



# Gardenrose Primary Newsletter



November / December 2020



**Dear Parents / Carers,**

We got off to a great start this term with our Spooky Sponsored Halloween Walk which has been closely followed by Children in Need fun, and already we have started with the Christmas preparations for crafts and class activities.

## COVID update

We regularly update our school risk assessment to take account of the latest Government guidelines. As part of the mitigating procedures to keep your children and staff members safe, all staff must now wear face coverings when moving around the school and in social spaces. When staff are working closely with a child or groups of children, they are also required to wear a face covering. Parents/carers within the playground and near to the school entrances are also required to wear a face covering in addition to maintaining 2 metres distance from each other.

We are also following the latest guidelines on ventilation, and all windows are open in classrooms and the doors are opened during break times to ensure fresh air is being circulated in all class bases.

It has been very challenging for everyone, but the staff and children have been very flexible in adapting to the continual changes as we respond to the latest Government Health advice.

We have had a number of children and families who have had to self-isolate for short periods of time. The teaching staff will post a selection of classwork either on TEAMS (P4-7) or on SEESAW (P1-3) to ensure learning is not disrupted whilst in self isolation. All children in P4-7 are familiar with their log-ins and how to access the site.

We appreciate that the younger children are relying on parents/carers to support them, therefore SEESAW is an easier means for parents to communicate with the class teacher and to post completed work on.

Those children who are entitled to a free school meal due to parents being on low incomes, are entitled to receive a payment whilst they are isolating. This does not apply to all P1-3 children who receive free meals through the Government funded initiative. Please contact the school directly if you feel that this applies to you.

Guidance criteria and online application form :

<https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/clothing-grant.aspx>

### **Handwashing / Sanitising**

We have some free skincare samples including gentle skin wash and moisturising cream. Some parents/carers have discussed with us that their children's skin has become very irritated. These will be left on the table at the front door for parents/carers to help themselves.

### **Staffing**

We have had a small number of staff members who have been absent due to family members having to self-isolate. We are very pleased that so far it has not impacted on the service that we are able to deliver as we have been able to secure supply staff.

Mrs Laurie who works in the EYC and within P1-3, is moving to Southcraig School, following her success at interview a few weeks ago. We will be very sad to see her go as she is a talented and valued member of our team and will be sadly missed by staff and pupils. Mrs Laurie is very passionate about supporting children with learning difficulties and was delighted to have the opportunity to move to Southcraig.

Mrs Wade begins her maternity leave on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November and we wish her the very best of luck at this exciting time. We will keep you updated on her new arrival. Miss Grater will be re-joining the infant department to cover for Mrs Wade. Miss Grater worked within the EYC and infant department last year so she knows the children and staff very well and will ensure a smooth handover prior to Mrs Wade's last day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Christmas holiday arrangements**

Schools in South-Ayrshire will now close on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December instead of Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December will be an in-service day for staff and a closure for pupils. Pupils will finish at 2:30pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 and staff will finish at 2:30pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

## **Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019:**

The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 came fully into force on 7 November. The links provide some information and resources on this legislation :

- Resources on the Act for children, young people and adults:  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-equal-protection-from-assault-scotland-act-2019-promotional-materials/>
- A dedicated page on the ParentClub website:  
<https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/guide-new-law-about-physically-punishing-child>.
- An easy read factsheet on the Act:  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-equal-protection-assault-scotland-act-factsheet-easy-read/>
- News release on the Act issued by the Scottish Government:  
<https://news.gov.scot/news/defence-to-assault-on-children-removed>

## **Curriculum**

### **PE**

All classes are now able to take part in indoor P.E sessions. To ensure that they can do so safely, the windows are open as well as the stage curtains and partitions. The door into the senior playground is also open and the green gates are locked to ensure that the school is secure and that there is a continual flow of fresh air.

Please ensure that your child has shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms, a change of t-shirt (no football colours) and indoor shoes. It is preferable that they change out of the shoes that they are wearing in the playground to participate in gym. If anyone has spare shorts or gym shoes / trainers which are in good condition, but your child has outgrown them we would be delighted if you wanted to hand them into the school as spares. We would also appreciate any wellies which your child has outgrown for outdoor learning. The classes now have PE on the following days.

P1	Wednesday and Friday
P2	Wednesday and Thursday
P3	Monday and Thursday
P4	Monday and Thursday
P6/5 (Mrs C and Mrs B)	Monday and Friday
P6/5 (Miss Jones)	Tuesday and Friday
P7	Tuesday and Friday

## Scholastic Book Fayre

The Book Fayre has arrived in school and will be with us until 26<sup>th</sup> November. We have attached the pre-browse catalogue which includes payment details. Parents and pupils can browse the full range of books in advance using our new Parent Order Forms. The final page of the PDF is editable so parents/carers can add their selections and email them back to the school. Scholastic would prefer that parents use the 'pay by phone' option rather than cash but we are happy to accept cash if required.

When ordering books parents need the School Customer ID : **31500804 Gardenrose Primary School.** Parents will then be given a transaction code when they make a phone payment, which you pass onto ourselves as proof of payment.

The children will have the opportunity to come along next week to have a look at the books and while they are browsing the Book Fair, they can use the wish list to write down the books that catch their eye. We will send this home to parents/carers so that you can then decide if you wish to purchase any books. There is a great range of books on offer and the school always benefits from the commission on the sales, which we then use to purchase books for our own library.

We have also attached the stationery list if you wish to order anything. You can visit the website using the link <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/chapter-one> to enjoy some videos of some favourite authors reading one chapter from their books to help you keep children engaged and excited about reading.



## Ethos and life of the School

### Sponsored Walk

The Spooky Sponsored walk for Halloween was an amazing success. So far we have raised **£1497.21**. The children and staff had a great time getting dressed up and walking down to the Golf course and enjoyed looking at all of the houses and gardens on Culzean Road and Whitefaulds Avenue which were decorated for Halloween. One garden was spectacular and extremely spooky, particularly on the way back to school when the clowns came alive !!! We loved the corpse lying on the street corner too. PC Emma McGinlay was a fantastic help to us, stopping all of the traffic to let us cross the roads safely. Ryan Douglas, our Active School coordinator and Susan Moffat were also stars driving the minibus for our EYC and P1 children so that they did not have too long a walk. A group of staff very kindly helped to decorate the Golf course on the morning so that the children could spot the spooky things on the way round their route and then we had a willing group of parent helpers who helped with stewarding and clearing away the decorations. All of the children and parent helpers were amazing and although the children were extremely tired when they got back to school, they seemed to have a great time. A huge thank-you to the South-Ayrshire staff at the Golf Club for allowing us to use the course.



## Children in Need

This year Miss Jones and Miss McNeillie have organised the Children in Need activities for the school including : Active Wear Friday where the children have to dress down and wear active wear to participate in a live workout in line with this year's theme of *five to thrive*. Children in Need Merchandise was on sale and of course the much awaited event, Soak the Teacher Auction with the highest bidder in each class getting to soak their teacher and Mrs Malcolm and myself. We hope to record and share video footage of each for added entertainment.



## Remembrance activities

Primary 7 pupils and Miss Caldwell organised a super virtual remembrance service on zoom. The children had participated in research and enjoyed sharing the significant facts and traditions associated with 11<sup>th</sup> November. They also shared some of the work that they had been doing in class including their artwork of the Blitz and their Anderson shelters. We were delighted that quite a few parents were able to join them live. It is available to watch on the school facebook page if you were not able to watch it live.



## Christmas

### **Cards, Calendars and crafts**

Each child has made a Christmas card and this year we are also creating the 'Four Seasons' family calendars where the children will be photographed using props in each of the four backgrounds for each season. Children will be photographed individually or with siblings within the school. These are available for families to order. Each child will also be making some Christmas crafts as gifts for their families. We are also going to run

a Christmas Craft Club for P3-7 pupils and we will use the gym and dining hall as it is well ventilated and allows for distancing between class groups. The materials will be provided by the school and the children will be able to sell them within school prior to Christmas.

### **Activities**

We have planned a number of activities for December, whilst still being very mindful of the current restrictions. We feel that it is important that we still try to maintain some normality and have some festive fun. The school will be using some of the sponsor money to pay for Christmas parties, the pantomime and presents.

We are planning to create and share a virtual Christmas Advent Calendar. Each day in December leading up to Christmas, we will share a Christmas activity or performance with parents/carers. This will include Christmas artwork, dance, sketch, story, poem, songs using musical instruments and sign language. This will be posted to facebook, twitter and on our BLOG.

### **Jumpers**

We would like to invite children to start wearing their Christmas Jumpers from **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December** leading up to the Christmas lunch on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. This will get us all into the festive spirit. We appreciate that some children may not have Christmas jumpers and many children who do have them will have outgrown their jumpers from last year. We would appreciate if families would like to donate any Christmas jumpers which their children have outgrown and we will make these available to children within the school who do not have a jumper. We will arrange for a box to be placed at the front entrance to the school for parents/carers to drop off any jumpers or send them in with your child. We will ensure that the jumpers have been washed prior to issuing to any families. *Information will be issued separately for the children to make their choices for lunch.*

### **Pantomime**

Due to the COVID restrictions, we are not able to attend the Gaiety Theatre for our annual pantomime. Instead we have booked the ultimate pantomime experience, 'Cinderella live'. Each class will be able to watch and participate in the pantomime while it is live on Wednesday 16th December. The school will provide some Christmas snacks for the children to enjoy during their pantomime.

Feedback – we appreciate your comments or suggestions

Please e-mail any feedback to : [gardenrose.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:gardenrose.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Please provide feedback on any of the activities which your children have been involved in during last term.

We are also always looking for new ideas and ways to improve the learning experiences for your child so please e-mail any helpful comments or constructive criticism – Be kind ☺!



**GARDENROSE PRIMARY**  
**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**TERM 2 - December 2020**



**November**

- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>      Samples of work sent home to parents/carers to be returned next day
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup>      Christmas cards and calendars distributed this week
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup>      St. Andrew's Day class activities

**December**

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>      Christmas Jumpers can start to be worn in school
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup>      Christmas lunch
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup>      Christmas parties this week – details to follow
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>      *School closes 2.30pm (Revised date)*
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>      *Inservice Day*

**January**

- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>      *School re-opens for pupils and staff*