



Auchinloch News

September 2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

I wish to extend you a warm welcome back to school on behalf of all the staff. We start another school year with a degree of uncertainty, following the further implications of COVID-19. Whilst the future is uncertain, we remain confident and optimistic for the year ahead. Our confident optimism in the face of adversity is a testament to the strong community which surrounds us. Over the past two academic years we have worked together to overcome one of the biggest challenges this generation of children have ever faced, and I am confident we will succeed once more. Though we remain physically distant, please know that we are here for you whenever you need us, our virtual door is always open.

Kind regards,
Mr Brown and all staff at Auchinloch

Diary Dates



- 13th – 17th Sep: STV Appeal Week
- 16th Sep: STV Appeal Obstacle Course
- 24th – 27th Sep: Holiday Weekend
- 6th Oct: Parent Consultations
- 9th -17th Oct: Holiday Week
- 29th Oct: Halloween Fun Day
- 3rd Nov: Flu Vaccinations
- 15th Nov: Inservice Day
- 13th – 17th Dec: Christmas Party Week
- 22nd Dec: School Closes for Holiday, 2.30pm
- 10th Jan: School reopens

STV Appeal

On the week beginning 13th September we are going to be fundraising for the STV Children's Appeal. The aim is to complete a challenge 10 times and raise money to help children living in poverty across Scotland. The children in Room 4 are going to design an obstacle course for all children to complete on the afternoon of Thu 16th September. Each class are also completing their own challenge. Please keep an eye on Twitter to see us complete our challenges. If you would like to support the children and donate to the appeal, please visit.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/aps10x2021>

All donations are much appreciated.



Homework

This term we are piloting a new way of doing homework. Following feedback from parents, we are aiming to reduce the stress homework often causes as our families are juggling busy lives and the various activities children have on in the evenings. On the Education Endowment Foundation Toolkit through the Education Scotland Website, homework is shown as having a low impact on raising attainment whilst working on reading strategies is noted as having a high impact. Up until the October week, we will only be sending home reading books as homework. Teachers will prepare and upload to the Class Team a fortnightly grid of suggested activities that will also contain the phonemes and spelling words to be taught in those weeks. This gives you the opportunity to practise these at home if you choose to and select other activities if the routine of homework does work for your family. There will however be no expectation to complete homework (other than reading) or send any evidence of it into school. After the October break we will send home a parent satisfaction survey to gauge how you have found the new system and allow us to decide whether to change it or make it permanent. We will also seek the views of the pupils. There may still be times where individual children are given specific tasks to complete but these will be targeted to support those individual's learning and not generic whole class activities.

We share lots of photographs and videos on our school Twitter page. Please follow us, @AuchinlochPrim1
If you don't use Twitter you can view our feed through the school webpage. www.auchinloch.n-lanark.sch.uk

Medication and Special Diets

We are currently reviewing our procedures for administration of medication in the school. As a result, if any medication for your child is held in the school office, new medical forms will be issued to you this week. We request that these are filled in and returned as soon as possible. We will also inform you if your child's medication is out of date or due to go out of date before the end of 2021. If you have filled in the yellow forms since the return to school in August, you will not need to do this again. Medication can no longer be held in the school over the summer holiday so at the end of June 2022 all medication will need to be collected from the school office and then returned at the start of the new school year.

North Lanarkshire catering services have also produced new diet forms. It is important if your child has food allergies or requires a special diet that these are filled in and held by North Lanarkshire's nutritionist. The information is then passed on to the staff in Auchinloch kitchen. For the first time there is also a form for children who have a different diet. For example, vegetarian or vegan for religious, cultural or lifestyle reasons. If we have it on record that your child has a food allergy, we will issue you with the new form. If a new food allergy has developed or if your child is vegetarian or vegan and we haven't already been in touch, please email enquiries-at-auchinloch@northlan.org.uk and request the Special Diet forms.

Uniform & PE Kit

It's been lovely seeing our children looking so smart in their school uniform. We have had a few questions about PE kit so please find a reminder about uniform in general below. Please ensure every item of clothing is labelled. We have jumpers and cardigans lying unclaimed by P1-7 children and we cannot return them as there are no names on them.

On PE days, children can come to school wearing their PE kit to save having to get changed.

School Uniform	PE Kit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White shirt or blouse• White polo shirt with or without school logo• Red sweatshirt, cardigan or tank top with or without school logo• Grey trousers, skirt, pinafore or shorts• Red and silver striped tie• Grey or black tights• Grey or white socks• Black/Grey school shoes or trainers• Grey school blazer• Red fleece/waterproof jacket or other weatherproof jacket• Red and white checked summer dress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White polo shirt or t-shirt• Black or red shorts• Plain black leggings or jogging bottoms (small or no logo)• Trainers <p>*No football clothes or colours are permitted*</p>

COVID-19

Whilst society is gradually returning to normal and many group activities have resumed, the COVID case numbers remain high. We are grateful for your support in remaining vigilant in your mask wearing and social distancing in the playground and appreciate your effort in keeping our school community safe. Our COVID procedures in school remain unchanged with our staggered starts and breaks and the regular handwashing and sanitising throughout the school day. Contact tracing procedures have changed and now full responsibility for Track and Trace lies with Public Health Scotland and not in any way with the school. We do, however, encourage you to take your child for a PCR test should they develop any COVID symptoms and ask that you inform us of any positive results. If your child develops any COVID symptoms at school, we will contact you and ask you to collect them, book a PCR test and await a negative result before your child returns to school. Please be reminded that a negative result on a lateral flow test is **not** sufficient where symptoms are present.

Vandalism

Unfortunately, members of the public have accessed the school playground over the summer and it seems in the weekends since our return and as a result there has been cases of vandalism and serious littering. The padlock for the main car gate was removed and stolen, the chains for our basket ball hoops have been stolen and the nursery bike shed has had the door kicked in resulting in it coming away from the runner altogether. In the nursery playground the playhouses and equipment have also been moved and messed around with. The litter left behind is awful with Mrs Whitefield being left to clear away food packets and juice bottles, not to mention the cans of alcohol and cigarette butts often found in the Outdoor Classroom. We have reported this to the police and would encourage any members of our community to do the same if you see anyone in the playground.