



Our Vision

Our vision at Braehead is to provide a positive and engaging learning environment which challenges and supports all children to be the best they can be.

Braehead Primary School Newsletter **15 June 2020**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Return to School August 2020

Tony McDaid, Director of Education intimated to Parent Council Chairs on Wednesday 10 June that all schools will be offering blended learning when schools return in August. The offer at this time is very likely to be 50% of pupils in school for 2 days per week with 3 days per week home learning. How this looks on a weekly basis for South Lanarkshire Primary schools is as follows:

50% of the school will attend on Monday and Tuesday with Wednesday-Friday home learning.
50% of the school will attend on Thursday and Friday with Monday-Wednesday home learning.

All primary schools have been asked to prepare for this set up to commence in August.

I am therefore now in a position to share with you our plans for next session under the following frequently asked questions – we will continue to add to this as further information unfolds from South Lanarkshire Council or Scottish Government.

Will all family members who attend the school be given the same days?

Yes. Our priority is to keep family groups together however we are not able to liaise with secondary schools or local nurseries.

Can I choose what days my child/children attend?

No, first and foremost we must accommodate family groups to the school thereafter we have to look at the numbers left amounting to 50% of the roll for both ends of the week and within those numbers consider working groups to allow maximum teaching time for these groups when they are in school. We will refer to these groups as the NAVY group and the BURGANDY group.

What will happen on a Wednesday?

All teachers are entitled to class reduction time. This would normally be covered throughout the week, however, in line with all primary schools in SLC, all teachers will be allocated their time on a Wednesday (if they usually work on this day). The rest of the day will be used to allow teachers to plan and collate resources for home learning and upload or respond to learning on Google Classroom. Please note this is the only time staff will have available to respond to Google Classroom as they will be class committed the other 4 days of the school week.

On this day, the school will receive a 'deep' weekly clean in addition to the daily cleaning schedule that has been revised to follow hygiene guidelines.

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What learning will children complete on the days they are not in school?

We will provide a balance of paper-based and online learning. All learning packs will be prepared following strict hygiene advice and additional information will be provided at the start of the session. This will be balanced with online tasks on Google Classroom.

What will the curriculum look like?

All schools in South Lanarkshire will focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. We hope to include weekly outdoor learning for both our groups of children. Our paper-based packs will provide reinforcement of new learning in Literacy and Numeracy taught during their days in school and online learning will support other areas of the curriculum.

Will children still wear school uniform?

Yes. Children should wear uniform, but we do advise that children should only wear a tie if they can tie/untie it themselves. All children will need to be able to tie their laces, if not, we recommend velcro or zipped footwear. Children will not be changing shoes so there is no need for indoor shoes. Please remember that advice and guidance is for all clothes to be washed at the end of every day children are in school therefore we recommend all children have two sets of school clothes which they can alternate between. Note however these do not need to be branded with the school badge but should still be school colours.

School bags should be as small as possible as these will be kept at your child's 'station', alongside their coat/jacket – we will not be using the cloakroom pegs as we need to minimise any opportunity for cross contamination.

How will my child access resources safely in school?

Each child will have their own tray with all the resources they might need in it. These will remain in your child's tray and stored away safely when they are not in school. We will provide all stationery so please DO NOT send your child to school with a pencil case or additional items- these should be kept at home for home learning use only.

How will children enter/exit the school?

All children should enter and exit school via the back door. Unless children are arriving by school transport (availability of this resource is yet to be confirmed) they should arrive **no earlier than 9am**. On arrival they should come straight to the back door where they will be given immediate access. To ensure social distancing is adhered to we would invite parents to escort their child/children to the back door where a member of school staff will meet them and assist them at the sanitising station. If there are other children waiting to enter safely parents should stand with their child/children on one of the yellow dots painted in the playground until the entrance area is obstruction free. Parents should then exit via the other gate (the one where the bins are) to allow a one way system and limit contact with others. At the end of the school day parents should collect their children in the usual way – again standing on one of the yellow dots to allow social distancing.

Eating and playing at school

A revised menu will be on offer for those children having a school dinner. If your child is bringing a packed lunch, this should be in a disposable bag so waste can be removed quickly. This means NO packed lunch cases/boxes should be brought. Children should still bring a snack/water bottle (if it is a re-useable bottle, your child's name should be clearly marked). Snacks will be stored in your child's bag until needed.

Breaks and lunchtimes may be staggered to allow for physical distancing when in the playground.

Please note there will be no Breakfast Club provision in schools.

Accessing the school

To minimise any cross contamination/ spread of Covid-19, parents and carers will only be able to access the school with prior permission given by the Head Teacher.

Parents/Carers should phone the school or may speak to a member of Office Staff through the intercom.

Due to the restrictions, we are unable to have parent helpers, Breakfast Club or extra-curricular activities at this time.

If you are accessing the school, you should adhere to all instructions given, including sanitising your hands upon entry and adhering to the 2m rule and one-way system by following the floor markings.

I await a formal letter from SLC for all parents on their approach to blended learning but since Parent Council Chairs have been asked to share with the wider parent forum the expected plans, I feel it is important to let you know Braehead's plan for August to allow you to prepare as best you can. Should anything change in the coming weeks I will be sure to update you. Like you we are so looking forward to the day all the children can safely return to school but in the meantime I must follow the procedures as outlined by South Lanarkshire Council.

Until the formal information from SLC is provided I will be unable to tell you whether your child is in the NAVY or BURGANDY group but would hope to have this information to you before the end of this week.

Staffing Update

I am delighted to inform you that we have been allocated a newly qualified teacher for session 2020/2021. We welcome Miss Amy Ellwood to our staff team. Miss Ellwood will have responsibility for Primary 4/5 every morning children are in school and will work with Primary 5-7 most afternoons.

I am delighted to inform you that we will have Mrs Campbell back in school in August and Mrs Forrest will join us full time from August also.

Mrs Straiton will commence her maternity leave before schools return in August therefore her four days will be covered by Mrs Macrae, Mrs Wallace and Mrs Cardwell. We wish Suzanne and her family all the very best in this exciting next chapter.

Google Classroom

Please note this is the final week of activities on Google Classroom. Sincere thanks for all the support you have given your child in accessing this. I am fully aware that while trying to work from home this has been challenging at times. Thank you to the staff of the school who have worked on providing home learning for their classes over the previous weeks while also facing the challenges of volunteering in childcare hubs, home schooling their own children and helping with the task of preparing our school building for a safe return of our children in August.

Message from Rev MacLean

Please find below a message for our school community:

Hi again everyone!

How are you all coping? Have you managed to breathe deeply and be a tiny bit more patient recently?

We've still got a long way to go, but we've already come a long way. If we think back to the early days of Covid, everything was really scary, but gradually we're finding new ways of doing things.

Facetime, WhatsApp, Skype, Zoom, as well as the good old telephone are so vital to our lives now, far more than previously. And I've even heard of people writing letters and sending cards! Walking round to visit friends, from a distance of course.

That's a great song, "From a Distance" by Bette Midler. Here are a few of the lyrics,

From a distance there is harmony

And it echoes through the land

It's the voice of hope

It's the voice of peace

It's the voice of every man

From a distance we all have enough

And no one is in need

God is watching us

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God is watching us

God is watching us from a distance . . .

And God is watching us, with eyes overflowing with love, both from a distance and from right beside us.

We're getting there 😊

Love and blessings to you all from Rev Elspeth MacLean

This was not the end to the session we would have hoped for or indeed could have predicted however we look ahead now to a positive yet different Braehead Primary in August. Have a wonderful holiday, or 'staycation' hopefully the sun will continue to shine. Please look out for an email from me before the end of this week with further details on your child's grouping for August. I will not have this information for our current Primary 7 pupils and expect that a member of staff from the secondary will be in touch to provide details for secondary pupils.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Kindest regards,



Elizabeth Steele
Head Teacher