



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your children have settled back into the routines of school life. It has been an absolute pleasure to have the children back with us, so excited and ready for a new academic year! As you know, we send out newsletters on a regular basis, containing updates, dates for future events etc. If there is something you would particularly like to read about or information you think would be helpful for us to include in future newsletters, please give the school a call and let us know.

Keep Safe Kids App

This app is available for iPhone and Android and was co-produced by the I Am Me Scotland charity alongside young people from 6 Renfrewshire schools. The app is a new way for children and young people to get advice and support from a range of organisations and will also provide an additional way for children and their families to report bullying directly to the school. Using the App will not change the way the reports are responded to, it will just offer a new and accessible way to get support. It is important to note that reports will only be picked up during school hours and will not be accessed in the evening, at weekends or during school holidays.

We at Kilbarchan would like to encourage any child and/or family to speak with the school directly should there be any concerns regarding bullying. There is no expectation that you use the app, it is simply an additional method for reporting concerns. You are still welcome to call and/or email the school directly.

0300 300 0163

Or

kilbarchanenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Reporting to Families

We report on children's progress every term, using a blend of conversations and written reports. We hope for our Parents' Nights to be in person this year but if not, you will receive a phone call from your child's class teacher instead. If your child has a support plan you will also be invited to review and contribute to the content of those plans at regular points throughout the year.

- Term 1 – If Parents' Nights can be done in person, they will take place on the 6 and 7 of October. If not, you will receive a call from your child's class teacher, week commencing the 4 October 2021. Specific timings will be sent out nearer the time.
- Term 2 – Interim Report sent out to parents/carers on 13 December 2021.
- Term 3 – If Parents' Nights can be done in person, they will take place on the 30 and 31 of March. If not, you will receive a call from your child's class teacher, week commencing the 28 March 2022. Specific timings will be sent out nearer the time.
- Term 4 – End of Year Report sent out to parents/carers 30 May 2022.

Family Learning

As many of you will know, we had a great tradition of offering Family Learning sessions on learning and teaching approaches used within the school. COVID put a halt on this as we were unable to bring parents/carers into the building. Until such times as we can welcome you back to see inside the school, we would like to offer these learning sessions via Teams. Invites for the events will come out nearer the time and we ask that you provide a suitable email address to which the Teams invite can be sent.

- 26 October 2021 – The Write Stuff
- 6 December 2021 – Targeted interventions in Numeracy and Maths
- 9 February 2022 – Our nurture approaches, LGBTQ Awards and Emotionworks

We hope to be able to add further sessions throughout the year, please let us know if there is a topic you would like us to include this year.

Contact Tracing

A reminder that we will no longer be carrying out 'contact tracing' directly, as was the case before. It is also important to note that any child aged 5 – 18 will no longer have to self-isolate for 10 days if they are identified as a close contact, **as long as they remain asymptomatic and have a negative PCR test.**

Drop Off and Pick Up

We kindly ask that once parents and carers have dropped off their child in the morning or have picked them up at the end of the day, that they move away from the school gates. This is to support our endeavours in minimising groups of adults and limiting the spread of COVID.

Could I also ask that if you are bringing your dog along when dropping children off or picking them up, that you keep the dog away from the gates. Your animals are lovely, and I really enjoy seeing them however we do have a number of families who find it difficult to be around dogs and this can cause some level of distress, especially at points where people are congregating.

It has also been brought to my attention that some cars are coming along Meadside Avenue rather quickly in the morning and not stopping at the crossing points. On behalf of our pupils and their families, could I ask that everyone is considerate of the safety of other road users and pedestrians?

Ground Works

Our wonderful Primary 7 class of 2020-21 worked closely with me and a company on plans to develop an outdoor learning space in our front garden. I am sure many of you will have been asking about the development of these plans! I was regularly in touch with the company throughout the summer and again in recent weeks however it seems that the materials required are rather difficult to come by at the moment. For anyone who perhaps did some work on their own gardens over the summer, I am sure you will be aware of such difficulties and share our frustrations!

We have further plans for the development of two spaces to the rear of our school for similar outdoor learning spaces. We will be working with our children to design something that fits their needs and provides a rich learning experience. Fingers crossed that the supplies come through so that we can progress with this work!

Reminders

- Water Bottles – We ask that each child comes to school with their own water bottle as the kitchen no longer has bottles that can be given out. Could you also please ensure that it is only water and not juice in the bottles please? Should your family require assistance in purchasing a water bottle please do not hesitate to contact me.
- Nut Free School – A brief reminder that we are a Nut Free School and so no products containing nuts should be brought to school.
- Class Photographs – Each class will have their photograph take on 8 September in the Gym Hall. If your child has PE on this day, we ask that they come to school in the uniform. Class teachers will work the PE lesson around the time slot for the photographs to ensure they remain smart.
- Flu vaccinations – You will already have received your child's vaccination letter. Vaccinations are due to take place in the afternoon of the 7 October.
- Homework – Homework Grids will go out to pupils this week. We responded to the request from parents/carers to continue with the learning videos that were so popular during lockdown and so have incorporated these into our homework this year. If it mentions such a video on your child's homework grid you will find this saved on to our school website, under Homework Videos. This section is being populated this week.

Celebrating Success

As you know, we love to hear about the successes and achievement of our pupils! If there is something you wish us to know, drop us a line and we can celebrate this in school. In line with our updated Vision, Values and Aims we will also be introducing new Values Awards to our assembly programme this year.

Weekly assemblies will go out to each class and we look forward to including the many wonderful achievements of our pupils in this programme!

Parent Council

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to any new parents/carers who wish to join our Parent Council! Please join their Facebook group for more information and details of our next meeting which will be our AGM. In line with current guidance this will take place via Teams until restrictions ease.

School Improvement Plans

At the end of this month, we will publish our detailed School Improvement Plans and Standards and Quality Report on to our website. In the meantime, we attach an overview of our priorities with this newsletter.

I hope the information contained within this newsletter has been helpful and I welcome any suggestions for future content.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona MacKenzie
Head Teacher