

St Brendan's Primary School

Newsletter 14th August 2020



Dear Parent/Guardian

A very warm welcome back to the new school session. Since Wednesday 12th August all of our children including 42 new little ones arrived for the new term. We have been thinking of our previous Primary 7's and wishing them a great start to their secondary school career.

This newsletter has lots of information regarding the new school term for August, which at present, is very different due to the circumstances which we find ourselves in. I ask that you take time to read this carefully as there are a few changes since our June newsletter. We hope you and your family have stayed well over recent months, and thank you for your continued support and engagement with your child's online learning.

As always please contact the school Office or email ht@st-brendans-n-lanark.sch.uk should you wish to discuss anything further.

On a brighter note all pupils have returned looking smart in their school uniforms and are happy and excited to return. The staff are also delighted to welcome back our children and settle into a new school routine.

The school session begins at 8:55am for all children and ends at 2:55pm for Primary 5, 6 and 7 and 3:00pm for all other children. This is to ease congestion and facilitate social distancing at this very busy time. If you are unable to social distance at the school gates I would encourage you to wear a mask for your own and others safety.

CHANGE TO MORNING ROUTINE

We will be asking your children to enter through assigned gates to specific areas of the yard in line with social distancing.

Nursery – White zone (gate with ramp close to staff car park. Nursery will be allowed one adult per child to walk them to nursery entrance)
P1 & P2 – Yellow zone (top of stairs close to infant yard)
P3, P4 & P7 – Blue zone (ramp in infant yard)
P5 & P6 – Red zone (ramp in infant yard)

Parents will NOT be permitted in the school yard. School staff will be on hand to supervise and direct the children. ONLY nursery parents will be in the grounds to drop off and collect their child from nursery.

Once children enter the school grounds they will make their way to their zoned area to line up on markers and enter the building via their assigned entrances with their class teacher. Children will enter one at a time respecting social distancing between themselves and the adults, teachers will monitor this. Corridors have also been altered to create distinct walkways, and children will walk in single file respecting social distancing protocols between themselves and adults within the school. Signage will remind children of this.

"We voyage together in a community of Faith, Love and Learning"

Break Times

This year intervals and lunchtimes will be staggered. This is to comply with social distancing from adults and to comply with maximum number regulations in the yard and dinner hall.

Our breaks will be 10:15am – 10:35am and 10:40am – 11:00am
Lunchtime will be 12:00noon – 12:45pm and 12:55pm – 1:40pm

We ask that where possible children remain in school for their lunch as this reduces the risk of cross contamination. Snack items and packed lunches can be brought in a schoolbag, no other items eg toys can be brought from home into school.

At the end of the school day children will be dismissed, by their class teacher, via the entrance/exit which they used in the morning.

Uniform

We take great pride in our school uniform and we are grateful to you our parents for giving our school a high profile in the community by making sure the children wear their uniform.

Uniform Items

- Green shirt
- Brown skirt/trousers (grey trousers will also be accepted)
- Brown cardigan/jumper
- Brown/Black shoes (no trainers please)
- On cold days the outer brown zip up school jacket with logo
- On warm days green/yellow gingham dress
- School tie
- Blazer

In August, we will not require our children to bring a PE kit to school. Again as we journey along the recovery phase, we will inform you if and when this changes. We intend to use the outdoor environment as much as possible next session, for PE and to extend the curriculum.

Please help us and your child to identify clothing by labelling ALL items with name or initials.

What to Bring

Children cannot bring items from home to school – this includes **mobile phones**, pencil cases, toys, etc. We will issue children with all required stationery which will be kept in their own personal tray in class.

Children should bring their water bottle to school filled each day as we are discouraging these being refilled due to the touch hazard, however, if children require their water bottle this of course will be allowed.

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Reading Books

We would please ask families to return banded reading books and novels to the school by sending these in with their child in their bag on Monday next week. It is important that these are returned to ensure that we have enough texts for all children as our inventory seems to indicate we are a little short.

Cashless System

Our school canteen will operate a cashless system using iPayImpact, we are no longer able to accept cash in school to top up dinner cards.

If you do not have access to iPayImpact please email lhogg@st-brendans.n-lanark.sch.uk and instructions and password will be issued.

Communication

If you have any queries which you would like to discuss with a member of the School Team please contact the HT/Office via telephone or email and an appointment will be arranged. Due to Social Distancing Guidance we are unable to allow parents into the building unless by appointment. When attending appointment face masks must be worn and you will be asked to provide information for contact tracing.

We appreciate that you will be concerned about your child and their well being, however we will communicate through various channels such as School App, Twitter, Newsletters and Seesaw.

Attendance

If your child is unable to come to school you have the responsibility of informing the school. We ask that you let the school office know by phoning or calling in as soon as possible on the morning of your child's absence.

Late Coming

Important teaching time takes place at the beginning of the school day so please try to make sure your child is on time for school. If your child arrives after 8.55am the pupil entrances will be closed for security therefore children should use the main entrance and report to the office.

Breakfast Club

Please contact the school office if you wish to register your child for breakfast club.

Breakfast Club is open from 8.15am and breakfast is provided at a cost of £1.00 for one child. For a family of two children the cost is £1.50 and for a family of three children the cost is £1.80. If your child is entitled to a Clothing Grant for 2020/21 then they are also entitled to free breakfast. Breakfast Club is free to all Primary 1 to Primary 3 children. Please ensure your child has money on their card. If your child is not attending breakfast club the playground is supervised from 8.45am and children should not arrive before this time.

Nut Allergy

Can I remind you that we have children in the school who have severe nut allergies, therefore we ask for your co-operation in ensuring that all snacks/lunches etc. are nut free at all times. In particular please ensure that chocolate spreads which are sometimes used in lunches are nut free.

School App

Anyone who wishes to access the app is invited to download 'school app for parents' from the Apple or Google Play App stores.

Once downloaded, search for and select St Brendan's. The app will then invite users to enter the username and password to access our content.

We will not be changing the password this year or asking for a donation, if you need the username and password please contact the school office by email lhogg@st-brendans.n-lanark.sch.uk or telephone 01698 274914.

Blogs

Follow us on Twitter @StBrendansPS and [Blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/stbrendans](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/stbrendans). Please check every week for the most up to date information.

If you do not wish your child to be included in photographs on twitter or school blogs please contact the school office no later than Tuesday 18th August 2020.

We look forward to this new school year and working in partnership with you and your child.

Final Message

I am sure that all our parent/carers will appreciate the situation in which we find ourselves with the Coronavirus pandemic, is an ever-changing one. As such, the information which you have just read through may be subject to change. At the time of writing – 14th August 2020 – the information is up to date and accurate.

Mrs M Oates
Head Teacher