



ST. AIDAN'S

Primary School, Nursery Class and

Language & Communication Support Centre

October 2020

Issue 4

NEWSLETTER

To Our St. Aidan's School Family,

I want to begin this Newsletter by firstly offering a word of thanks to you all. We have put many things in place for the health and safety of the children, families and our staff team. Thank you for your support at drop off and home-time. The majority of our families are following the guidance and going that extra mile to ensure the routines we have in place run smoothly.

It is important to highlight that in light of recent local restrictions and the rise in COVID cases across Lanarkshire, that we must all still continue to play our part. To this end, I have included some reminders within this newsletter so that there can be no confusion to the expectations placed upon us all.

Finally, a special word of thanks to our children and staff. School has been a little different this term but the ethos of the school, the high quality interaction and positive relationships are all still very much at the heart of what we do. The children have been wonderful and I am delighted at how they have settled back into school life.

On behalf of all the staff, I hope you all have a lovely October Break with your family, stay safe and well.

God Bless

Mrs McLean

Head Teacher

KEEP A SAFE 2M DISTANCE WHEN DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTING CHILDREN

One Adult only (per family) should be within the infant school grounds and all other parents to wait outside the school gate.

ADULTS ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING

You may want to consider wearing one at drop off and collection.

Any member of the public entering our building **MUST** wear a face covering.

DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL BUILDING WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT

If you need to collect your child for an appointment then please call ahead and we will happily help!

PARK AWAY FROM THE SCHOOL

Parents should not park in the bus lane as this is a health and safety issue. Please be considerate in your parking choices...Safety first!

Growing in Faith, Learning for Life

Staffing Update

Lots of wonderful news to share this month...

Huge congratulations to Mrs McCafferty (Miss McKenzie) on the celebration of her wedding. We wish you both a lifetime of happiness.

We wish Mrs Zonfrillo the best of luck as she takes up her maternity leave on Friday 9th October....stay well Mrs Zonfrillo! Mr Fowler will take over Mrs Zonfrillo's class after the October Break.

Welcome to Ms Kelly Shanks and Miss Megan Lafferty who joined our nursery team... welcome to St. Aidan's ladies.



Free School Meals

TOPPING UP YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH CARD

We are not currently using lunch cards in school at the moment. This means that you cannot send money into school for your child to top their card up. ***You must do this online (instructions included in this newsletter and they were also sent out at the beginning of the school year).*** There are quite a few children who are gaining a fair bit of debt on their lunch account, due to lack of funds being added online to their card. If you need assistance, please contact Mrs McLean or a member of our office staff.

Many of our P4 children and quite a few of our P5, P6 and P7s should be entitled to Free School Meals. However, it appears that one of the following could be the case:

1. Parents/Carers with children who have transitioned **from P3 to P4** have not realised or have forgotten that they must now apply to North Lanarkshire Council for their child to receive Free School Meals. Only children in P1-3 are automatically entitled to Free School Meals.
2. A family's circumstances have changed in recent months and applying for Free School Meals hasn't been something the Parents/Carers have considered.
3. Parents/Carers are unsure of how to apply.
4. There has been a backlog of applications to NLC and Parents/Carers have not been informed of an outcome.

Whatever the issue, if you need some help with this, please contact us. Alternatively, go to www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or you could email FME@northlan.gov.uk for more information.

IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT...

During lockdown, families were entitled to a voucher for £20 per child, per week which was texted or emailed if the children were in receipt of a Free School Meal.

We are delighted to inform you that we have been awarded the Silver Unicef UK Rights Respecting School recognition. We are now continuing our journey for our Gold Award.

A letter will be sent to the school app outlining how you can support us on our journey.

I would like to thank Mrs McGeough and the RRS committee and steering group for all their hard work and efforts.

Congratulations Everyone!



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS



SILVER – RIGHTS AWARE

Connecting with Parents

As we are unable to invite parents into the building during this time, we hope you are finding our creative ways of connecting with you worthwhile.

Here are some of our creative ways we have created to connect with families and report to parents.

August- Welcome Back videos uploaded onto the school app which highlighted the changes to the school and nursery. Child Friendly Newsletter sent out to all families.

September- Meet the Teacher Videos were uploaded to the school app which included the sharing of learning for Term 1 and Monthly Newsletter.

October- Virtual Parent Council meeting and Monthly Newsletter.

November- As we are unable to hold Parents' Evening we will send out your child's Tracking Report during this month. Parent Council- Pumpkin Carving Competition

December- We plan to hold a virtual Christmas Fayre and hopefully a special Event-brite Christmas Nativity... Watch this space

NUT ALLERGIES

We have a number of children and some staff who have severe nut allergies. It is important to make all Parents/Carers and Children aware of the dangers of bringing items which contain nuts in them to school. You may think that it is only when a person comes into direct contact with nuts that they can be affected. However, people can take a reaction even by touching the hand of someone who has come into contact with nuts. Therefore, we ask that you send nothing into school with your child which contains nuts. This includes Chocolate Spread, and in particular Nutella



Sacramental Updates



First Holy Communion

Our Primary 5 children who should have made their First Holy Communion in May 2020 have recently received a letter regarding decisions which have been made about the way forward.

Most of the children will receive the Sacrament of Eucharist on either Saturday 24th October (11am Mass/ 1pm Mass) or Saturday 31st October (1pm Mass). All parents have been consulted about the services and we are now beginning to prepare the children for their special day.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The children in P4 (last year's P3 children) will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday 9th November and Tuesday 10th November AT 6PM. More information will follow shortly.

Please join me in keeping the children and their families in your prayers.

Halloween

Unfortunately we can not hold our normal Halloween Parade in the school hall this year. However, we would like our children to experience some fun on Halloween...with a few safety rules!

On Friday 30th of October, children should come to school dressed in their Halloween costume. I ask all parents /carers to ensure the following safety rules are followed:

- No Inflatable Costumes
- No accessories such as swords/shields/broomsticks
- The children will be in their costume all day so please chose a fun but sensible costume as they will outside for play and learning
- Bring a snack just for you (not to share) for the fun afternoon- No NUTS please!

The Parent Council will be holding a fun Pumpkin Carving competition to help raise some much need school funds... more information will follow on return from our October Break. Please support this FUNdraiser....



WHAT IS THE PROVISION IF MY FAMILY IS HAVING TO ISOLATE?

North Lanarkshire Council has put in place a comprehensive strategy to support families if they have to self isolate for any period of time.

This involves...

- ⇒ The school informs North Lanarkshire.
- ⇒ The school writes to families to inform them of what Learning Materials will be on offer and how to access these
- ⇒ Community Assistance contacts the family to support (e.g., Free School Meals so that vouchers can be sent to families to continue the provision of daily meals, Financial Inclusion Team if support is required, Community Assistance if other special support is required (e.g. special prescription delivery, dog walking, etc.)
- ⇒ The school will contact the family by telephone each week of isolation.

Help and support will be available throughout and we encourage you to contact us if you need anything... even something not related to school!



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT BEST START GRANT - Early Learning or School Age Payment

The Best Start Grant School Age Payment is a new £250 payment to help with the costs of preparing for school when a child is first old enough to start Primary school.

Eligibility is based on the age of the child.

□ The application window for children who were born between 1 March 2014 and 28 February 2015 is now closed.

□ The application window for children born between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016 opened on 1 June 2020 and closes on 28 February 2021.

□ Even if the child's school start has been deferred until next year, or if the child is not going to start school at all, parents or carers of children born between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016 should still apply for the payment by 28 February 2021. If they do not apply within this window they will not be able to receive the payment.

For more information and to apply online, go to:

<https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/>

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE 2020/21



September 2020

In-service day: Thursday 24 September 2020 September weekend holidays: Friday 25 September 2020 and Monday 28 September 2020

October 2020

October break: Monday 12 October 2020 to Friday 16 October 2020 (inclusive)

School closes at 3pm on Friday 9th October

November 2020

In-service day: Monday 16 Nov 2020

December 2020 - January 2021

Christmas and New Year Holidays: Wednesday 23 December 2020 to Tuesday 5 January 2021 (inclusive)

School closes at 2:30pm

February 2021

Mid-term break: Monday 8 February 2021 and Tuesday 9 February 2021 In-service Day: Wednesday 10 February 2021

School closes at 3pm on Friday 5th February 2020.

April 2021

Friday 2 April 2021 to Friday 16 April 2021 (Inclusive) (Good Friday 2 April 2021 and Easter Monday 5 April 2021)

School closes at On Thursday 1st April.

May 2021

May Day holiday: Monday 3 May 2021 In-service day: Thursday 6 May 2021 May weekend holiday: Friday 28 May 2021 and Monday 31 May 2021

June 2021

School closes: Thursday 24 June 2021 at 1pm

Health and Safety

If your child or anyone in your household displays any symptoms...

Common symptoms are:

- a high temperature or fever
- a new continuous cough
- a loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste
- Note: A new, continuous cough means coughing for longer than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual. The whole household should isolate until a test can be carried out.
- Your **entire household** should isolate until a test can be carried out.
- You should inform the school ASAP. When the results of the test are know, you should contact us again ASAP.
- If you have more than one child (even if they attend different schools/nurseries) you should keep them all off until the results of our test are known.

Remember FACTS for a safer Scotland

F Face coverings 

A Avoid crowded places 

C Clean your hands regularly 

T Two metre distance 

S Self isolate and book a test if you have symptoms 

nhsinform.scot/coronavirus
#WeAreScotland

Healthier Scotland
NHS SCOTLAND

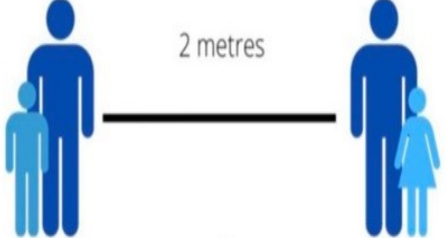
CORONAVIRUS
STAY SAFE
PROTECT OTHERS
SAVE LIVES

NHS Lothian


Keep our school safe

Stay apart when dropping off or collecting your children

2 metres



Don't stand in groups



Remember FACTS
Go to nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

Anyone 5 years and over, who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus, can now get tested.

If you have a high temperature, persistent cough, or loss, or change, of taste or smell, you can now get a test.

You can book a slot at a drive-through testing centre. Or request a test kit to be delivered to your home.

If you have symptoms, you should only leave your house to go for a test.

Otherwise, you should follow self-isolation guidelines and stay at home for 7 days. And anyone in your household should stay in for 14 days.

To find out more and book your test go to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. If you can't get online, call 0300 303 2713.



Healthier Scotland
NHS SCOTLAND

CORONAVIRUS
STAY HOME
PROTECT THE NHS
SAVE LIVES

Nurture | Loving | Respect | Achieving | Inclusion