



Our Children

What a fantastic start from all of the children in our school. It has been a very unsettling time for everyone getting used to the new arrangements. The children have inspired us with their positivity, excellent work ethic and their kindness, which they have demonstrated with their friends.

Parent Council Meeting

We have had our first virtual Parent Council meeting of the new session. We had a number of meetings this way during Lockdown and it works quite well. If you would like to join the Parent Council then please contact the school or speak directly to Melanie White who is our Chair, or private message the Parent Council Facebook page.

The Parent Council gave a donation of £1500 to the school which has been an enormous help in supporting the additional stationery and works packs for all children, outdoor suits for our primary 1 children and some additional materials for our lunchtime clubs. This money has been a huge support in helping us to reopen safely. Thank you.

Blended Learning/Online Homework

Following the survey sent out at the end of Lockdown and further communications from the school, we have identified a number of families who have been struggling for access to a device or Wi-Fi. We have received funding from South Ayrshire to loan out iPads for P1-3 and Chromebooks for P4-7. This will be on a term by term basis and used to complete homework or blended learning, in the case of a local Lockdown. They must be returned to the school if they are not used so another family can utilise. They also need to be returned to the school at the end of an academic session (June).

Study Lunch Blocks

We have introduced a booking system for P6+P7 children which we hope to roll out to P4+5 children after the October holiday. This takes place between 1-1.30pm 5 days a week and can be booked by completing the survey in the link sent out by the school.

Hot Meals

We are returning to a hot meal service after the September weekend, however, the menu will remain limited. We will send out a copy of our menus so that you can discuss with your child. We are currently contacting families who have stated that their child has an allergy or

intolerance as there is new paperwork that requires to be completed/submitted to our Head Cook, Terry. Teachers will complete a pre order form with the children in the morning and lunches will continue to be delivered to the classrooms.

Parents' Night

Our first Parents' Night of the year is on Thursday 8th October from 3.30-9.00pm. This will be a VIRTUAL Parents' Night where your appointment time will be by telephone. We are trialling a new online form so that you can request an afternoon or evening appointment. There will only be one appointment per child for either mum/dad or main carer. Each child will have a separate appointment time with their own teacher. Please ensure that your contact details are accurate and that you clearly state who should receive the telephone call.

If your child receives significant pupil support, you will be offered an appointment with our Pupil Support Teacher, Mrs Youd.

Please complete the link below to receive an appointment time.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKa3SRNtudhdJuktmGnkW-T5UM1k1VTFaMUNTT0hRMkNJN0lYR0o4N0gzSi4u>

First Holy Communion

Father David has been in touch to say that he hopes to start celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion with our primary 5 children (P4 from last year who missed out)

A series of 6/7 Saturday morning Masses (4 at St. Margaret's, 2 at St. Paul's, 1 at St. Francis Xavier's) Maximum 5 first communicants at each Mass plus 8 guests each - this means we will stay below the maximum number of 50 people at any one time. The names and contact details of EVERYONE attending will have to be provided before the celebration for 'Test and Protect' purposes. Everyone, including the children, will need to wear a face-covering

A letter with further information and the option to book a particular Saturday will come out from the Parish shortly.

Toys

As part of our Covid recovery Plan we have asked that children do not bring in things from home. Please can all toys and teddy bears etc. be left at home for the time being.

Arriving Late

Thank you very much for following our new guidelines regarding pupils arriving late or forgetting items. We would like to remind you that if your child is late or requires to leave school for an arranged appointment, please phone into the office and someone will come out to collect your

child or bring your child out to you. If you have an item that your child needs and has forgotten then a similar procedure should be followed.

Following Mrs Haran's retirement in June and budget cuts to the school we have reduced capacity in the school office. We appreciate that everyone is working hard to try and avoid late coming etc. as this puts a strain on the school office.

Reminder of enter and exit procedures

We are getting used to the new ways of entering and exiting school and the majority of children are coping well with this and are very settled going in to school. We are getting faster at getting all of the children out safely at the end of the day as well.

Arrival - if you and your child arrive at school before 9am, staff will be in the playground from 8.45am and your child should be encouraged to enter the playground and wait for the soft start bell to ring at 8.55am when they can enter the school building. If you would prefer to wait for the bell for your child to enter, please wait in your car or away from the school gates to stop congestion and allow appropriate social distancing, then when it is clear, encourage your child to enter independently. Can I ask that parents do not remain in the ash park any longer than is necessary. *Please ensure the path is completely clear at all times to allow a safe entry and exit for all pupils.* The breakfast club remains closed at the moment. To reopen we may need to move to a booking system. This will not be before the September weekend.

Exit -

P1, P4 + P4/5 will exit from the main gate. (Closest to the school)

P2 + P3 will exit from the gate at the bike shed.

P5, P6 and P7 will exit via the lane. Any parent who wishes their child to exit straight into the ash park can do so at the bike shed gate **after** the P2 + P3 children have exited. Primary 5-7 parents should stand back until Primary 2 and 3 children have dispersed.

We have had a significant number of requests to the school about allowing children to leave early, we cannot accommodate these requests. It causes difficulty with where the children exit and which teacher supervises. I appreciate that the ash park is very congested at 3pm but I cannot agree to an early finish for this reason.

Xpressions APP - Important Information

I am continuing to stress the need for ALL parents to access the Xpressions App, Almost all of our communication comes out to parents via this method and this method continues in secondary.

It is important that ALL families register for the Xpressions APP as this will be the main forum for all information to come out to parents. The APP has the ability to send text messages, emails and attachments. If we are sending out a letter via the expressions App you will normally get 2 messages. One tells you that you are getting a letter etc, this is the text message and the 2nd message is the email which should have the attachment. A number of parents contacted

us to say they weren't getting the attachment and then it arrived in a 2nd message but one is a text and one is an email on the APP. There are often issues with the attachment and we are trying to resolve these issues. To register for the APP please use the link below.

www.parents.groupcall.com

Assembly Dates

	Assembly publish date	Online mass date - Live streamed at 10am
P5	Thursday 17th September	Thursday 17th September
P4	Friday 25th September	Thursday 24th September
P3	Friday 2nd October	Thursday 1st October
P2	Thursday 8th October	Thursday 8th October
P1	Friday 9th October	Thursday 8th October