

Stepps Primary



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/steppsprimary/>

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Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all the parents/carers who continue to keep our school community safe by adhering to our safety guidance. I know that we probably sound like a broken record sometimes, but the measures in place are designed to keep our pupils and staff as safe as we possibly can. We can only do this with your support and co-operation. Following advice from the Scottish Government, staff are now wearing masks more frequently in school. Face coverings will be worn if adults are within 2m of anyone else – pupil or adult. The previous 15 minute clause has been removed. This means that staff will now be required to wear face coverings in class at certain times.

As with previous newsletters, our November update will begin with a few safety reminders. Please help us to keep everyone as safe as possible by following the guidance below.

- Please do not send your child to school if they are ill.
- If your child travels to school by bus or taxi, please ensure that they have their face covering with them.
- **A face covering should be worn by anyone entering the school/Cultural Centre campus from Monday 2nd November.** This does not apply to those who are exempt. Face covering exemption cards are being issued by Disability Equality Scotland, on behalf of the Scottish Government.
- If you approach a member of staff at the gates, please make sure that you maintain social distancing requirements and wear a face covering.
- Please do not drop your child off in the morning until the times noted below:
 - P4 - P7 pupils should arrive in the playground for 8.50am
 - P1- P3 pupils should arrive in the playground for 9.00am
 - Nursery – from 8.45am.**Please avoid dropping your child off before these times as even during wet and cold mornings, they will not be able to enter the school prior to their allocated slot. The gates into the playground will not be opened until 8.45am. There will be no playground supervision until 8.50am.**
- Please remember to follow our one-way system when entering and leaving the campus, **especially if you are dropping your child off late.** To help avoid crowding on the campus, **only one parent/carer** should accompany their child/children to the playground gates.
- Please keep the area around the school gates clear at the end of the school day to allow us to dismiss the children as quickly and safely as possible.
- **Adults should adhere to the 2m social distancing rule at all times.** Collection and drop off can be very busy but please remember to maintain a distance of **2m from others and wear a face covering at all times.**
- Please drop your child off outside the main campus gates. The vast majority of our parents/carers have supported us in this request, however, we still have a number of people who continue to bring their vehicles into the campus grounds. **Only staff vehicles, school buses and school taxis should enter the campus.** The ongoing building work means that there is very limited parking within the school grounds for staff as well as visitors. **Under no circumstances should parents stop, or park in the turning circle or Bus Zones.**

In-Service Day

Can I please remind all parents and carers that the school and nursery will both be closed for pupils on **Monday 16th November** for the November In-service Day. The school and nursery will reopen at the normal times on Tuesday 17th November.

Anti-Bullying/Respect Me Week - 17th -20th November 2020

This year the theme is "United Against Bullying". Unfortunately, the children are off on Monday 16th for the In-service Day, so to kick-off the start of our anti-Bullying Week, we would like to encourage them to come to school wearing odd socks on Tuesday, 17th November to celebrate the fact that we are all unique. During the rest of the week, the children will complete anti-bullying related activities during their Health and Wellbeing lessons.

We work hard to develop a strong positive ethos in our school. Our core values are key to this and we encourage all members of our community to uphold these values, namely: Respect, Honesty, Kindness and Fairness.

We know that fall-outs and disagreements happen from time to time and are a normal part of school life. However, please contact the school if your child is upset about an incident and we can investigate and help to get all sides of the story and find a positive solution. We do aim to act as quickly as possible. Over the past few weeks, the children have been identifying their 'Go to Adult' and we hope that this will help make it easier for the children to report any worries or concerns. If you have any concerns please contact the school and speak to your child's class teacher, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Mrs Allan has pastoral responsibility for the Nursery and P1-3. Mrs Jeffrey has pastoral responsibility for P4-7. Together we will work with you and your child to resolve any issues.

Earrings

For Health & Safety reasons, pupils are always asked to remove jewellery before participating in gym lessons. Pupils with pierced ears will also be asked to remove their earrings before gym lessons. If earrings cannot be removed, they must be taped over. Parents/carers should provide pupils with their own tape and pupils must be able to apply and remove the tape themselves. This applies to boys as well as girls. If possible, we would ask parents not to send their children to school wearing jewellery/earrings on their gym days. This would help speed up the time it takes the children to get ready.

Exceptional Closure Days

Now that winter is well and truly on the way, can I please remind all parents/carers to keep the school informed of any changes to their contact details, and in particular home/mobile phone numbers. During periods of severe weather over the winter months please check our Twitter feed, school website and North Lanarkshire's website for updates on possible school closures or disruption to the normal level of service. During exceptional school closure days, parents/carers will be able to access activities on our school website which can be carried out at home by your child. The activities are designed to reinforce the work carried out in class and promote creativity and investigation. Please remember to only complete activities from your child's year group grid. The activity suggestions can be downloaded from the Home Page of the school website, however, the link will only be activated during exceptional school closure days.

Allergies

You will no doubt be aware of all the recent media stories relating to severe food allergies. We have an increasing number of pupils, and staff, at Stepps Primary with severe nut allergies. **For some of these pupils, the smell of nuts or even the presence of nuts in the immediate area can trigger a severe, and sometimes life threatening, allergic reaction.** To ensure the health and wellbeing of all our pupils, we would ask for your co-operation in keeping Stepps Primary a **Nut Free School**. This means that nuts and nut based foods, such as **peanut butter and Nutella spread, Snickers, and some cereal bars** should not be brought to school for snacks or lunch. We have noticed an increasing number of pupils bringing Nutella based snacks to school. Can we please appeal to parents/carers not to pack these in your child's bag. Thank you for supporting us with this request.

O.S.C.A.R.s - Outwith School Certificate of Achievement & Recognition



We will be continuing our O.S.C.A.R awards this session, giving you the opportunity to nominate your child for something that they have achieved or succeeded in outwith school. Your child will be presented with an Achievement Certificate (**O.S.C.A.R.**) during one of our virtual assemblies. We are working on a new electronic way for you to nominate your child for an award and we will let you know the details once this has been finalised. O.S.C.A.R.s will be issued monthly.

We look forward to hearing all about the children's achievements over the coming weeks and months.



What happens about my child's learning if they have to self-isolate?

As the number of positive Covid-19 cases increase, requiring more and more children to self-isolate, we have noted the Isolating Families protocol we will be following at Stepps Primary. If your child has to self-isolate as a family member has tested positive, or if they have been identified as a close contact by Trace and Protect, the following will happen. Please note, this does not apply to periods of self-isolation resulting from a holiday taken during term time.

After you call to let us know that your child has to self-isolate, the details will be passed to a member of the school's Senior Management Team.



The school will issue an email to inform you that a member of staff will be in touch, as soon as possible, for a Health & Wellbeing check-in and to discuss a home learning plan for your child.



During the call, you will be informed that North Lanarkshire's Supporting People Team may be in touch with you to discuss if you need any support during the isolation period.



If your child is in P1-P3, or entitled to free school meals, the school will inform the Council to ensure that you receive vouchers by email or text.



A programme of work will be prepared for your child and forwarded by email. Work may be issued weekly, or on a daily basis. You can contact your child's teacher by email, or phone, if you need to speak to them about the work set.



If your child is required to isolate for two weeks during term time, you will receive a further 'check-in' call from the school, normally half-way through the isolation period.

Useful Contacts

- NLC Advice for Parents/Carers - <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=34912>
- Educational Psychology Advice line - 01236 812380 from 10am – 3pm Monday to Friday
- NHS 24 - 0800 028 2816 – 8am – 10pm daily <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>.
- NLC's Supporting People Team - 0300 555 0407

Digital Learning Terminology & Contingency Planning

Whilst planning for the recovery of education, many 'new' phrases and terminology have been used in relation to the curriculum. As a result of the return to full time education for children and young people in August 2020, we have now moved away from the blended learning model with time split between class and home. The First Minister has said repeatedly that many of the additional measures being imposed are part of a trade-off to keep schools open. In the new system, schools will remain open at every level with only minor changes as the levels change.

Where schools do have to close, or a **whole class** needs to isolate, we will switch to remote learning. This is learning that is directed by a teacher and undertaken by children and young people who are not physically with the teacher while instruction is taking place. Remote learning can be delivered in a variety of ways: some high-tech, some low-tech and sometimes requiring no technological solutions. This might involve teacher led instruction delivered 'live' to pupils in real time and may include 'recorded' learning input from a teacher which the young person has been directed to. There are also approaches that encourage pupils to work independently, sometimes with technology that adapts the content of tasks in order to provide additional challenge or support.

For remote learning to take place most effectively a **Virtual Learning Environment** (VLE) is required. A VLE is a digital platform that facilitates learning by providing a space to house resources, deliver content and provide instruction/feedback. For schools in North Lanarkshire, this is Glow and more specifically Glow Teams. VLE's may be used to deliver live classes, set homework tasks and provide feedback. Should schools close, or whole classes need to isolate, we will use Glow Teams to facilitate remote learning. The council has now fully enabled the camera facility on Glow Teams so that teachers can see pupils and vice versa. This facility was not enabled during lockdown. This now means that teachers will be able to deliver some 'live' or pre-recorded lessons to classes or groups of pupils at specific times should schools have to close again. It is not practical for schools to reproduce the normal school day via 'live' online classrooms.

As children are now taught in ability groupings for key curricular areas, there may be times when 'live' lessons are planned for specific children and other times when all learners are 'invited' to participate. Tasks may be set for the children by the class teacher for completion before or after the online lesson. Not all activities set will be 'live' or pre-recorded input from the teacher. Just like during lockdown, all content will be uploaded to the children's Glow team with instructions. If your child is involved in a specific online teaching session, they will receive notification of the session through their Glow Team. A timetable of daily or weekly tasks/online teaching sessions will be provided in advance so that parents/carers can plan around this. A similar plan will be in place if a whole class and their teacher has to isolate due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school. However, in this case, online lessons will only be able to take place if the Class Teacher is well enough to do this. If the Class Teacher is unwell, then alternative learning activities will be provided.

Home Learning Using Team Assignments

From Monday 26th October, we moved to using a four weekly Shared Learning at Home Task Board with pupils. The task board contains a range of online, practical and written activities to be completed at home. All work set will be revision and consolidation of work already covered in class. Each week, one of the activities noted on the grid is an online task which will be set using Glow Assignments. Every child has also been provided with a homework jotter, which they can use at home to record/practise the activities set. Any login details or passwords your child needs to access the online learning tasks set by your teacher has been recorded on the inside cover of this jotter. This jotter should remain at home for now and **should not** be returned to school. This may change as restrictions ease in the future. As we stressed during lockdown, do what you can, when you can. We know that all families are under pressure at the moment, so please just do what you can with your child.

Please do not worry if you have difficulties accessing the online tasks. From experience, we fully appreciate that technology does not always work as it should. If you do have difficulty accessing the online tasks, please just let your child's teacher know and they will do what they can to help. If you do not have access to the online tasks, your child's teacher can provide a paper copy on request.

Due to new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), we can no longer issue a pupil's username and password to a parent. These must be issued directly to pupils. If your child has difficulty accessing any of the online platforms we use, you will now need to contact the school office, or your child's teacher, and they will arrange to reset/reissue the details to your child. Please note, the Post section within Glow Teams is solely for educational purposes and should only be used by staff to communicate with pupils about work and vice-versa. In the early stages we appreciate that parents/carers may need to support their child with this. There will also be times when pupils will use this platform to communicate with each other about schoolwork or projects. Posts which fall outwith these specific educational contexts will be removed by the Teams' Moderator to ensure that the school is complying with the regulations specified by Education Scotland.

Twitter Reminder



We use our @Steppsprimary Twitter account as a quick and effective way of sharing news, however, our account is not continually manned during the school day, in the evenings or at weekends. We cannot guarantee that someone will be available to answer any questions sent via Twitter outwith or during school hours, late in the evening or at weekends. **We welcome your**

comments on posts, and posts about your child's achievements, but if you have a question and require a response, please call the school office and someone will be happy to provide you with the information you require.

KEY DIARY DATES

Friday	13 th	November	Interim reports Issued
Friday	13 th	November	Children In Need Day (Information to follow)
Monday	16 th	November	School & Nursery Closed for pupils: In-service Training Day for Staff
Tuesday	17 th	November	Start of Anti-Bullying/Respect Me Week