

People Directorate

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Dear Parents and Carers

What a quick first term we have had! It is hard to believe that it is now October and that we will be on holiday next week!

Children and staff have returned and settled in well to school routines. I have thoroughly enjoyed returning from my regional post to school life. There is never a dull moment!

I would like to thank all parents and carers for being so patient and adhering to COVID restrictions this term. We appreciate you wearing masks and socially distancing when you bring your children in to the playground.

I would also like to thank the staff for working so hard under difficult circumstances. Thankfully some of the restrictions are easing a little as you will read below.

Classes have had a busy 7 weeks engaging in learning. All of our children are becoming familiar with our school rules – We are learners; We are kind; We are respectful; We are safe. We have had 3 virtual assemblies, where we have recognised pupils who are going above and beyond our expectations, and we continue to reward pupils who have no warnings with extra break on a Friday.

Primary 7 pupils held a virtual McMillan coffee morning at the end of September and all classes enjoyed juice and a treat. There were lots of lucky prize winners from the raffle. We are delighted to announce that over £600 was raised. Well done P7s and thank you to all who donated!

PEEP sessions have started in the EYC and Carrick Centre, with parents enjoying playing and learning with their child outdoors. Forest school sessions have also begun and the children are enjoying getting wrapped up to explore our outdoor environment. Gardenrose has been recognised as a 'Virtual Nature School' for the infant and early years programme, bringing the outside in. Children from the Carrick Centre will begin to take part in Forest School next term and our 3-5 year olds will have an opportunity to experience Beach School.

Our breakfast club continues to operate in the dinner hall from 8.15 – 8.50am and all children are welcome to come along and enjoy a healthy breakfast. This costs £1 per child.

P7 Young Leaders are being trained by Emma from Active Schools to supervise younger pupils to keep healthy and active at break times. Children are no longer restricted to class bubbles outside and are enjoying playing with friends in other classes.

P5 pupils have been making good progress in their weekly swimming lessons. This is a welcome return to one of our normal activities.

At the time of writing this letter, parents are still not permitted in schools due to COVID restrictions. Parents night is on the 18th November and will take the form of phone calls unless restriction change. There will be further information on this in due course.

I hope that you all enjoy the October break. School will finish this afternoon at 2.50pm / 3pm as usual. Monday 18th is an inservice day and children will return to school on Tuesday 19th October.

Kind Regards

Fiona McDougall

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Head Teacher