

ST. AIDAN'S
Primary School, Nursery Class and
Language & Communication Support Centre

June 2020

Issue 1

NEWSLETTER

To Our St.Aidan's School Family,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well during these most challenging times. In the last few months our school community have responded to circumstances we could never have imagined. I am so proud of our children, staff and families for working together to ensure we continue to stay connected.

As communicated earlier this week, NLC have released their model for Primary and Nursery children returning in August 2020.

We are aware that since the announcement of a **Blended Model of in school and home learning** on 8th June, you will have many questions about what this will look like and mean for your child. To this end, I have prepared this newsletter to share with you the details of our planning for the safe return of the children to St.Aidan's in August 2020.

The information in this Newsletter is offered as a starting point. It will help you to get your own head around certain things and it will help you to begin to talk as a family about school and what the new school year holds for our children. Next week, I will be in better position to send you information on entering and exiting the school, and the zones in which your child will be in. I will also create a child friendly 'Welcome Back to School' leaflet for the children. Within this leaflet will be photographs of classroom and zoned play areas. Hopefully this will help ease transition.

You can access the latest NLC guidance, along with a brief information video at:
<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schoolplans>

Our staff are working hard every day - in the midst of preparing and providing daily online digital learning as well as supporting the Hub - they have supported me in redesigning and reorganising our school, LCSC and nursery. Our plans, so far, are going well. We have established new systems and procedures to ensure that when we bring our children back in August it will be in a safe and controlled way.

We have spent time this week welcoming our new P1 children and their families into school and it's been lovely to invite the P7 children into the playground to receive their leaver hoodies and say goodbye.

As always, as we approach the end of the school year, I want to thank each child for all their hard work throughout this session. I am blessed to be your head teacher; you make me very proud. To our wonderful parents, I say thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a safe and happy summer break.

God Bless

Mrs McLean

Growing in Faith, Learning for Life

THE MODEL FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS - *What this will look like for St.Aidan's*

Children will attend school for 2 days per week with 10 hours of direct teaching and learning offered as well as a continuation of Digital Home Learning.

In order to have social distancing in place (2m) we can only have 50% of our children in each day. This has meant that we have had to change the layout of the school.

A lot of work has already gone into assessing our accommodation within the school. We will have to utilise some additional space in the school in order to achieve this such as a learning bay in the ICT Suite.

You will receive an email with your child's class, their Class Teacher and their allocated days to attend school. This email will also include your child's End of Year Report and guide to entry/exit points and zones within the school.

Children will be split into two groups, A & B, with 50% in each group. We will allocate **Families (siblings only)** to the same group for ease of planning for families. We will have 15 classes and each class will have an allocated teacher/teachers.

On the days your child is at school the focus will be on the teaching of our core curriculum of literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and RE.

On the days your child is learning from home, Class Teachers will prepare follow up tasks which will be shared on Teams and the School App.

NLC are working with all schools to ensure that building are as safe as they can possibly be with lots of preparation taking place between now and August. Clear signage, social distancing measures and hand hygiene routines will be in place. Risk Assessments will be completed and will be shared prior to the pupils return.

There will be three entry and exit points to the school. All other gates will be closed. Children will line up in colour coded zones, using markers to maintain distance. In school, desks will be 2 metres apart and signage will direct children in moving around safely. This information will be sent to you next week with a pictorial image to signpost you to the entrances/exits and zones.

Please be assured that the school management team and staff, will be taking every precaution necessary to safeguard your child. The children's return to school has been fully risk assessed, and all policies and procedures reviewed to ensure compliance. Each child will work at their own individual desk. Movement around the school building will be limited.

WILL THE CHILDREN BE WEARING UNIFORM?

The short answer to this question is... **“YES!” with a few suggestions to make life a little easier...**

Here in St. Aidan's we pride ourselves on our beautiful school uniform. One of the things we are all looking forward to is a return to routine and normality. The most normal thing about coming to school, is wearing a uniform. It sends a clear message to everyone that when we come to school, things are different than they are when we are at home. We can begin to re-create the sense of identity and show that we are part of the St. Aidan's school family.

However in light of the current Covid-19 pandemic, please find below some suggested advice which may make life a little easier...

WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD WEAR?

- Grey trousers-Grey/tartan skirt or tartan pinafore
- White shirt or white/gold polo shirt -**No ties** (except on First Day) Staff will be unable to tie these for children. Many of our children handle and play with their ties and they can end up in their mouths. Hygiene is a key measure we are putting in place so I hope you agree this is one factor worth taking out of the equation. When you can, please wear polo shirts for the first term at least, and then we can reconsider.
- Grey or purple jumper or sweatshirt
- School blazer/fleece or suitable outdoor jacket
- Black shoes – **Velcro fastened shoes**. Staff will be unable to tie shoelaces for children. Shoes with laces/buckles should only be worn if children can fasten these unaided.

You can purchase our uniform by logging onto www.logoexpres-schoolwear.co.uk

PLEASE DO NOT BRING PERSONAL BELONGINGS TO SCHOOL

Everything your child will need for school will be provided. We have already begun to make up individual packs for every child with a selection of resources. These include jotters, colouring pens, pencils, rubber, sharpener, whiteboard and marker, scissors and a glue stick. This will help with infection control!

Children should not bring toys, school bag, pencil cases or other personal belongings to school.

Children can bring a filled water bottle, but these will not be able to be re-filled as the water coolers will not be accessible.

LUNCH

Children should bring a snack to school for their break. For lunch, they should bring a packed lunch, or order a meal from the school canteen. Options may be subject to restrictions or changes. Lunch will be eaten in classrooms, at the children's own desk and for some children in the canteen (seated 2m apart). We ask that parents do not collect their child for a home lunch.



PRIMARY 1 TRANSITION

Over the past few years we have worked hard to establish our successful Transition Programme for our Nursery children moving into P1. Although our Programme looks a little different this year, we have provided lots of virtual information which hopefully will prepare the children for 'Big School'.



Please see our transition details below:

- We have included a Transition tab in our school App which signposts parents to information on Active Literacy and Numeracy.
- We have created a powerpoint which welcomes the children to school.
- Staff have put together a virtual video of the school which shows all the of infant classrooms and playground. This video also includes a welcome message from HT and staff.
- All new P1 children have been offered a short visit into the school. During this visit the children will meet the infant staff and get to see their classroom.
- We will be sending out a child friendly 'Welcome Back to School' information leaflet to help ease transition.

We look forward to seeing all our lovely new boys and girls in August!

PRIMARY 7 TRANSITION to ST. AIDAN'S HIGH SCHOOL– LETTER FROM THE MRS FAGAN

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the St Aidan's High School P7 Transition Programme.

We know that the transition from P7 to S1 is an anxious time for both the pupils and parents involved. Unsurprisingly, as a result of the constraints placed upon us, in these unprecedented times, we have had to make changes to our normal P7 Transition programme and instead offer it in a virtual format, using Microsoft Teams.

Last week our staff worked really hard to offer tasters of each subject and combined this with a variety of fun activities. We ended on Monday with a virtual Sports Day, and, we would like to congratulate St Patrick's, on being the eventual winners. In addition, we were also able to offer an insight into some of the extra-curricular clubs on offer. We are delighted to say that the level of engagement over the week reached 92%. This is perhaps not so surprising, as for our young people of today, communication on a virtual level is very much the norm.

If truth be told, there were more interactions/feedback than would have happened on the normal Induction days. All credit to the P7 pupils who were fantastic and really embraced the Microsoft Teams approach. Our staff worked tirelessly over the week to ensure the pupils received feedback in every subject area and I am grateful to them for their input. The programme also enabled us to introduce pupils to staff from every department as well as their Principal Teacher of Pupil Support, Principal Teacher Support for Learning, Home School Partnership Officer, Depute Head Teachers for S1 and Principal Teacher of Transitions.

I would also like to acknowledge all the help and support we received from our Primary colleagues, who were instrumental in both promoting the Transition activities on Microsoft teams and also for actively encouraging the pupils to participate. Their contribution was key to the success of the programme.

As a school, we had hoped to be able to offer visits for pupils, but it has become abundantly clear, that this is not an option, due, in the main, to the safety issues surrounding visits and also the need to ensure equity. However, we do plan to offer a virtual tour of the school and arrange a map for each pupil before they start in August. Finally, as a Catholic school, we felt it would only right and fitting, to end the Transition programme with a Mass of Thanksgiving.

Our chaplain, Fr Kieran Hamilton, has very kindly agreed to celebrate mass on, Friday 19th June at 2pm, and, I would like to extend a very warm invitation to all P7 pupils and their parents/carers.

The mass can be accessed by logging into:

[St Patrick's R.C Church Shieldmuir, Wishaw – Live Facebook](#)

Please note you do not have to be on Facebook to be able to access the mass. When it gives you the option of creating an account, just click not now.



communication

Reconnecting and Recovery – Resilience, Health and Wellbeing

Please use the link below to access a website page for supporting parents. This week's theme is support with transitions

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=35019>

SCOTLAND LEARNS - A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS FROM EDUCATION SCOTLAND

Education Scotland - our national education body - is providing weekly updates for Parents and Carers through their newsletter. This gives support, advice and resources to people involved in home learning. It is certainly worth taking a look. You can subscribe to it through Social Media or follow the link...

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/a-weekly-newsletter-for->



Scotland Learns
Parents and Carers Newsletter



ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents and visitors will not be able to access the school grounds, unless by appointment. Where possible any meetings will be conducted over the phone.

EMOTION WORKS AT HOME

We also have information on our School App which provides a link to Emotion Works at Home resources. As you will know, we use Emotion Works in school to provide a focus for developing Emotional Literacy and to support children in dealing with a variety of feelings and emotions. Please take a look at the website homepage and scroll down to the relevant blog post.



Helps us to learn and talk about emotions

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Thorough hand washing practices are in place to promote good hygiene, and there are enhanced cleaning procedures for the school environment.

Let's Wash Our Hands!

Whooshy washy!
Wet our hands
Under running water
Add some soap and
Rub them hard
Don't miss any part!
Between our fingers
Under the nails
Rid germs without fail
Front and back
And round the wrist
No germs will be missed!
They may hide
But we shall seek
So we will not fall sick!
Splishy splashy
Bye bye germs
Down the drain they squirm
With clean towels
We dry our hands
Now let's show our friends!



Remember to wash our hands:



After using the toilet



After sneezing or coughing



After playing with pets



After sports or playing outside



Before eating



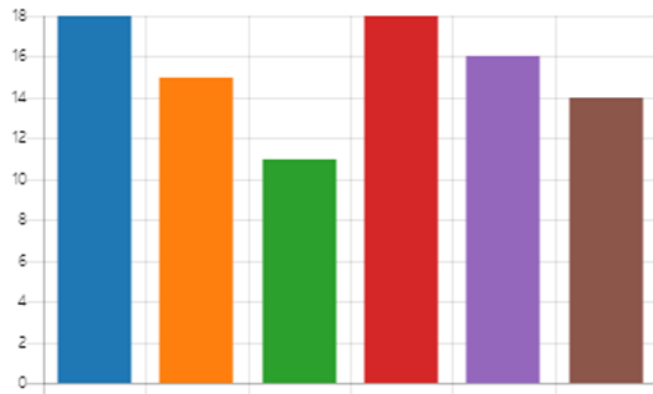


Thank you for taking the time to complete our recent PEF and School Improvement Plan survey. Your views are important to us...Please see the results below.

1. The following outlines how the PEF has been spent this session. Please select the areas which you think have had a positive impact on learners.

[More Details](#)

- Additional staffing to provide ... 18
- Additional staffing to provide ... 15
- Partnership working with Sou... 11
- Providing Health, Outdoor lea... 18
- Funding for staff training in ar... 16
- Purchase ICT equipment to en... 14



2. Please provide other ideas you may have for the spending of the Pupil Equity Fund to close the poverty related attainment gap.

20 Responses

1	anonymous	I am happy for the staff to decide on the spending of PEF to meet the requirements of all pupils in the school.
2	anonymous	No further ideas
3	anonymous	Much more ICT skills, only a few years away from schools being totally on workstations and iPads why not start to skill pupils in these skills
4	anonymous	Possibly ICT equipment for any child that does not have access for home learning?
5	anonymous	As above
6	anonymous	The muddy grass being turned into soft tar mark as costs me fortune every year for shoes as they get ruined with state of playground. Also a football basketball arena on the ash park would be ideal for kids to play sports in.
7	anonymous	In my opinion the school has covered all aspects as well as they can.

Teachers are going to keep learning from each other to ensure the best results in our school. This year we will be looking at creative writing, phonological awareness, and Spelling. We will benefit from interventions such as Language Land, Book Bug, Sunnybank, Rainbow Reading, Read, Write and Inc., Colourful Semantics and peg to paper to help us with our literacy. We will also use drama and storytelling to inspire our writing. We will plan an exciting Read to succeed week and our P7 children will work with our cluster high school to improve writing across the curriculum

★★★★★
4.80 Average Rating

What did you think of our school

I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously



 **UNCRC Article 12**

Responses

I like the sound of teachers learning from each other and using drama and storytelling to help with our writing.



Now, I personally think that sharing ideas is great! But, it would narrow down the amount of people saying "I've already done that so basically.." and explaining the goal and purpose of the target.

This is a good idea

That is brilliant!!!

Great

Yes I'm so happy about this as I like drama and storytelling.

nice sounds good

Yes

★★★★★
4.60 Average Rating

Responses

The new STEM area sounds great! I have been doing STEM activities in lockdown with my sister and my mum. We have really enjoyed it! I also really like doing maths outdoors.



STEM is one of my favorite subjects in school. I'm very happy knowing that other people will develop some science while we're at high-school!

I think outdoor learning is better than indoor learning

I love STEM and being outdoors

That sounds great can't wait.

its very good idea

Yes

We will have opportunities to learn more about STEM and benefit from a new STEM area. We will encourage our parents to take part in STEM learning activities and work in partnership with local community to learn more about the world of work. We will continue to improve our Numeracy and Mathematics through interventions such as Number Talks, SEAL, 5 min numeracy Box and sumdog. We will plan an exciting Numeracy week and take our learning outdoors.

Our families will become more involved in our Nursery, School and Support Centre by taking part in experiences such as stay and play, Nurture drop ins, parental workshops, family learning clubs and chat and snack/coffee mornings. Our nursery staff will visit our 2/3 year old children at home and our LCSC parents will have SLT Support Sessions.



4.78 Average Rating

What did you think of our school improvements?

Responses

It is always good to have parents in the school for different workshops and things. It would be good if the children could teach the parents too!



We need as much support in the school we can get for these wonderful kids, taking a new level on in life!

Great I loves this

Yes

Yes



UNCRIC Article 12

Responses

I would like to be involved with projects with children from Calderbridge. It would be fun to get to know different children and play or work together on projects.

Correct. The school is a happy, safe and nurturing place to be, I honestly can't lie.

Our school staff are swayed there when we need them

Good

I always feel safe at school.

Yes



5.00 Average Rating

Staff will make sure we are safe, staff will nurture us, and staff will listen to us. We will help lead our Rights Respecting school journey and aim to achieve Silver Rights Respecting schools award. We will continue our links with Calderbridge community Reps.

We are going to make sure everyone has a voice and can take responsibility in school through participating in committees, playground buddies, pupil council, Pope Francis Faith Award and through our intergenerational project with Alzheimer Scotland.



4.67 Average Rating

What did you think of our school improvements?

Responses

I like being involved in the committees and the pupil council. It makes me feel part of making decisions.

I like my buddy

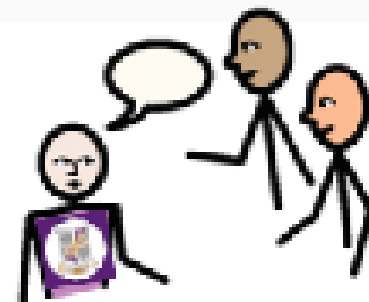
Everyone has a voice and deserves to use it!

I love that everyone has a voice in our school

Great

This is great as it encourages the kids to come out and challenge themselves.

Yes



I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously

UNCRC Article 12

Responses

I like keeping fit and healthy by doing the daily mile. I also like the idea of more music and singing in school.

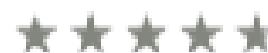
It's a shame that P7's might not be able to do the musical. I can speak for all of us in this saying, we will definitely attend the musicals and cheer on the kids from our seats.

I love all the shows we do

The Nativity was great fun

Fantastic.

Yes



4.67 Average Rating

We will improve our Health and Wellbeing through interventions such as the Daily Mile, Outdoor Learning, and Forest Schools/ kindergarten. We will work with Soundsational Choir to provide music tuition. We will perform 3 shows throughout the year – Infant Nativity- Middle School Easter Extravaganza and Senior Summer Musical.

We will continue to encourage growth mind-set, resilience and perseverance through our Nurture Support, Communication Friendly School Award, Drawing and Talking, and Emotion Works Programme. We will aim to achieve our Nurturing Schools Award Scotland. We will continue to develop our creative curriculum by the opening of our Sensory Garden for the LCSC children by Nov 2019.



5.00 Average Rating

What did you think of our school improvements?

I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously

Responses

I like the idea of making our school a fair place for everyone, including children who use sign language. I would like to learn Makaton too!

Ok

Some people are less fortunate and cant eat breakfast from their homes, providing this is fabulous!

I love after school clubs and it's that their are now in high school

I would like to learn makaton too

Brilliant!!!

Yes

Responses

I like the idea of keeping people happy at school through nurture and using emotion works and creativity. I like to draw and make things because it makes me happy.

I like playing in the sensory garden

No doubt, we will definitely achieve the award, the school is so very nurturing!

I think it's great that our school has areas for people who need that

I like this

The sensory garden was a great idea for the LCSC children.

Yes



UNCRC Article 12



4.89 Average Rating

We want to make our school a fair place and give everyone the same start by offering a Breakfast Club and Soft Start Play zone. All LCSC Teachers will be trained in Makaton and we will offer Lunch Time and After School clubs to children.