**Netherton Primary School**

**March 2021**

Pupils from Primaries 1-3 have made a great start back to school and we have been really impressed with how well they have settled back into the school routine.

We are delighted with the news that all children will return on Monday 15th March. We will notify you as soon as possible on starting times as these may be slightly different from before current lockdown.

**Anniversary Event**

Mrs Anita Shaw, Deacon has invited us to take part in an event to commemorate this first anniversary of COVID: this is a whole community event where everyone is invited to share their prayers, remember loved ones and share their hopes. Anita hopes that we will all share our thoughts and prayers on card which can then be attached to the railings at the back of the manse.

We, at Netherton Primary, will think about our hopes for our families, friends and school over the coming months; we will then attach ours to the school gate and fence nearest the manse. Further information will be sent out and anything we do will be within COVID restrictions. Please contact the school if you would like more information.

**Easter/Spring**

This term will be very different from our usual way of life. Junior classes will not be presenting their usual Easter show and there are no school discos. Instead, we will celebrate in class:

* All children will share in Spring and RME topics in class
* Easter egg competiton: P.1-7 can create their own Egg character
* Easter/Spring bonnet: these can be made at home- more information will be given on this nearer the time.
* Easter holidays will be from Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April (inclusive).

**School Events**

We still have a number of events we will be undertaking in school e.g. World Book Day, Sports Day etc. Mrs Kesley is presently leading an after school Harry Potter Week. We will continue to make sure we have different activities for children to participate in.

As we follow Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Policy, we have to undertake guidance given: our Primary 7 pupils may be affected by this and it may mean changes to what we usually do for our Leavers’ Ceremony. A provisional date of Friday 18th June is in place to celebrate; however, parent are advised that we may not be able to invite them to this and what we offer must be in place with COVID restrictions. We will make sure though that we give the children the best send off that we possibly can.

**Uniform**

From August 2021, our school uniform will revert to choice of shirt and tie/polo shirt and sweat shirt. We are presently still using the polo and sweat shirt option: this will be in place until June.

Wearing polo and sweat shirts have been of great assistance this session as it has minimised the need for staff to help pupils in this time of COVID. We really do thank you for your understanding in this matter.

The rest of the uniform is grey: trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore.

**Poverty Proofing Our School**

We are trying to gather as many views and opinions as possible to enable us to develop the school. Thank you for giving your time to answer surveys already sent out.

One of the policies we are currently working on is Poverty Proofing Our School. In it, we have examined the costs associated with the school. As a staff, we have discussed gifts and have agreed that whilst we appreciate being in your thoughts, we feel that we would be much happier if we did not receive gifts. I understand that this caused some concern at Christmas; again, we hope this does not cause offence and would ask that if you wish to purchase a gift, then please consider a donation to a food ban or charity. Please note that this is a whole school decision and not just from the Management Team.

**Thanks**

Over the last few weeks, we have received a number of emails thanking us all for the work we have provided for children. We, as a whole staff, would like to thank you all for the support shown to us. We know how difficult remote learning is and how hard things have been recently for everyone. Your children are amazing and we cannot wait until everyone is back together under the same roof.

Please take care and contact the school if you have any concerns or questions.

With kind regards,

Fiona and all staff.