

Murray Primary School Newsletter



Murray Primary School
Napier Hill
East Kilbride
G75 OJP
Tel: 01355 222566



Website: www.murray-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

email: gw14murraypsoffice@glow.sch.uk

June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we arrive at the end of the school term I wanted to issue an update to all of our children and families. I hope that you are all well and surviving these challenging times. I know that you will be desperate for information about what will happen in August! I understand this and I am sorry if it seems that information has been slow to come out. I know that you will also understand that this is because things have been changing rapidly over the last few days and weeks! We wholeheartedly welcomed the statement issued by the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney on Tuesday the 23rd of June. This outlined the ambition for a full return to school for pupils in August, if it is safe to do so. As you know until this point we had been told to plan for pupils returning for two days a week. These original plans are now being called contingency plans and we have these in place as a back-up plan. The Scottish Government believes that we should prepare for children to be able to return to school full time in August and we are following the advice of the government. There is a lot of information in this newsletter and I hope that it gives you an update on what has been happening this term and also provides the information parents and pupils need to know for starting back in August. Firstly I would like to say to our children that we cannot wait to see you all back in school! We have really missed you all so much. We can't wait to catch up with you all and hear all of your news!! I know that everyone in our staff team at Murray feels the same and we are looking forward to welcoming back our amazing boys and girls. We have also missed seeing all of our mums and dads too and also look forward to seeing all of you! Our staff team looks forward to working in partnership with you all in the new school year.

What a term this has been! I am very proud of the way that our whole school community has risen to the challenges we have faced in this final term of the school year. We certainly will never forget this time in all of our lives that's for sure; with the school closure and introduction of home schooling! This term we created our Murray Primary virtual school community and have been brought together via our school website, app, twitter, emails and phone calls.

I would like to thank everyone for the effort which has gone into embracing the challenges faced by home schooling. Thanks to our pupils for working so hard, engaging with and carrying out the home learning tasks. Well done boys and girls you have made us all proud! We all know that you are superstars and you have shown us this in lots of new ways! We loved seeing the photographs posted on Twitter and the PSA Facebook page. Thanks also to our pupils and parents for communicating so well with our class teachers via google classroom and email about your home learning. Thanks mums and dads for everything you have done to support your children with the home schooling. We appreciate how difficult this must have been trying to juggle home learning with work commitments and all of the other jobs parents have to do. Thank you Murray parents you are amazing and we are so grateful for all that you have done this term! Thanks to all of our teachers who rose to the challenges involved in planning and delivering lessons online. This was a whole new world for us all. Thanks to our staff team for educating Murray via google classroom and the weekly tasks issued on the school website. A great big thank you to our Principal Teacher Mrs Reid

who is our digital lead in school. Mrs Reid managed and uploaded learning materials and updates onto our school website, app and twitter feed. Our whole school community has benefitted from Mrs Reid's skills during this time. Thanks to Mrs Hilley for overseeing the additional supports section on our school website. A special thank you goes to parents Jenni Miller & Claire Stewart for managing and updating our Parents Together Facebook Page. This is another excellent way to communicate with our families. We have kept in regular contact with our families using social media and will continue to do so during the summer. The email system has enabled our families to communicate with teachers. This has worked very successfully throughout lockdown. The school Senior Leadership Team made contact with all of our families by telephone at the start of term four. Our class teachers contacted all families by telephone last week for a final end of term check in. At this point teachers informed parents of the days we expected the children to attend school however since then we have been informed that the Scottish Government believes we should prepare for children returning to school full time in August. Pupil reports were issued to parents by email over the past few days.

Classes for August 2020

Our classes and teachers for next year are shown below. This information was given to all families during the phone calls class teachers made last week. Mr Garrett was with us for one year and now moves on to another school. We wish him well for his future teaching career. Unfortunately Mrs Campbell has broken her leg and will be unable to return to school in August. I know that you will join with me in wishing Mrs Campbell a speedy recovery. I am delighted to inform you that we welcome four new teachers to the school next session; Miss Hatcher, Mr Kinnen, Mr Angus & Miss MacIntyre.

Room 1A: Primary 1/2/3 ASN Mrs Clark - former Busy Bees Room

Room 1: Primary 1 Miss Murray

Room 2: Primary 2 Miss Allan

Room 3: Primary 2/3/4/5 ASN Mrs Dalby

Room 4: Primary 3 Miss Hatcher & Mrs Meldrum

Room 5: Primary 4 Mr Kinnen

Room 6: Primary 4/5/6 ASN Mr Angus

Room 7: Primary 5 Miss Hannah

Room 8: Primary 6 Miss MacIntyre & Mrs Booth

Room 9: Primary 5/6/7 ASN Ms Thompson

Room 10: Primary 7 Miss Campbell

Learning & ASN Support Teacher: Mrs Johnstone

Raising Attainment Teacher: Ms Lennon

Learning & Support Teacher: Mrs Walker



Class Teacher Videos and Interactive Map of the School

We know that the children will be keen to see their new teachers and see inside their classrooms. Therefore all of our class teachers have made a transition video. In the videos the teachers introduce themselves to the children and their families and give a virtual tour of the classrooms. We hope that you all enjoy these sneaky peeks! Please note the videos were made when we were working on guidance that only half of the class would be in 2 days each week. So the tables and groupings may look a little bit different in August. Mrs Reid has created a fantastic interactive map of the school on our school website. You can click on the interactive map and see photos of the class and videos of all of the class teachers. It's really exciting to see!

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School Uniform

I know that this is a hot topic and one that parents are keen to find out about! There has been lots of differing information in the media about school uniform. I hope that you find the uniform update below helpful. South Lanarkshire Council and Murray Primary School will continue to advocate the wearing of school uniform however we are being advised that we should inform our parents that a more relaxed version of the school uniform should be worn when pupils return to school in August. By this we mean the more casual version of our school uniform; yellow polo shirts worn with navy sweat shirts, cardigans, jumpers, fleeces, trousers and jogging trousers. The more relaxed version is recommended because we are being advised that the children will be outdoors much more often. We have extensive grounds in Murray Primary which include our playgrounds, MUGA, play equipment, outdoor classes and forest area. These provide fantastic outdoor learning environments. We will be following Scottish Government advice and our pupils will be outside participating in outdoor learning activities and outdoor P.E. on a bigger scale than we did previously. The more relaxed uniform will enable pupils to comfortably engage in these activities outdoors. So when purchasing uniform think about the types of clothing your child would be comfortable wearing running around outside or taking part in learning activities outside. Here are some handy hints for purchasing uniform for August. Our school colours are navy blue and yellow. Navy trousers, jogging trousers, sweatshirts, jumpers, cardigans and fleeces are advised and are worn with a yellow polo shirt. Girls would normally wear skirts and school dresses however these would be more restrictive for our girls when engaging in the outdoor PE and outdoor learning. Although navy leggings have always been discouraged for school uniform these can now become part of the more relaxed school uniform as they would be comfortable and would suit the outdoor activities children will be doing. We are being advised that the more formal school uniform of white shirt worn with school tie worn is to be discouraged. Yellow polo shirt worn with navy clothing is our less formal uniform and is being encouraged. Polo shirts, sweatshirts and cardigans with the Murray Primary school logo can be purchased from **My Clothing on their website myclothing.com**. Tesco was our previous supplier however they no longer sell embroidered school uniforms. Pupils do not need to wear polo tops and sweatshirts with the school logo. Plain yellow polo tops and plain navy sweatshirts from supermarkets are perfectly fine. May I kindly request that the following points are noted regarding school uniform. Please note that black clothing is not part of school uniform. Please select school shoes to suit increased levels of outdoor learning and outdoor PE. A smart trainer style of shoe would be ideal. Hair accessories should be small and discreet. Novelty headbands and novelty hair accessories should be avoided. All pupils need a pair of indoor shoes to change into. The black slip on or Velcro fastening gym shoes are perfect. I know that parents will have their own view on the more relaxed version of school uniform however it is important that as a school we issue to parents the guidance we have been given. Ultimately it is a parent's choice how they present their child for school. I know that many of our parents usually prefer their child to wear the ultra-smart white shirt and tie and will follow the uniform advice with some understandable

reluctance. However I am sure that we are all united in agreement that the uniform must keep our children safe and comfortable. Children can still bring school bags and lunch bags to school. Lunch bags should be able to fit within school bags. We ask that children do not bring a pencil case to school at this point. All resources they need will be provided and they will have their own set of resources on their desk for only their use. We are advised that children should continue to bring a water bottle to school. This should be filled with water at home and brought to school each day. Children will not refill water bottles at the water coolers in school in the way that we previously did.

Nursery

We hope that our families have enjoyed accessing the learning materials and suggestions our Nursery staff team has uploaded onto our website. Our staff members have missed the children so much and have also missed the daily communication with parents. As we couldn't have our usual Nursery End of Term Celebration this year our Nursery staff created a fantastic video with photographs showcasing all of our amazing nursery pupils and the wonderful activities they do in nursery. The video was uploaded on to the school website and the link shared on the PSA website page. If you haven't had a look yet I urge you to do so. What strikes you is the delight on the children's faces, the smiles, fun, laughter and learning that takes place in our Nursery. What tremendous pupils we have and what a fantastic team of staff. We cannot wait to welcome the children back to nursery in August! The information and guidance issued to us for nursery pupils has been updating regularly to reflect the national picture as directed by the Scottish Government. Staff have made contact with all nursery parents and updated parents with the information that we have available to us right now but we know this may change over the summer. We will update parents prior to the return in August.

Clothing for Nursery Pupils



In session 2019/2020 following consultation with parents we piloted a nursery uniform. Please note that we will not continue with a nursery uniform in 2020/2021. The uptake of the nursery uniform was very limited with families preferring for children to wear their own clothes to nursery. Parents should continue to send their children to nursery wearing casual, comfortable clothing that you do not mind getting paint, pen, glue or mud on! As we will not be continuing with nursery uniform we absolutely discourage the wearing of school pinafores. These are not an appropriate choice of clothing for the types of activities the children engage in at nursery. Our Nursery staffing for August 2020 is given below. Mrs Morris and Ms Winning will be on Maternity Leave next session. Their babies are due in July. We wish the ladies and their growing families all the very best!

Nursery Staffing

Nursery Teacher: Mrs Devlin
Nursery Team Leader: Mrs Harris
Early Years Practitioner: Miss McSherry
Early Years Practitioner: Ms Stewart
Early Years Practitioner: Mrs Currie
Early Years Practitioner: Mrs Whitters
Early Years Practitioner: Mrs McRoberts
Early Years Modern Apprentice: Miss Best



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New Primary 1 Pupils for August 2020

We have a fantastic group of soon to be P1s coming in August! We held induction visits for our new P1 pupils and their parents. They visited their classrooms and met the School Leadership Team, Class Teachers and Support Staff they will be with in August. Each P1 pupil received a P1 Goody Bag with lots of little treasures inside. We have not issued starting times for Day 1 for our P1 children yet as the information we have has been evolving. We will contact parents over the summer with this information.

Primary 7 Transition to Secondary School

The final term for P7s at Murray Primary is always a very special time. This year was not what anyone expected for their final term but our P7 teachers Ms Thompson and Miss Campbell worked hard to make the best of the situation and I would like to thank them for both for their efforts. Miss Campbell led on the creation of P7 leavers videos and these have been uploaded onto the school website. The videos have farewell and good luck messages from our staff to our pupils. We had an outstanding cohort of P7 pupils this year in Rooms 9 & 10. I would like to wish each and every one of our P7 leavers the very best of luck as they move on to Calderglen, Sanderson and Duncanrig Secondary Schools. We will miss them all very much. Make Murray proud P7!

Virtual Sports Day

To maintain our school identity and connect our virtual school community we promoted some virtual events across our website, twitter and school app. This included a virtual Sports Day and a virtual Talent Show. These virtual events were very well received by our children and families and reached a wide audience of participants! The virtual sports day was tremendous success. Lots of pupils posted their sporting achievements via twitter and email. It looked like a lot of fun! I hope that all the families who took part enjoyed this event. Huge thanks to Miss Campbell, Miss Hannah and Miss Murray for the amount of time, effort and organisation which went in to promoting and delivering this brilliant event. The videos the 3 teachers made to promote the virtual Sports Day were a hit with our pupils and were highlighted as an example of good practice by Tony McDaid Executive Director of Education!

Virtual Talent Show

I would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Johnstone, Mrs Aitken and Mrs Bingham for all of the work they put into running our virtual Talent Show. This was another excellent virtual event which engaged our children and families. Thanks and very well done to all of the pupils who entered the competition. All participants will receive a certificate when we return to school in August. This was a great platform to showcase our talented boys and girls. Our Murray Marvels have definitely got Talent! With so many great entries the children made it difficult for the staff to pick winners! The overall winners are shown below.

Nursery Winner: Grayson Miller

For his entertaining instrument mime

Baird House Winner: Tillie McCrae

For her wonderful rendition of 'Tomorrow'

Macadam House: Arran McCafferty

For his detailed drawing of a skittles pack

Napier House Winner: Tanith Bavaird

For her beautiful singing of 'Over the rainbow'

Online Parent Council Meetings

We have held two online Zoom Parent Council meetings this month on the 2nd and 22nd of June. These were attended by our Parent Council members and members of school staff. Parent Council meetings always provide opportunity for parents and staff to work in partnership and communicate regarding school matters. The online meeting enabled us to continue to work with our parents albeit in a different setting. Our next Parent Council meeting will be held on Wednesday the 5th of August at 8.00pm. This has been planned for before school returns to enable us to give our parents the most up to date information at that point.

Busy Bees

The Busy Bees Playgroup has had a long association with Murray Primary School. Since we moved into our new school building the Playgroup has operated from one of the playrooms in our school. Many of our pupils started their time at Murray Primary in the Busy Bees Playgroup. Due to the commitment from the Scottish Government to deliver 1140 hours of Education and Childcare for 3 to 5 year old children; our Nursery is being expanded and the room previously used by the Busy Bees will be used to accommodate the expansion of our Nursery. The Busy Bees Playgroup will not continue to operate from Murray Primary. The playgroup is currently looking for new premises. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Linda the Busy Bees Manager and Aileen the Busy Bees Play Worker for the fantastic job they do with the playgroup and the young children who attend. We always worked effectively in partnership with the staff at Busy Bees and we wish them all the very best as they move on from Murray Primary. Although the room used by the Busy Bees will eventually become our expanded nursery; in the short term it has been transformed into a classroom for our youngest class of pupils with additional support needs.

Computers

We know through media coverage that the Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that families are not disadvantaged through not having access to a computer. SLC requested that schools communicate with families regarding this. You will remember that we sent out a google form requesting that any parents who did not have access to a computer inform us of this by returning the google form. We returned this information to SLC for the parents who responded. We have had a few enquiries from parents regarding this. At this point we have no further information from SLC on this however I understand this exercise will be completed at council level and not school level and will require to be means tested.

Preparations for August 2020

Teaching and support staff, our janitor, catering and cleaning staff have worked extremely hard throughout the month of June to get the school set up and ready for welcoming our pupils back in August. The classrooms look AMAZING and the school has never looked better. You will see the fantastic classes on the interactive Map of the School. We've taken the opportunity to have a really big clear out! I would like to thank our staff for the fantastic work done during the month of June in preparation for August 2020.

Transition Meetings

Transition times are key stages in pupils' school life. This is not just transition from Nursery to P1 and from p7 to S1. This also



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includes the transitions our pupils make from stage to stage as they move throughout the school and as they move from one class to the next and from teacher to teacher. We always ensure that we manage transitions effectively in Murray Primary. During the last few weeks Transition Meetings have taken place. The teacher your child will have for next session has taken part in a Transition Meeting with your child's class teacher for this past year. These meetings ensure that all information has been passed on from teacher to teacher for all of the children in our classes. This means that your child's new teacher has a good understanding of the work which has been covered and has been briefed on everything they need to know to enable the teachers to confidently take over as class teacher.



Communication and Updates

The aim of this newsletter is to update our families on the information that we have at the present time. We know that there will be lots of updates issued throughout the summer by both the Scottish Government and South Lanarkshire Council. I would urge all families to continue to access our school website, twitter feed and school app to ensure that you get all of the updates and information you need for when schools return in August. I urge parents to follow the SLC twitter page and access the SLC website as all updates are made available using these platforms. We expect to receive updates from SLC over the summer covering various aspects of school life including our Breakfast Club, information on school lunches, the lunch menu, transport for our ASN pupils, and further information regarding what nursery provision will look like in August. We expect other important updates covering all aspects of school life. We have not yet been issued with any information from SLC regarding the areas outlined above. I will ensure that families receive all updates as and when I receive this information to ensure that everyone is kept informed of any changes or new information received over the school holidays.



How we will keep families updated over the summer

Once we have been issued with all the necessary guidance from Scottish Government and SLC we will issue further information to families via our website, app and twitter feed. If there is any specific information we need to give out we will contact families directly by email or by telephone. We will also make use of the school text messaging service.

Our school website, twitter feed, school app and Parents Together Face Book page have been invaluable communication tools during this lockdown period. Please continue to access these to keep up to date with information and the updated information we receive over the school holidays. Watch this space more virtual challenges will be posted over the summer on our website, app and twitter so please get involved!

Murray Primary Website: www.murray-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Murray Primary Twitter Feed: @MurrayPrimaryEK

School app: Search PSA Primary School App in the Apple or Google store. Once you have opened the app search for Murray Primary School. The Username is: MPS and the Pin Code is: 2014.

Murray Primary Parents Together Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/MurrayPrimaryParentsTogether>



Help Desk Email

We have set up a special Help Desk email account for over the summer holidays. The classroom email accounts we set up for all classes from Nursery to P7 will not be used over the summer holidays as the teachers are now on holiday. If you have any questions at any point over the summer holidays we encourage you to use the Help Desk email to communicate with us. Please use this rather than the Office email address. Myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will respond to any emails sent to the Help Desk. The email address is: gw20helpdeskmps@glow.sch.uk



August 2020

The Government believes that we should prepare for children to be able to return to school full time in August. The Deputy First Minister has outlined the ambition stating "If it is safe to do so." This is something that we would all welcome. He said: "If we stay on track, if we all continue to do what is right, and if we can further suppress this terrible virus, the Government believes that we should prepare for children to be able to return to school full time in August." It is impossible to predict what position we will be in locally or nationally, when schools reopen in August 2020. Further guidance will be issued by the Scottish Government and SLC over the summer. This will shape the plans that we make at Murray Primary for the safe return of our pupils in August. Please take confidence from the fact that as a school we are following all directives and guidance issued to us by the Scottish Government and SLC. We have carried out all of the necessary Risk Assessments and have made changes to the building in accordance with the guidance. We will provide updates on start times, where to line up and so on before August when working with the most up to date guidance.



Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils, our families and our staff for playing a valuable part in the life of our school, over what will go down in history as the unforgettable school year of 2019/2020. It's been quite a journey this year and a journey we never would have expected to make. As Head Teacher at Murray Primary I am very proud of the way we all pulled together to embrace the challenges we faced with courage and commitment; upholding our **School Values of Inclusion, Respect, Kindness, Friendship, Honesty, Achievement & Ambition**. We continued to commit to our school vision statement of 'Learning Together Achieving Forever' throughout the challenging times.

I understand that our children and families may have mixed emotions about the planned return to school in August. I hope that the information contained in this newsletter and the information on our website including the teacher videos, classroom photos and the Interactive Map of the School are useful transition tools to help you all start thinking about what school will look like in August.

My very best wishes go out to all of our children, families and staff. I hope that you all have a good summer. We cannot wait to welcome you all back to school in August! Class of 2020/2021 I guarantee you have a great year ahead of you! Stay safe and take care of yourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Irene Tremble
Head Teacher

