to organise a charity event. They decided to run a relay marathon. Each member will run approximately 7km with the total adding up to 26.2 miles, all to raise £200 for NHS Charities Together.

Please support our pupils achieve their goal in running 26.2 miles for NHS Charities together and donate if you can.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Auchinloch-Primary-School-and-Nursery-Class>

## Class Teams

We would like to say thank you for your perseverance with the Class Teams and One Note app and supporting your children in completing and uploading homework. This is a national resource that NLC have asked us to use as part of our digital offering. It isn't the easiest system to navigate and we live in hope of an update but appreciate the effort you go to each week. One of the highlights of lockdown was seeing the photographs posted on class teams and we are pleased to see that has continued in this session.

## Breakfast Club

We are pleased to announce that following the successful appointment of Mrs Watkins, Breakfast Club will resume on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Unfortunately, we cannot invite parents into the building and ask that those using our Breakfast Club service drop your children off at the bottom of the ramp. Children should then use the bell entry system by dialling '1' followed by '🔔' and Mrs Marshall will open the door. All children use the bell system during playtimes to go to the toilet. Breakfast Club is open from 8.15-8.45

## Halloween

We are planning a Halloween fun day on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Children can come to school in fancy dress or Halloween themed clothes if they choose. There will be lots of Halloween themed literacy and maths activities in the morning, a Halloween party in class in the afternoon and a spooky movie to finish the day. We can't have our normal Halloween parade in the hall, but we will have a virtual one in each class which will be cast on to the interactive screens in all classrooms. A costume winner will be chosen from each stage from nursery – P7.

## House Winner

The winning house for Term 1 was Wallace! Congratulations to the green house. The children were awarded with an extra playtime this afternoon. Term 1's points will be stored and added up throughout the year. The house with the most points in June will win the house shield.

Every year at Auchinloch we celebrate BBC's Children in Need and raise money for this appeal. We intend on continuing this tradition and have activities planned for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November. More information will come home nearer the time as to how to donate to this appeal.

## Christmas

We can't celebrate Christmas in our usual Auchinloch style as we are unable to invite parents and families in to be our audience, but we won't let Coronavirus stop us. We have adapted and have a plan so watch this space! You don't need to worry about booking time off of work for this celebration. Class Christmas parties and Christmas lunch will go ahead as normal with dates to be confirmed and we have even managed to organise a contact free Panto viewing. More information will come out nearer the time.

# Return to School Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our return to school survey. The results were overwhelmingly positive and the comments you left have allowed us to adapt our procedures but still follow NLC guidelines. Please see a summary of the results below.

Most respondents said that parents/carers were social distancing at entry and exit times of the school day. The comments provided context which we were able to address.

All almost all respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the schools' arrangements, following NLC guidance over staggered start times for welcoming children in the morning.

Almost all were satisfied or very satisfied with the schools' arrangements, following NLC guidance in children exiting at the end of the school day.

Almost all respondents felt their child or children have been well or extremely well supported since their return to school in August.

## You Said...

My child is too cold/hot sitting so close to the window.

On wet mornings children should be allowed inside before the bell.

There is a bottle neck of parents at the gate at the end of the pupil day.

Some desks look quite cramped together and we worry about increased risk of catching colds/bugs

Parents are struggling to social distance across the road from the school gate.

10 minutes between the younger children and older is too long.

Children with health conditions shouldn't have to stay outside in the rain.

We like to know about the activities that go on day to day.

## We did...

- We invited parents to collect children from the playground at the end of the day.
- When the small gate presented as an issue we risk assessed and now open the large gates at the end of every day. A member of staff stands at the gate until all children leave.
- Teachers rearranged seating to allow more group work and moved desks further away from the windows.
- We reintroduced wet playtimes in the classroom when the rain is heavy.
- On wet morning we invite children in before the bell and go straight to their classroom.
- We changed the end of day bells and reduced the staggered time to 5 minutes.
- We sent out class newsletters and teachers regularly post photographs and videos on Twitter. The Twitter feed can be viewed on the school website.

Words that made a regular appearance in the comments...

comfortable  
supported content  
happy thank you  
above and beyond safe  
welcoming