

Langcraigs Primary School
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Dear Parent/Carer,



NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2021

It has been a challenging time of late throughout the community and at Langcraigs. It is always disappointing when there is disruption to pupils' learning, especially during a year when pupils require and indeed, deserve a period of stability and I can assure you that no-one wants that more than my staff and me.

However, the health and safety of pupils and staff has to take priority and we as a school have to follow the established procedures and guidelines laid out by Renfrewshire Council. Unfortunately, this has led to some pupils having to return to remote learning and their classroom experience being disrupted once again, which is frustrating for everyone but is necessary when trying to curb the spread of the virus. I can also reassure you that cleaning takes place on a regular basis throughout the day and continues after the pupils have gone home in the afternoon. Focussed cleans also take place as and when required.

I have been in contact with many parents over the last couple of weeks and I want to express my sincere thanks for your support and understanding during what I know has been a worrying, frustrating and anxious time.

Please continue to follow the government guidelines in order to keep you and your families as safe as possible and below is a reminder from the Director of Children's Services about how we can all help to keep our school community as safe as possible :

"If you or anyone in your house has the symptoms of COVID-19, you must self-isolate and book a test. You should not send your child to school or nursery and you should not go to your place of work if you don't work from home. COVID-19 symptoms are:

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

If your child is asked to self-isolate because they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive, you should [book a test](#) for them. Even if their test results come back negative, your child must continue to self-isolate for the full 10-day period. This is because the virus could still be developing in your child's system.

If your child tests positive, then you and the rest of your household must self-isolate. We also recommend that you book a test as a close contact.

If your child develops symptoms while they are self-isolating, you should book another test and everyone in your household should also self-isolate and book a test.

It's really important we all continue to do our bit and stick by the rules to support our schools and nurseries. Remember to wear a face covering if you can, avoid crowds, and keep your distance from people not in your household. The more we can reduce the chances for the virus to spread, the better for all of us."

Classes and Teachers for 2021/2022

We plan to inform pupils and parents about their new classes/teachers for next session in mid-June, after the reports have been issued. This information will be emailed out to you. Normally pupils would have the opportunity to work with their new teacher, however we won't be able to do that this year but their current class teacher will talk to them and answer any questions which they may have.

Below is some information which you may find useful in respect of how classes are organised in a Primary School:

As with the majority of schools across Renfrewshire, we will be running with some composite classes next session – something which is unavoidable due to our staffing allocation. I realise that some of you may be anxious about your child being placed in a composite class, but please be assured, that your child's progress is not hindered at all and in some cases can actually be advantageous, with self-esteem and confidence being enhanced. We take care and put a lot of thought into organising classes and I have outlined below Renfrewshire's guidelines for your information. I hope this is helpful and informative but should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Structure of Classes

- Primary schools have pupils at 7 broad year stages i.e. P1 – P7. A year stage is a group of pupils entering primary education at a common date.
- Pupils are organised within single year classes e.g. Primary 3 or in composite classes, e.g. Primary 3/4 which contain more than one year group.
- Schools are staffed to agreed standards based on the total number of pupils within the school regardless of the numbers of pupils at each year stage. This means that the Head Teacher needs to organise classes to make best use of available staff, resources and space. Balancing up the various factors involves both educational and organisational considerations.
- Renfrewshire Council's normal maximum number of pupils in a single year class is 25 for P1, 30 for P2 & P3, 33 for P4-P7 and the maximum number of pupils in a composite class is 25.
- The Head Teacher is responsible for structuring classes on the basis of advice given by the council.
- In all classes, pupils working at broadly the same place and level in language and/or mathematics are grouped together. This arrangement uses teaching resources most effectively and supports continuity for pupils.

Selection of Pupils

- Where a composite class is being formed, specific criteria have been provided by the council.
- In forming new classes, full account must be taken of existing successful groupings of pupils. Schools should use language and/or mathematics groupings as the basis for allocating children to classes. Within this broad guideline, a language or mathematics working group could be described as:
"A number of pupils with broadly the same attainment levels who show the capacity for working well as a learning group"

- Where a single year class and a composite class are being formed at the same stages, the Head Teacher, class teacher and, where appropriate, pre-five colleagues, will make use of their professional judgement and all available information to form the two classes.

Communication

- Normally, classes will be formed before the start of a new school year so that all involved know what class structures exist for the new school session.
- In certain circumstances, class restructuring may have to take place during the summer break or after a school session has started.
- Parents will be informed of the arrangements for annual class structuring arrangements towards the end of the final term.
- The Head Teacher will be happy to meet with you to answer any questions on class structure or any other matter.

Citizenship Winners

I am pleased to inform you that the following pupils will receive a special Langcraigs certificate from me for 'Being Responsible' throughout the month of May:

P1 Rowan Welsh

P1/2 Isla McNally

P2 Macie Haughie

P2/3 Carly Murphy

P3 Coral Taylor

P4 Riley Higginson

P4/5 Lauren Thomson

P5 Grace Milne

P6 Ethan Pattison

P6/7 Lily McLean

P7 Taylor Adams

Fun Day Reminder (Thursday 3/6)

As per May's newsletter, just a reminder that tomorrow we will be having our school fun day, which will involve pupils participating in a range of fun events outdoors. P1-3 will take part in the morning, while P4-P7 will be outside in the afternoon. Active schools' coaches will organise all the events and pupils will be in their class bubbles, with any equipment being sanitised or replaced after use. Please remember that pupils do not require to wear school uniform and should bring a bottle of water and perhaps a hat/sun lotion, as the temperature may be quite hot. Unfortunately, parents should not attend this event.

Dates for the Diary

JUNE

Thursday 3rd

Active Schools Fun Day

Monday 14th

Pupil Reports emailed out today

Friday 25th

SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1.00PM

AUGUST

Monday 16th

School re-opens for pupils

At the time of writing this newsletter, we have been advised that staggered start/finish times should remain in place in August and we will put further information about this onto our school website by the end of the term.

On behalf of everyone at Langcraigs, I would like to thank you for your support over the last school year and I hope that you all enjoy the summer ahead.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Maclean

Graeme Maclean
Head Teacher