

## **NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2020**

I hope that you are well and it is great to be back at school, giving us all some sense of normality once again. It is lovely to see our pupils settling back into their routines and everyone is now getting to know their teachers and becoming used to the routines and procedures. Everyone at Langcraigs is committed to making sure that all our pupils are safe and happy at school and, even in these uncertain times, we are determined to ensure that this is another rewarding and productive year for everyone.

Below is some information which I hope that you find useful.

### **Staggered Start/Finish Times**

Thank you for helping us implement this plan which is designed to reduce congestion in the playground and in the school. Please try to drop off/collect your child as near to their start/finish time as possible, so that children and parents aren't waiting long in the playgrounds. This is particularly relevant when the weather is poor.

### **Learning and Teaching**

As mentioned in previous correspondence, our main focus in the first part of this term is the Health & Wellbeing of our pupils, along with working on the core subjects of Maths, Reading and Writing. Other curricular areas will be covered as appropriate but much of the learning and teaching time will be centred around these core subjects, to ensure that firstly, our pupils feel happy and comfortable coming back into school and secondly, any identified gaps in pupils' learning are closed as quickly as possible.

To help close this gap, we would like nothing more than to begin our homework programmes but due to hygiene issues around jotters being passed back and forth from home to school, we will not be issuing homework at the moment until we have clearer guidance. Hopefully, after the October holidays, homework will resume as before. In the meantime, P1 & P2 will be issued with some ideas and suggestions as to how number and phonics can be supported at home.

A class information letter is now available to view on our website and information about homework will be issued in due course.

### **Health & Safety**

We have a rigorous handwashing routine at school and it has been great to see so many of our pupils taking responsibility for their own hygiene on a daily basis. Nothing beats washing hands with soap and water but if your child comes to school with their own bottle of sanitiser then that is fine to use, so long as they do not share the bottle with others.

I would also like to remind you of the approach all schools are required to take if a pupil presents with any of the three main symptoms which could be indicative of Covid-19: new, and continuous cough; high temperature; and loss of taste / smell. As the guidelines state at present (and this may change in the future), **you are encouraged to have your child tested if you call to advise us that your child is unwell with symptoms that could be**

**associated with the virus.** Other symptoms (e.g. sneezing) do not require a child to be tested.

Your child can only return to the school if they receive a negative test result, or after 10 calendar days of self-isolation. Also, please be reminded that the household must self-isolate until a negative test result is confirmed, which means that siblings cannot attend the school either. If a pupil presents with these symptoms while at school, then we have no choice but to contact you and ask you to collect your child from the school, whereby you should arrange for them to be tested as mentioned above.

I realise that this may be inconvenient for some parents but please remember that this is not a Langcraigs policy, this is a public health directive which is not negotiable and one in which we have to follow, along with every other school in the country.

Your support in helping to keep everyone associated with Langcraigs safe and well, is very much appreciated.

### **Communication**

Most of our communication for the foreseeable future will be done by text message, email or through our school website. Therefore, please look out for information through these channels as opposed to letters in bags.

**Also, please be reminded that more than ever before, it is essential that the school has your up to date contact details including emergency contact details.** You will soon be issued with Annual Data Forms electronically and I urge you to complete these with all the required information and return to the school as instructed.

For health & safety reasons, you will appreciate that no parents are permitted to come into the school building but it is important that you are still able to contact myself, Mrs Hill or a class teacher to discuss any issues relating to your child. Therefore, please call or email the office at [langcraigsenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:langcraigsenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk) if you have a query or concern.

**Class Assemblies** – as things stand at the moment, we are unable to have our usual class assemblies (e.g. Harvest Assembly/Remembrance Service) which I know you enjoy attending but I will keep you updated if the guidelines change.

**School Photographs** – you should have been notified by now that the Council has advised that no schools should have a photographer in the building during this period. We will inform you if the advice changes.

**Flu Immunisation** – you will receive some letters shortly and you are strongly encouraged to give your consent to allow your child to receive their flu vaccine this year. The nurse will be visiting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November. For further information please visit [www.nhsinform.scot/childflu](http://www.nhsinform.scot/childflu)

Finally, I want to thank you for your continued support during this unprecedented time and yes, due to the nature of this ever changing situation, sometimes there will be scenarios which we have not thought about or planned for but please be assured that we will continue to work hard and strive to make sure that Langcraigs is a safe, welcoming and stimulating learning environment for your children.

Yours sincerely

*Graeme Maclean*

Graeme Maclean  
Head Teacher