**November 2020 Newsletter**



Welcome to our third newsletter of the school term. We have busy times ahead so please keep this newsletter handy.

**School Improvement Priorities**

Our proposed school improvement priorities for session 2020-2021 are:

1. Further improve and support the mental, social, emotional and physical health of all children, families and staff by embedding and extending the range of nurture based approaches across the school.
2. Establish a digital pedagogy across all stages of the curriculum, which engages learners and delivers a high quality learning experience for all children and young people.
3. To ensure continued equity of access and opportunity for maximising learning in the broad general education.

These priorities have been identified after careful consideration of the impact of lockdown on our children’s wellbeing as well as their education. These priorities will allow us to concentrate on a period of recovery during very difficult and challenging times.

If you have any further suggestions for improvement or wish to discuss these further, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sweeney via telephone or email.

**Self-Isolation**

If your child is requested to self-isolate by the NHS Track and Trace Team, please inform us as soon as possible. We will continue to provide learning opportunities for your child during isolation if they are well enough to engage with learning. This learning will be added to your child’s class Microsoft Team page via Glow. A home learning jotter with details of how to access this site was issued prior to the October break. If you do not have access to a digital device please inform us as a matter of urgency.

I am exceptionally grateful to class teachers who are working incredibly hard to provide continued opportunities for learning during these challenging times.

**Halloween**

Unfortunately we are unable to hold our annual Halloween Disco this year due to current restrictions. Instead, we will hold a Halloween fun day on Friday 30th October. Pupils are welcome to dress up or alternatively, dress down, to come to school and will participate in Halloween themed activities within their own class bubble throughout the day. We request that pupils do not wear scary costumes which could distress others. To minimise the risk of infection, we also ask that pupils **do not** bring props to accompany their costume.

**November Inservice**

School will be closed to pupils on Monday 16th November. Pupils return on Tuesday 17th November.

**Reading books**

A great deal of money was spent purchasing new reading books for pupils of all stages last term. A significant number of these books have been taken home and not returned since lockdown. This makes it impossible for new groups of pupils to access these reading resources. Please, search your homes for any reading books and return them to school as a matter of urgency.

We encourage pupils to take good care of school resources, including reading books. These are very expensive and we cannot continue to replace lost or damaged books at the rate we have done. Going forward, parents of pupils who have lost or damaged books, may be asked to pay for a replacement.

Can I also, please emphasise the importance of pupils bringing reading books to school **every day.** More and more pupils are coming to school without their books, which are necessary for the learning which takes place within the class.

**School Meals**

A letter was issued via email to inform parents and carers of an increase in school meal prices. The cost of a two course meal will be £3 from Monday 26th October.

Your child may be entitled to free school meal and essential clothing grant. You can check your benefits and how your application is processed via the council’s website at

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=5452>

**ALL**[**Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils**](https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=31102) are automatically entitled to receive a free school meal but must be included in your application form.

**Breakfast Club**

A reminder that we run a breakfast service in school every day from 8.15am. This service is free to those in receipt of free school meals and to **all** pupils in Primary 1 – 3. For all other pupils the cost is £1 per day with a sliding scale for families of 2 at £1.50 per day and families of 3 at £1.80 per day.

**Parents Portal**

Another reminder to encourage ALL parents / carers to sign up for our Parents Portal if you have not already done so. It is important that annual data checks are now completed through the portal. It is essential that this information is up to date. If you require any assistance with this please get in touch.

More information can be found at the website below:

<https://sway.office.com/pru2wH2rKtqHE59V?ref=Link&loc=play>

**School Uniform**

Many thanks to our parents who ensure that pupils attend school in full uniform every day. A reminder that blue school shirt **and tie** should be worn. Blue polo shirts are not part of our school uniform.

**Head Lice**

Head lice are a common problem in school aged children. They can’t be prevented, but regular checking can ensure early detection and treatment if necessary. Can we please encourage you to remain vigilant by checking your child’s hair on a regular basis.

**Item drop off**

If you require to drop something off for your child during the course of the school day eg. packed lunch, a trolley will be placed inside the school entrance for this purpose. Please ensure that all items are labelled with your child’s name and class. This prevents the need for parents to enter the school building.

**Parental Visits**

A reminder that, due to current restrictions, parents are not permitted to enter the school building unless by prior appointment. Should you wish to speak to a member of school staff, please telephone the school on 794818 to arrange a suitable time.

If a parent has a pre-arranged appointment we ask that you arrive wearing a mask and complete the relevant track and trace paperwork at the office.

**Contact Information**

Please notify us immediately of any changes to telephone numbers to ensure we have the correct information in case of emergency. This information can be easily updated on our Parents Portal.

If you require further information on anything contained within this newsletter, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sweeney.