

Kilbarchan Primary School Newsletter



September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are coming to the end of our first term of 2020 and what a term it has been! As you know we have been working hard to ensure that all pupils and staff are safe and healthy given the current situation. Here are some of the measures we have put in place:

- Gentle start in the morning
- Frequent washing of hands
- Increased cleaning of the school building throughout the day
- Children remaining in their class bubble whilst indoors
- Staggered intervals and lunches to minimise numbers mixing outside
- No sharing of resources between classes unless items have been quarantined
- Daily washing of play resources
- Quarantining of items going to/from home
- 2m distancing between teachers and pupils wherever possible
- Wearing of masks and other forms of PPE when required
- Staggered exit of infant classes at 3pm with families maintaining 2m distance at school gates and wearing masks if possible

We would like to thank all our families for their continued support of these measures as our collective response helps us to keep everyone safe in these challenging times.

Kindest regards
Fiona MacKenzie
Head Teacher

Please remember we are a NUT FREE school and kindly ask that no items containing nuts are brought in to school as snack or packed lunch.

We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Our twitter has all the latest things that our classes have been getting up to recently. Follow our school twitter to see what we have been doing in school at @KilbarchanPS

Important Dates

Holiday School closed	25-28 Sept
Flu vaccination	08-Oct
Holiday School closed	12-16 Oct
In Service Day	19-Oct
St Andrews Day	30-Nov
Holiday School closed	21 Dec-5 Jan
Holiday School closed	8-9 Feb
In Service Day	10-Feb
Spring Break school closed	02-16-Apr
May Day Holiday	03-May
In Service Day	04-May
Holiday School closed	31-May
School closes 1pm	25-Jun

Parents' Nights

As many of you know, we would normally be hosting our Parents' Nights in the weeks leading up to the October Holiday. Unfortunately given current restrictions, we are unable to invite you in to the school to hear about your child's progress from their teacher. Instead we will be sending home Interim Report Cards via your child's Glow email. These will go out next Thursday. If you have any issue accessing these, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Renfrewshire Council Website has information for parents and carers regarding symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19. Please follow this link:

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/covid-cases-schools>

The key coronavirus symptoms are:

- a high temperature or fever,
- a new continuous cough,
- a loss of/change in sense of smell or taste.

Could we kindly ask that pupils come to school in shoes and jackets suitable for our wet weather?

Should you require any assistance with this please do not hesitate to contact me.

Playground Update

The building works in our grounds should be coming to an end in the next few months and we would like to use this as an opportunity to improve our playground and purchase new equipment for our children. As you can imagine an undertaking such as this can be costly and so the school will be linking with a number of different companies to find the best option for our school. Our fundraising activities in the coming months will assist in the purchase of this new equipment.

The ideas put forward by the companies will be shared and discussed with our pupils, staff and families in order to ensure that all views are taken in to account. Further details regarding the options provided, the fundraising activities to be held and ways in which you can get involved will be sent out in due course. Watch this space!

Homework Review

This term has seen a change in the way we provide homework activities. Due to the need to minimise items sent home, we have had to put this work on Glow and Google Classrooms, the platform we used during lockdown.

A questionnaire designed to gather your views on this will go live on our website this week and will run until Tuesday 6 October.

Gentle Start

Our Gentle Start will continue after the October Holiday however the timings will change. Children will be able to enter the building from 0900 – 0915. If your child arrives after this time we ask that they enter the building via the Main Entrance.

If the weather is particularly inclement we will continue to allow children in from 0845, as has always been the case.

Wet Weather Items

As the seasons change, and with our continued focus on Outdoor Learning, the school is pleased to be able to inform you that we have recently purchased a considerable number of waterproof jackets and wellies. We will not ask children to go outside if we feel the conditions are too dangerous but we do want them to be able to explore the environment around them, even on those wet days.

Feedback from Parent/Carer Questionnaire

I would like to thank all those parents and carers who completed our Return to School Questionnaire (ended Tues 1 Sept). Here are some of the results:

- 95% of P1 families found the visit in June helpful and 100% thought the booklets were helpful.
- 95% of P1 and 88% of P2-7 families were either extremely or somewhat confident with the implementation of COVID-19 guidelines in the school.
- 100% of P1 and 91% of P2-7 families found the Powerpoint helpful.
- 100% of those asked felt that the school had kept them up to date eg via letters.
- 84% of P1 and 100% of P2-7 families felt they were able to ask questions and speak to members of staff. Those who said they couldn't, noted that this was due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- 100% of all families felt that their child had had a positive start/return to school in August.

We hope that subsequent letters and updates have answered some of the questions families posed. If there is an issue you feel hasn't been resolved, please do not hesitate to get in touch.