



# Murray Primary School

## Newsletter

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

February 2021

Website: [www.murray-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.murray-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

email: [office@murray-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@murray-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that all of our children and families are managing well during these challenging times. As we are now at the February holiday weekend, I thought it would be good to reflect on our experiences since the start of "Remote Learning" in January 2021.

### Remote Learning

We all know that the Remote Learning or Home Learning our pupils have experienced in January 2021 is very different from the Home Learning experiences schools offered from April to June 2020. I think it would be fair to say that the changes came as a bit of a shock to everyone; pupils, parents and staff! It is quite right that there are increased expectations regarding Home Learning from all angles. There is now a much bigger expectation that the remote learning activities on offer are more reflective of a child's normal day in school. Since January 2021 all of our classes are now using Google Classroom much more than before. As part of a Scottish Government initiative we have been able to supply families who have requested, support with Chrome Books. More of our children now have digital devices to enable them to engage with Google Classroom and carry out Home Learning tasks. Across the school we have an almost 100% uptake on Google Classroom! This is amazing and is testament to all involved. Teachers providing remote learning lessons, pupils engaged and involved in the tasks and parents supporting, assisting and encouraging the children with their learning. We keep a close eye on engagement levels in all classes and on the class work submitted on to Google Classroom. This information shows us that the majority of our children are engaging with their school work and in learning remotely.

### Google Classroom

Teachers are planning a wide range of different activities using Google Classroom. The live

sessions are proving very popular because the children get to see their classmates, teachers and support staff online and this has given our children and staff that sense of being together again as a class. We know that the children really like to see their teachers, support staff and classmates on the screen especially during these times when we can't be at school together. There have been some great videos uploaded showing our staff delivering PE lessons, dance lessons, art lessons, reading stories, teaching the children literacy and numeracy as well as delivering a range of other curricular areas.

### Thanks to our Pupils

I would like to say a massive well done and thank you to our children for all of the hard work involved in carrying out Remote Learning. Our pupils have had to learn in a new way through the platform of Google Classroom. We know that learning at home is very different from learning at school! The achievements of our children during this time have been incredible. I have been checking out your work boys and girls and I am so proud of all of you!

### Thanks to our Parents and Carers

We really appreciate the lengths our parents have gone to in supporting the children with home learning. We appreciate the challenges involved for all parents and especially for parents supporting children at different ages and stages with home learning. We know that it has been a huge commitment for parents having to juggle home learning along with all of the other jobs a parent has to do. Sincere thanks from all of the staff team at Murray Primary. We have had fantastic engagement from all of our families. You really are doing an amazing job! Hats off to our families!!

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### Thanks to our Staff

Teaching and Support staff have been working extremely hard to provide a range of home learning activities for the children. They have been communicating with children and families and providing feedback to children on their learning. The live and recorded sessions have been very well-received by the children and families. Our teachers and support staff have had to learn new skills as they have learned to deliver lessons and teach our pupils in a digital platform, which is very different to what we are used to. Thanks and well done to all of our staff for picking up this new way of working in record time!

### Murray Marvels Teamwork

As Head Teacher at Murray Primary I am extremely proud of how we as a school community have risen to the challenges of delivering remote learning. Pupils, parents and staff have embraced these challenges and have gone the extra mile and get to grips with this new way of working. Everyone involved has been working extremely hard to make this a success. I would like to express my personal and sincere thanks to our pupils, parents, carers and staff for the challenges overcome during this period of time and for your hard work, effort and commitment to making Remote Learning a reality. You are all Murray Marvels for your achievements during this time of Remote Learning! Thanks to everyone!

### Murray Primary School Hub

Like other schools across South Lanarkshire our school is open and operating as a Hub for the children of Key Workers. We have a small number of children in school each day. Children attending the Hub do the same class work as the pupils in their class who are working from home. They use Google classroom and access their live lessons from the Hub. Our Teaching and Support staff are on a rota to work with the children in the hub.

### Whole School Scots Poetry Competition

We had a fantastic response to our Scots Poetry competition. Pupils sent in video clips and audio recordings of themselves reciting a Scots poem or song. Thanks to our parents for working with the children on this activity. Well done to everyone who entered and congratulations to our winners. The winners are shown below.

Class	Poem/Song	Winners	Highly Commended
Nursery	Up a Bogie Lane	Abigail Aitken Alfie Hadden	Luke McKinnon Arran Ritchie Isla Ritchie Eva Rose Hill
Room 1	A Dug, A Dug by Bill Keys	Remy Paterson Melissa Walker	Alistair Smith Blair McLaverty Kaci Fabian Arlo Morrison
Room 2	Bus Queue by JK Annand	Ethan Whyte Ivy Walker	Gracie Belle Pettit Tillie McCrae
Room 3	Ma Wee Dug by Matthew Fitt	Thomas McGauley	Kilian Moriarty Annika Srihari
Room 4	The Sair Finger by Walter Wingate	Callum McLaverty	David Hill Logan McGarrigle
Room 5	Fed Up by Janet Paisley	Jessica Scott Brodie Stewart	Abbie Miller Erin Mulvey James Burns Kyle Murray Lucy-Jane Wray
Room 6	Elephant by JK Annand	Matthew Carr	
Room 7	Feart by Liz Niven	Katy Walker Daniel Paterson	Lucy McQueen Oscar Humphreys Luc Graham Keisha Stephens Charlotte Wright Evelyn Mackay
Room 8	Mrs Nae Offence by Gregor Steele	Naomi Miller	
Room 9	Street Talk by JK Annand	Mhairi Newall	Giovanni Oscar Nliam Sebastian Cwiertka
Room 10	Scots Wha Hae by Robert Burns	Alfie McCrae Jenna MacLeod	
Room 11	Crocodile by JK Annand	Cameron Matthews	Kyle Walker

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### Miss Campbell's "McCoo" Art Competition

Miss Campbell came up with the great idea of organising an Art Competition to go along with the Scots Poetry competition. The children were challenged to create their own interpretation of the famous "McCoo" by Steven Brown. The entries we received were outstanding and were so unique. They really showcased our pupils' creative and artistic talents. Thanks very much to all of the children for participating and once again thanks to your parents for encouraging you to do so! The competition winners are shown below.

Room	Winner
Nursery	Elsie-Rose Howieson
Room 1	Melissa Walker
Room 2	Matthew Fairbairn
Room 3	Annika Srihari
Room 4	Libby Mackay
Room 5	Brodie Stewart
Room 7	Evelyn Mackay
Room 8	Noah Thomson
Room 9	Mhairi Newall
Room 10	Sophie Irving
Room 11	Cameron Matthews

### Miss Murray's Dance Challenge

Move over Joe Wicks we have our very own Miss Motivator at Murray Primary! Each week Miss Murray uploads a video of herself doing a short dance routine. The children are encouraged to have a go at the routine and upload their videos to our school Twitter account or upload onto the Challenge Murray email address at: [gw20challengemurray@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20challengemurray@glow.sch.uk). Give it a go boys and girls we would love to see your moves!

### Stationery

In order to support our families with home learning we have made available a selection of stationery. This is totally free of charge and is available for collection in the school Gym Hall any day between 9.30am and 2.30pm. There are jotters, paper, pencils, rubbers, whiteboards, glue sticks and other stationery items available. Families are encouraged to come and help themselves to the stationery that

you need to help your child to carry out home learning activities.

### School Return for Nursery, P1, P2 & P3 Pupils

The Scottish Government announced that it is expected that children in Nursery and Primaries 1 to 3 will return to school on the week beginning the 22nd of February. The proposed date will be reviewed nearer to this time and we will communicate with you regarding the return to school date. We are really looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to Murray Primary School. There is no return date for the Primary 4 to 7 children, as yet. We will update you on when these year groups of children are likely to return to school.

### P1 Enrolment

The enrolment process for pupils who will start school in Primary 1 in August 2021 has taken place. This year this was an online enrolment. I am delighted to share that we have received a number of enrolments for Primary 1 pupils for August 2021 and we will be in touch with these families to give information about the transition from Nursery to Primary 1. If anyone has a child who is due to start Murray Primary School in August 2021 and has not yet enrolled their child for school please complete the online enrolment form on the SLC website.

### Keeping in Touch with Families

It is really important for us to make sure that we keep in touch with all of our families. Over the last few weeks staff have made calls to all of our families. The purpose of this was just to have a check in with families to find out how everyone was getting on with home learning and to offer any support. Our staff enjoyed making the calls and these were well received by the families.

### Parent Council Meeting

We continue to hold regular Parent Council meetings. These take place via Zoom. They are very informal and are a great opportunity for parents and school

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staff to get together to discuss every aspect of life at Murray Primary for our pupils, parents and staff. Jenni Miller is the chair of our Parent Council. Please feel free to contact Jenni at the Murray Primary Parents Together Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/MurrayPrimaryParentsTogether](https://www.facebook.com/MurrayPrimaryParentsTogether)  
Our next Parent Council meeting will be in March. New members are most welcome! We think the more the merrier and would be delighted to welcome you along to the online meeting.

### Partnership with Parents and Positive Feedback

It has been a pleasure to keep in contact with our families over the period of remote learning. We have received many phone calls and emails from parents and carers thanking us for the work we are doing. We are delighted to receive this feedback and in turn would like to express our gratitude to our families for all of the great work being done with remote learning.

### February Holiday Weekend

The February Mid-Term break is on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. There will be no work or activities uploaded onto Google Classroom for any of the classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week as these are holidays for the children. Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> is an In-Service Day for staff.

### Remote Learning Survey

We hope that all families are all coping well with online learning. In order that we can support our families as much as possible we would be grateful if you would complete the feedback surveys about online learning. There is a survey for parents and one for pupils. These are Google Forms which have been uploaded to our school app. We would really appreciate your feedback as this would help let us know what is going well with online learning and what we could improve on.

### Communicating with Staff

Please feel free to use the email addresses to communicate with our staff. These have been an

especially helpful communication tool during the period of Remote Learning.

Nursery Team [gw20nurserymps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20nurserymps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 1 Miss Murray [gw20room1mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room1mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 2 Miss Allan [gw20room2mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room2mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 3 Mrs Clark [gw20room3mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room3mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 4 Miss Hatcher & Mrs Meldrum [gw20room4mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room4mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 5 Mr Kinnen [gw20room5mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room5mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 6 Mrs Dalby [gw20room6mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room6mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 7 Miss Hannah [gw20room7mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room7mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 8 Miss MacIntyre & Mrs Booth [gw20room8mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room8mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 9 Ms Thompson [gw20room9mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room9mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 10 Miss Campbell [gw20room10mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room10mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Room 11 Mr Angus [gw20room11mps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20room11mps@glow.sch.uk)  
Miss Lennon Support for Learning [gw20sflmps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20sflmps@glow.sch.uk)  
Murray Primary HELPDESK [gw20helpdeskmps@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw20helpdeskmps@glow.sch.uk)

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 school information.

Murray Primary Website:

[www.murray-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://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

[www.facebook.com/MurrayPrimaryParentsTogether](https://www.facebook.com/MurrayPrimaryParentsTogether)

I am proud of the work which has gone on since the start of this term in January and I hope that you enjoy reading of our successes as a school community during this time. As always please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's experience at Murray Primary.

Yours sincerely

Irene Tremble  
Head Teacher