



**Education Resources**  
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**  
**Miss Christine MacPhee**  
St. Elizabeth's Primary School and Nursery

## School and Nursery Newsletter 1 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

Dear Mums and Dads,

We hope you and your families are all keeping well and are all settling in to our new ways of doing things as we return to school and nursery. Our return has been very successful and I am delighted with how well the children have handled the changes we have put in place and are settling in to their classes.

### Our Staff and Children

As you may know, we have had several new members of staff join our team this year and they too are also settling in very well. We warmly welcome Miss McPhilemy who is a permanent addition to our school. We also welcome Miss Bradley and Mrs O'Neill who are both with us on supply contracts covering maternity leaves and we also have a Newly Qualified Teacher join us, Mrs Bradley. In our nursery, we have welcomed Laura Miller who is from the Equity and Excellence Team within South Lanarkshire. Staff within that team have been distributed to various nurseries and we are delighted to have Laura join us for the foreseeable future. All other staff remain the same and it is so lovely to have old(!) and new faces in St Elizabeth's.

We have heard that our P7 children from last session are settling extremely well in to their new surroundings at Holy Cross and we wish them all the very best for the future.

It is wonderful to welcome our own set of new Primary 1 children to our school and we are very impressed with how well they have been settling in. Needless to say, it is just wonderful to see all our other children from Primary 2 to Primary 7 all of whom seem to be delighted to be back at school, seeing their friends and, dare I say it, getting on with their work! Boys and girls, we are all very proud of you and we look forward to having a good year ahead with you all.



### Coats and jackets

The children are coming to school wearing suitable jackets and we thank you hugely for your support with this. Our younger children often need help with buttons/zips, etc and we would greatly appreciate it if you would encourage them at home to practise this themselves.

Independence with these key skills means others are not touching items of clothing and any potential risks are constantly being reduced.

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## School Procedures

In order to adhere to the guidelines from the Scottish Government and South Lanarkshire Council we have implemented several procedures and changes within our school. These are –

\*Children wash their hands upon entering the classroom in the morning, after playtime and after lunchtime.

\*Desks are cleaned after 9am, during break time and again during lunch time when the children are outside playing.

\*Windows are open throughout the school to help with ventilation. On days when it is a bit colder, we are closing some of the windows down slightly, especially as we move in to cooler weather and leave these sunny, balmy days behind (!!). It would be really helpful to us if your child would wear/bring a jumper or cardigan with them so they are not feeling cold in their classrooms.

\*We have half our school beginning from 8.45-2.45pm and the other half beginning from 9.00-3.00pm, the children are doing so well at going to their zone in the playground and lining up well to enter their classroom. When it is a very wet morning, they will go straight in to their classroom, sit down and wait for their teacher to arrive.

\*We have staggered interval and lunch times and these are -

**- morning break 10.25-10.40am/10.45-11.00am**

**- lunch break 11.30-12.00pm for nursery, 12.00-12.30pm for some classes and 12.35-1.05pm for other classes**

\*We have built in 5 minute turnaround times in order to help ensure children are not mixing with children from other classes.

\*In order to help support the health and wellbeing of our children and staff, we have shortened our lunch time and introduced an afternoon break for our school children.

**- afternoon break is from 1.20-1.35pm and 1.40-1.55pm.**

\*Nursery children are now grouped in smaller pods and have staff members who stay with that pod each day. Staff do not mix with other pods of children on any given day. Pods of children do not mix together either.

\*Hand washing and sanitizing takes place continually within the nursery.

\*We have one way systems in place throughout the school – in corridors, within our foyer area and in our lunch hall. As staff need to maintain a 2m social distance at all times, we also have clear markings on school and nursery floors to help indicate this.

\*Our office staff are unable to accept forgotten lunches, water bottles, snack etc, so if your child forgets these things, please don't worry, we will supply them with items from school.

\*We have a clear desk and worktop policy in place in order to help maintain clean surfaces throughout our building.

\*In line with reviewed guidelines, children no longer need to sit side by side in class and are now seated in groups as they would normally do.

\*Any further changes to our guidance will be shared with you.

## **PE and Outdoor Learning**

The guidelines require us to access the outdoors regularly throughout the day and our PE sessions are timetabled for outdoors at the moment. Due to the requirements our gym hall is being used by our nursery throughout the week and we are unable to use it for indoor PE.

As you know, we require children to come to school dressed for their PE day and many thanks for all your support with this. If the weather is as inclement, as it has been recently, we will do cosmic yoga in classrooms and children will not go outdoors for their PE slot. We do not want children sitting in classes feeling wet throughout the day.

Some children are wearing wellies to school given the torrential rain and if you wish your child to wear wellies, please give them a change of shoes (either trainers if it's a PE day otherwise school shoes, no plimsolls please).



## **Google Classrooms and Learning Journals**

We will be continuing to make use of Google Classrooms and Learning Journals and our children are continuing to be encouraged to make use of these platforms at home. Homework will be issued from week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September and this will be through Google Classrooms. We will be helping the children further with this during this coming week in class. If there are any issues with this, please let us know and we will do our best to help.

Your child will be receiving a pack containing jotters, paper, pencils and details about their glow and google classroom logins. Our nursery children will also receive some resources. These resources are to be kept at home and can be used in the event of your child being unable to attend school or nursery for any reason. We ask that they are kept in a safe place please ready for using if necessary.

## **Resources**

If you have any school resources at home – reading books or a chrome book - can these items now be returned please. We ask that you please put items in a bag and hand to a member of staff at the school gate. Mrs Wilson, Mrs Campbell and myself will be at the front of the school every day between 8.30am and 9.00am and then again from 2.45-3.00pm. They will then be quarantined in school before being used by others. Thank you for your help with this.



## **Virtual Assemblies**

As we are unable to hold school assemblies at the moment, we have been doing virtual assemblies this week using Microsoft Teams. There have been a few technology problems which Miss Brand has been helping us with - we hope to be up and running with this next week.

## **Communication with yourselves**

As we navigate our way through this new world, we are keen to keep communication with yourselves as a key focus. We will be using email to communicate with class groups and we are in the process of establishing this. We will also continue to use our School App and Twitter feed for important information and we also have our Facebook page for regular updates. You are always welcome to email or telephone us at school or nursery using the following details –

school office email is [gw14stlizpsoffice@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14stlizpsoffice@glow.sch.uk) school number is 01698 285080

nursery office email is [gw18steliznuoffice@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw18steliznuoffice@glow.sch.uk) nursery number is 01698 286270

If there are any suggestions you have about ways we can improve our communication with yourselves, please let us know.

## Clothing

Can we please put in a special plea for all items of clothing to be labelled please! Thank you so much for your help with this.



## Whole School Homework

Over this coming week, your child will have particular homework focusing around their wellbeing. We want to have as much information as possible about our children in order to help support each other and promote positive mental wellbeing. Can you please help your child complete their homework and return to school by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

## Our Values and Motto –

We base our work and ethos around our 6 school values and your help in reminding the children of these would be much appreciated. Our value are



Enjoyment

Faith

Kindness

Love

Perseverance

Respect



## Our Motto is

Learn Together, Laugh Together, Be the Best You Can.

## Diary Dates Re-scheduled in-service day.

September weekend – Fri 25<sup>th</sup> and Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Sept – school and nursery closed.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> in-service day for schools across South Lanarkshire has been agreed as follows:

- **Tuesday, 29 September 2020**

You may recall that the original schedule was to begin the new term with two in-service days, but this had to be changed to one day given the Scottish Government announcement that pupils would begin to return to school from Wednesday 12 August 2020.

The other 3 in-service days remain unchanged giving us 5 in total:

- **Monday, 16 November 2020**
- **Wednesday, 10 February 2021**
- **Thursday, 6 May 2021**

The setting of holiday dates for schools in Scotland requires pupils to attend school for 190 days each year with teachers required to work 195 days, which includes 5 in-service days.

## ...and finally (for the time being!)

We really appreciate your support with remembering to maintain the 2m social distancing, especially when you are collecting your child at the end of the day. Thank you for supporting this.

Finally, if there is anything we can help you with or if you are worried about your child's learning or emotional wellbeing, please let us know. We will try our best to help whenever we can. Keep safe everyone.

Very best wishes

Miss MacPhee  
Head Teacher

