 **Cumbernauld Primary School**

**May Newsletter 2021**

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**VISION** In our school we aim to provide a secure, stimulating environment where, each child feels included and their individual abilities, skills and talents are fully developed.

**HEAD TEACHER’S MESSAGE**

I can’t quite believe it, but we are now in the final term of this school year! I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful spring holiday. It is good to see that the children are refreshed from their holiday. There has been an exciting sense of positivity, new beginnings and energy around the school community. This has been accompanied by the changing of the season and reflected in the weather.

We are looking forward to this term and new contexts, opportunities and experiences to further develop our love of learning, skills and knowledge. Your child’s class teacher will be working with the children to involve them in the planning of topics and aspects of their learning. You will soon be receiving a copy of the latest **‘Home Information Sheet’** outlining the plans for the final term.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Primary 7 children well in their final weeks at Cumbernauld Primary and I am confident that all pupils will achieve success during this term.

This newsletter aims to keep you informed about the latest achievements and events occurring in the school.

**CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE**

Protecting children and young people is everyone’s job. If you have any concerns about a child’s wellbeing, please contact, Ed Clinton, Head Teacher on 01236 632110. Any concerns should be reported to Jenny Hart, Depute Head Teacher, in his absence. Our local social work office can be contacted on 01236 638700. Social Work Emergency Services can be contacted on 0800 121 4114.

**STUDENT PLACEMENTS- STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY**

This term we welcome a number of students to the school to complete their placements with us.

* Graeme Keay is working with Primary 2a and Mrs Kinnear.
* Victoria Gillies is working with Primary 5b and Mrs Curran.
* Meghan Williams is working with Primary 7a and Mrs Brett and;
* Emily McConnell is working with Primary 7b and Mrs Ogilvie.

We hope you enjoy your time at Cumbernauld!

**NURSERY TO PRIMARY 1**

Enrolment of pre-school children for Primary 1 took place in January as normal, however, this was completed online rather than in person. Due to current restrictions, and circumstances, we have made alternative arrangements for transition until such times we are permitted visitors into the building. However, if we are given permission for this in good time, we will be in touch to make the necessary arrangements.

In the meantime, we have written to all of our P1 families to welcome them to Cumbernauld Primary School. Mrs Hart, our Depute Head Teacher, has also created a section on our school website with the latest information and updates for our new P1 pupils.

**PRIMARY 7 TO SECONDARY EDUCATION**

As you will know, Cumbernauld Academy has started their transition work with our P7 pupils. We will keep parents/carers for any child who is transferring to a school other than Cumbernauld Academy informed of transition information we receive.

Plans for transfer to S1, will continually be adapted in light of any changes to government guidance and we will keep you informed of this as soon as we have any further information.

**SCOTTISH NATIONAL STANDARDISED ASSESSMENTS – P1, P4 & P7**

The Scottish Government have introduced national standardised assessment to all schools in Scotland. These assessments will provide an additional source of nationally consistent evidence for teachers to use when assessing children’s progress. Pupils will complete these assessments during this term in school. Further information can be found at: <https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/parents-and-carers/>

**REPORTING TO PARENTS**

One of the things we have really missed this session is having parents through our doors. These in person interactions help us to connect together and build a sense of community. However, we hope that the recent telephone conversations with our class teachers has enabled parents to gain more insight into the progress made by their child (ren) during this session.

Our teaching staff will now begin the process of compiling your child’s annual report. These reports will be shared with parents and carers in June 2021. This will be emailed directly to the main contact registered with our school office. Please ensure our school office has the latest information regarding your contact details. Thank you for your support.

**COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY- TACKLING POVERTY**

We have consulted with parents and pupils to produce a statement on removing the poverty barriers to education to ensure all members of our community are included and achieve. Our statement has been shared with our Parent Council. This details how we can deliver universal support to our families in relation to:

* Uniform
* Equipment and resources
* School trips and excursions
* Fundraisers and theme days
* Period poverty
* Food poverty

In addition to this we have signposted within the policy the support available to families in maximising incomes and assistance from the Council’s Financial Inclusion Team. (t- 01236 332551 or e- [FIT@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:FIT@northlan.gov.uk) )

This position statement can be accessed from our school website.

**PLANNING AHEAD TO SESSION 2021-22**

We are starting to think about class compositions for next session. It will be necessary to restructure classes in the school for August 2021 due to the distribution of numbers of children across the P1-P7 year groups for next year. This will include the formation of some composite classes. Parents regularly ask about composite classes, and we can reassure you that the education of your child will not be adversely affected through inclusion in a composite class. We also have to take account of the following class size limits.

**1. Straight class** Primary 1 25 pupils

Primaries 2 & 3 30 pupils

Primaries 4-7 33 pupils

**2. Composite class** Primaries 1-7 25 pupils

Our criteria for selecting children for classes is as follows:

* **Age-** At the Primary 1 stage we usually consider age as a probable indicator of maturity and put the oldest children in a composite class.
* **Working Groups-** At all other stages of the school we select groups of children who are of similar ability (usually literacy/numeracy groups) and who the current teacher feels will work well to go into a particular class. These decisions are based on the professional judgement of those staff who best know how the children work and learn together

Probable class structures for 2021/22 are shown in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| P1A | P1B | P1C | P2A | P2B |
| P3A | P3B | P3/4 | P4 | P4/5 |
| P5 | P5/6 | P6 | P6/7 | P7 |

If for some reason you are moving out of the area and your child will not need his/her space in August 2021 or you know someone who may be moving into our catchment area, please let us know as soon as possible as even one or two children can make a difference to our class structures. Please note that the formula for the allocation of teachers is based in the **total** number of children on the roll, ***not*** the number of children in individual year groups or existing classes. At this stage I am unable to let you know who will teach each class. I will inform you, as soon as I have our staffing levels confirmed by Education and Families.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any particular issues regarding next year’s classes that you would like to make me aware of.

**LEARNING AND TEACHING MATTERS**

During this term as part of the curriculum for Health and Wellbeing your child (P6 and P7) will be learning about Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood. This forms part of the national Curriculum for Excellence. Learning will be based on the following areas which are taught using the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence at second level:

* Physical and emotional changes at puberty
* Menstruation, pregnancy and birth
* Body image and self-worth
* Dealing with feelings

The focus will be on the following Curriculum for Excellence, Experiences and Outcomes:

**HWB2-47a**

***I recognise that how my body changes can affect how I feel about myself and how I may behave***

**HWB2-48a**

***I can describe the physical and emotional changes during puberty, understand why they are taking place and the importance of personal hygiene***

The resources used can be viewed on the national website via the following address <https://rshp.scot/>. We would encourage all parents to take some time to browse this resource.

**ONLINE SAFETY**

Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However, it’s important we all consider how we can support children’s online safety. Here’s some information form Thinkuknow.co.uk about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to keep them safe.

**Watching videos**

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. YouTube Kids is a safer way for children to explore their interests. Please read the link below for more information.

<https://parentinfo.org/system/files/attachments/Thinkuknow%20Parent%27s%20Guide%20to%20YouTube.pdf>

**Sharing pictures**

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a great way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family. It’s really important your child knows what’s ok to share online and what they should check with you first. For more information, please click on the link [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Has-your-child-shared-a-picture-or-video-online-/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Has-your-child-shared-a-picture-or-video-online-/)

**Steps you can take to keep your child safer online**

**Parental controls:** Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so this shouldn't replace the support and guidance you give your child to help keep them safer. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters. (<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>)

**Supervise their online activity**: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary-age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.

**Explore together and chat little and often**: Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won’t be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.

**NEWSROUND: SHARING THE LEARNING FROM OUR CLASSES**

**BLUE BUBBLE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary 1A**  **(Mrs Wares)** | It was lovely to see everyone back together in February and the children worked really hard - they have produced lots of fantastic 'Day and Night' work! This term's topic is 'At Sea' and we will be completing work on how to care for the oceans, sea creatures, pirates and we will also be doing some Science experiments with water. In Literacy, we will be continuing to work hard on our phonics, common words, reading tasks and story writing. In Numeracy, we are continuing our work on subtraction to 10 and beginning to work on money and simple bar charts. The last term is definitely going to be very busy in P1! |
| **Primary 1B**  **(Mrs Canning &**  **Mrs Steven)** | P1b are all very excited to be back at school and are looking forward to busy term.  We are continuing to learn our sounds and are putting them together to make lots of new words.  We are doing lots of practise with our common words and are getting really good at reading and writing them.  In number we are learning all about subtraction and are learning how to read and interpret graphs.  Our new topic is 'At Sea' and we are looking forward to learning lots of new things about sea life, oceans and the beach. |
| **Primary 2A**  **(Mrs Kinnear)** | We have been so busy in Primary 2a! Before the Easter Break, we all adopted fluffy, little (non-living) chicks. We worked on a mini-project showing responsibility and compassion to care for our chicks and used our STEM skills to create 'triaramas' to transport them home. We also have Mr. Keay working in our class until the end of May. I am so proud of how welcome and respected the class are making him feel during his placement with us. Primary 2a are certainly set to have an amazing and successful last term! |

**GREEN BUBBLE**

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| **Primary 2B**  **(Miss Richmond)** | Primary 2b are all really pleased to back at school learning and interacting with their friends. The children have had opportunities to chat about lockdown experiences and they have all been keen to share what they are most looking forward to in the coming months. In literacy the children will be continuing to develop their fluency, word attack strategies and comprehension skills and will be learning new common words and phonemes. The children are looking forward to exploring the concepts of multiplication and division and are currently enjoying working with money. Later in the term we will be starting our IDL topic ‘The Teddy Bear’s Picnic.’ |
| **Primary 2/3**  **(Mrs Simmonette)** | Primary 2/3 have settled positively back into our daily routine. We have already been working so hard at the start of the final term continuing to enjoy our Planet Earth topic. Our Numeracy topic to start will be Money and we will continue to practise our addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We are looking forward to the lovely weather during our Friday P.E sessions where we will be focussing on our athletics skillls. |
| **Primary 3**  **(Mrs Allison)** | P3 are working very hard this term and really enjoying our Planet Earth topic. The class have loved finding out about different habitats and the animals who live there. Thank you so much for your continued support. |
| **Primary 3/4**  **(Miss White)** | P3/4 are excited to be back and looking forward to working hard in the final term. We are continuing with our Planet Earth topic and will be exploring differing climates such as deserts and the polar regions. We will continue to find out about natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes. In Maths we will be tackling division and fractions. We will continue to enjoy our daily reading, writing and spelling in literacy lessons.  We are all looking forward to enjoying the better weather for some outdoor learning and athletics based games in PE. |

**YELLOW BUBBLE**

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| **Primary 4**  **(Miss Gomez)** | Primary 4, it is lovely to have everyone back in the classroom again for our summer term. This term will be a busy one but we will have lots of fun working together. We will continue to revise and develop some of the areas covered during Lockdown as well as progressing on to some new topics. In Literacy, we will continue to work on our group novel / book studies as well as developing our listening skills while hearing our class novels and encouraging those wonderful imaginations when writing narrative stories. In Numeracy, our topics will include mathematical symbols such as less than, greater than and equal to. We will also be learning about angles. Our IDL topic will be Healthy Lifestyles, where we will focus on healthy eating, exercise and fitness and personal hygiene. A busy term for us all but we will have opportunities to participate in a range of fun activities |
| **Primary 4/5**  **(Mrs Cardle & Mrs Gillooly)** | Primary 4/5, Mrs. Gillooly and Mrs. Cardle are all delighted to be back in the classroom – it is just so wonderful to be together again! We will continue to revise some of the areas covered during Lockdown as well as moving on to some new topics. In Literacy, we continue to enjoy The Ickabog as our class novel which Mrs. Cardle and Mrs. Gillooly love reading to the class. We have also resumed our group novel studies. In writing we will begin with the narrative genre – we look forward to letting those creative minds loose on the page! In Maths, our topics will be mathematical symbols (greater than, less than and equal to) and we will also be learning about angles. Our IDL topic for the next few weeks will be Healthy Eating - we look forward to participating in a range of fun activities. A busy but enjoyable summer term for us all! |
| **Primary 5A**  **(Miss Theobold)** | Primary 5a have settled back in wonderfully following the Easter break and we are ready for the term ahead. We particularly enjoyed taking part in an Easter egg hunt and decorating biscuits before the holidays. This term we will be studying The Victorians and we will have the opportunity to learn about how different a day in the life of a child would have been in the 1800s, without technology! We will be resuming our group novel studies and we continue to read *The Danger Gang* in class*.* We love to have a laugh together at the comic writing of Tom Fletcher at the end of our day. In Mathematics and Numeracy, we will be beginning the term with a focus on decimals, percentages and measure. Primary 5a continue to blow me away with their mathematical brains! I look forward to having a hard-working, busy, and mostly fun time together in our final summer term. |
| **Primary 5B**  **(Mrs Curran)** | We are ALL delighted to be back! Miss Gillies, a teaching student from Strathclyde University is joining us for 5 weeks this term. Very exciting! We are looking forward to consolidating our numeracy skills and tackling decimal fractions this term. You'll notice our reading novels are getting longer too so it's important to devote a little extra time to reading at home. Our mini topic this term is The Victorians. So many Victorian inventions impact our everyday lives now. We'll be amazed at how times have changed. It looks like the weather is going to improve so we'll be learning outdoors regularly getting plenty of fresh air. Will keep you posted on P5b's final term, look out for updates. |

**RED BUBBLE**

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| **Primary 6**  **(Mrs MacKenzie)** | Primary 6 are looking forward to the final term, and hopefully lots of sunshine. In Literacy, we are studying our group novels and working hard in spelling and grammar. We will focus on recount and instructional writing. In Numeracy and Mathematics, we will continue to work on Percentages as well as mental agility in Number Talks. Primary 6 are finishing our World War Two topic at the start of this term, then will be moving onto learning about The Olympics in our Interdisciplinary Learning. |
| **Primary 6/7**  **(Mrs Coutts & Mr Horner)** | Primary 6/7 are excited for their final term, the Primary 7 pupils are particularly excited for their final term of primary school. In Literacy, we are studying our group novels and working hard in spelling and grammar. In Numeracy, we will be continuing our work on 'Area' before moving on to some algebra. We are currently learning about Anne Frank in class. |
| **Primary 7A**  **(Mrs Brett)** | P7A are lookng forward to a busy final term at Cumbernauld Primary! While we are continuing to work hard in Literacy and Numeracy, we will also focus on Health and Well-Being and Transition. We have already had a visit from the Captains at Cumbernauld Academy which has made us very excited for secondary school. In addition, we will be fund-raising for our leavers' celebration and preparing for our graduation. Hankies at the ready! |
| **Primary 7B**  **(Mrs Ogilvie)** | Primary 7b are enjoying being back in school and are working well. They have just completed their topic on World War II and are starting a topic on the Olympics. They are very excited to be in their final term of primary school and looking forward to learning more about their high schools and taking part in transition activities. |

**REMINDER- MOBILE PHONES**

Pupils have been reminded that all mobile phones should be switched off at the school gates on entering the premises and switched on after exiting the school grounds. They **must not** be used to photograph or film anyone in school. This is in line with guidance from North Lanarkshire Council.

**LOCAL HOLIDAY –MAY 2021**

The school will be closed on the following dates:

* Friday 28th and;
* Monday 31st

**INSET DAY- 6 MAY 2021**

Just to remind you that the school will be closed to pupils on **Thursday 6 May 2021**. The staff will be working on our school improvement priorities with a continued focus on literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and digital learning.

**MORNING ROUTINES**Please note that there is no supervision by school staff to pupils who are playing in the community park at the back of the school prior to 9am.

Children who attend our breakfast service in the morning must remain in the playground at 8.45am where staff are able to provide general supervision prior to the start of the school day. Please note children should not be in the playground prior to 8.45am as there is no supervision provided by the school before this time.

Children who use school transport must also go straight into the playground on arrival at school. Staff are able to provide general supervision to pupils prior to the start of the school day. (8.45-9am).

**END OF DAY ROUTINE**

Could you please stress to your child that if you, at any time, and for any reason, you do not manage to the gate for them they must return to the school office. Staff will then wait for a little while before trying to contact a parent or your designated emergency contact number. If you are running late could you please phone the school office before 2.45pm as it is can be extremely difficult to find children after the bell has rung.

**SUN SAFETY**

We are now seeing some more sunshine and our children are enjoying the benefits of playing outdoors. However, we seek for your support to ensure your child is protected from damage to their skin by the sunshine. You may wish to consider applying a sunscreen that is a once a day application formula to your child first thing in the morning.

**SOME GENERAL REMINDERS**

* It is **extremely important** that we have **accurate and up to date contact details** for you and a day-time contact just in case we have to get in touch with you. Please make sure the school office has your correct home, mobile and emergency contact details.
* Please make sure that **all items of clothing are labelled with your child’s name**- it’s difficult to tell one school sweatshirt or jacket from another, so names on clothes are really important. Please remind your child **not to bring any personal belongings into school from home**.
* Although the school discourages children from bringing mobile phones to school, we do accept that for some children, in special circumstances, require to have their phone with them. All children have been informed that they must **switch their mobile phone off on arrival** at school and only **switch it back on when they leave the gates** at the end of the school day. **Please note the school accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to mobile phones or any other electronic devices.**
* The school **can no longer inform parents** of any outbreaks of head lice. If a child has head lice, they should be treated before returning to school. Please seek advice from your local pharmacist about which treatments are most effective.
* **If you are upset with someone else’s child, please do not approach the child to ‘share your concern’**. All concerns are best dealt with by the adults- school staff or parents.

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

(t) 01236 632110 (e) [enquiries@cumbernauld-pri.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@cumbernauld-pri.n-lanark.sch.uk)

The email account will be checked daily in the morning before registers are completed and again in the afternoon. We aim to reply to enquiries/requests on the same day, but this may not always be possible.

**FINALLY….**

I have been really impressed by how quickly our classes have settled again into their routines. Many thanks to all of our families and staff for their support in making this session a positive experience despite the on-going impact of Covid-19. Currently, the average attendance in school is around 95% and I feel this is something we should be really proud of. If any matter gives you as a parent/carer cause for concern, please do let me, or a member of the staff team know.

Yours sincerely

Ed Clinton

(Head Teacher)



**Session 2021-22- School Holidays**

**August 2021**

In-service day: Thursday 12 August 2021  
In-service day: Friday 13 August 2021  
Pupils return to school: Monday 16 August 2021

**September 2021**

September weekend holidays: Friday 24 September 2021 and Monday 27 September 2021

**October 2021**

October break: Monday 11 to Friday 15 October 2021 (inclusive)

**November 2021**

In-service day: Monday 15 November 2021

**December 2021 - January 2022**

Christmas and New Year holidays: Thursday 23 December 2021 to Friday 7 January (Inclusive)  
Schools close at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 22 December 2021

**February 2022**

Mid-term break: Monday 14 February 2022 and Tuesday 15 February 2022  
In-service day: Wednesday 16 February 2022

**April 2022**

Monday 4 April 2022 to Monday 18 April 2022 (inclusive)  
Schools close at 2.30 pm on Friday 1 April 2022  
Good Friday 15 April 2022 and Easter Monday 18 April 2022

**May 2022**

May day holiday: Monday 2 May 2022  
In-service day: Thursday 5 May 2022 (to coincide with Scottish Local Government Elections)  
May weekend holiday: Friday 27 May 2022 and Monday 30 May

**June 2022**

Schools Close: Wednesday 29 June 2022 at 1.00pm