



Auchenlodment Primary School

Aspen Place

Johnstone, PA5 9QQ

0300 300 0145

auchenlodmentenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

www.auchenlodment.renfrewshire.sch.uk



Newsletter - 18th May 2020

This is an extremely strange time we are currently living through. It is wonderful to be able to spend all this extra time with our immediate families, however, I'm sure you can't wait until we return to some sort of normality. Unfortunately, we do not have an update on when the schools will return. We take the lead from the Scottish Government and put our trust in them that they will wait until it is safe for our children and staff to return to school and nursery. The staff of Auchenlodment are working closely with Renfrewshire Council in creating a recovery plan to ensure that when we do return to school/ nursery, the children and staff's health and safety is the highest priority. We will keep you updated regularly over the coming weeks. Please follow the school - **@AuchenlodmentPS** and Renfrewshire Council - **@RenCouncil** on Twitter for updates.

Learning at Home

We are genuinely overwhelmed and so impressed at how well the children and their families have adapted to this new way of working and learning. The pupils' engagement on Seesaw and Google Classrooms is tremendous and it is wonderful to be able to see what you have been doing at home with your children. If you completed the online Learning at Home survey - THANK YOU! The feedback was useful in determining next steps for how we improve the learning at home process. It is important to reiterate that the tasks the teacher sets the children are optional. We encourage children to do one literacy, one numeracy task per day. Anything more than that is a bonus. Please don't think you need to re-create school. This is a new way of working for everyone and the best thing you can do is to maintain a calm nurturing environment. There will be days when you feel like pulling your hair out, this is absolutely normal. Give the work a miss on these days; go out a walk instead or do something in the garden. The next day is a fresh start - this is one of our mottos in school. Keep up the good work and be proud of what you and your children have achieved over the past 7 weeks. Don't worry about your child falling behind with their learning, it is our job to ensure they catch up when they return to school - and they will catch up!

Learning Packs

We can provide learning packs to any child who would benefit from one. The packs consist of worksheets and activities that your child can do as an alternative to online learning. We have already distributed 80 packs to families. If you would like one for your child, please email the enquiries line or contact your child's teacher on Seesaw.

Reporting to Parents - School & ELCC

As mentioned previously, your child's annual report card will not be issued this term, instead teachers will be making phone calls to parents/ carers to discuss your child's progress and identify next steps in their learning. These phone calls will take place weeks beginning 25th May and 1st June. If you would prefer not to receive a phone call, please message the teacher on Seesaw or email auchenlodmentenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk and we will arrange an alternative method. Please note

the phone call will come from a withheld number. If you have something specific you would like to speak to the teacher about, it would be useful to send them a message on Seesaw prior the phone call. In the **ELCC**, parents of children who will be starting school in August, will receive a phone call from their child's key worker to discuss their child's progress.

Staffing and Volunteering

Ms Cluness returns from maternity leave on Monday 18th May. She will be supporting in the P2 class and will plan the learning and be the main contact for the P2 class on a Friday. Ms Cameron is volunteering in one of the key worker hubs 2 days per week. The P7 learning will continue to be scheduled by Ms Cameron and Ms Whyte. On the days that Ms Cameron is in the hub, Mrs Scott is the main contact for P7. Mr Atkinson will be volunteering in a hub every Wednesday. He remains the main contact for P4 for the whole week. Thank you to both teachers for volunteering their time to help support the children of key workers.

New Primary 1

We are very excited to welcome our new Primary 1 children and their families to Auchenlodment in August. The transition arrangements will be very different to what we normally provide. As we are unable to confirm when the school will reopen, we are planning alternative transition activities, including letters from the P7 buddies, a virtual tour of the school (available online), phone calls and video calls. We want the children to feel prepared for starting school and we will be doing everything we can to ensure both children and families feel confident and comfortable with school routines etc. In the first instance, parents will receive communication via email, you will also get updates on Seesaw and on the nursery Facebook page. In the meantime, if you have any questions please email auchenlodmentenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

P7 Update

Auchenlodment staff are working closely with Johnstone High School to plan transition activities for P7 pupils. We will confirm these plans over the next 2 weeks. An insurance claim has been submitted to the council for refunding the London residential trip. We will be in touch as soon as we have further information. We will be organising an online celebration for our P7s. Further information to follow. Ms Cameron would like to meet with the pupils next Tuesday at 1pm on Google Meet. Instruction on how to join will be shared in Seesaw.

Assemblies

Thank you for joining us for our weekly online assemblies. It has been wonderful to see the children's faces and I'm sure they have enjoyed and benefited from the interactions with their friends and the staff. Unfortunately, a few of our families have experienced difficulties joining the assemblies, we can only apologise for this. We have been investigating how to resolve the issues; please try to use Google Chrome and log onto the assembly 5 minutes before they start. Instructions are posted on your child's Seesaw profile a few days prior to the assembly. The next assembly to be held is on Thursday 21st May at 10am. This is a whole school assembly. Family members are welcome to join in.

Head Teacher's Challenge

The next Head Teacher's challenge is the Great APS Bake Off. Children are encouraged to bake or cook one of their favourite recipes. It could be a cake, a pie, their favourite dinner etc. They should take photos and videos of them creating it and then a photo of the final outcome. Upload the photos to Seesaw by Wednesday 20th May and we will show all the finished pieces at the assembly on Thursday morning. **GOOD LUCK!**

Renfrewshire Leisure Online Olympics

An online version of the Olympic Games has been launched for primary school pupils during lockdown. Renfrewshire Leisure's seven-week sports tournament is for Primary One to Seven youngsters. Please

click on the link for more information. We want our children to remain **Active** throughout lockdown and this is a great way of keeping fit and doing it as a school community. Let's try and get everyone involved and aim for first place. <https://www.renfrewshireleisure.com/rl-online-olympics/>

Thank you

**Gerry Carlton
Head Teacher**