

Faith

Kindness

Love

Persevere

St Elizabeth's Primary & Nursery School

Head Teacher, Miss Christine MacPhee
William Drive, Hamilton, ML3 7RQ, 01698 285080



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

School Newsletter, 6th October 2020

Enjoyment

Respect



We offer **free, confidential and impartial advice** - we can help check your benefit entitlement, assist with the claims process, challenge decisions and represent you at Social Security appeal tribunals. For debt issues we look at your financial circumstances, contact creditors, discuss options and give budgeting advice; **Contact number: 0303 123 1008**

Our Telephone Advice Line offers a similar service specifically aimed at pregnant women and families with young children; **Contact number: 01698 453154**

Dear Mums and Dads,

As we approach the end of our first term this session we would like to thank you and the children very much for your overwhelming support and approach to all our new procedures and routines. You will know that here have been many new routines we have implemented and the staff, children and yourselves have all helped to make these work really well. Thank you so much.

We continue to address guidance as it emerges and the children are proving how adaptable they are with everything. We now have 4 sittings in our lunch hall, one for our nursery children and 3 for our school children. Our dining hall is socially distanced to ensure adults are following government guidelines safely. All children sit in the dining hall in their class group (we also refer to these as bubbles) at an allocated seat which they have selected and all children follow a one-way system to help ensure mixing is reduced. Tables are kept 2m away from each other. We have introduced an afternoon break for some of our classes – the classes who have 30 minutes for lunch then have a 15 minute interval in the afternoon.

We have zones marked out in our playground for our children to play in and we have amended the organisation of which classes go for particular breaks and lunchtimes in order to try to ensure that 2 zones are available for each class to give our children more space to play.



We continue to be required to ensure appropriate ventilation throughout our school and nursery and windows are open all day throughout our establishment. As the weather continues to turn colder, we anticipate the children and staff will be required to wear extra layers and are proposing the wearing of school hoodies for everyone. More info about this further into our newsletter!



Our outdoor PE sessions are going very well and more of our children are now coming to school wearing dark joggers/leggings and their polo shirt. Again, thank you for your support with this also as we try to create uniformity amongst our children with their outdoor PE kit. When the weather is wet, the children will not go outdoors as we do not want them sitting in wet clothes during the day. We have a variety of alternative wellbeing activities that take place within the classroom should this be the case.

Breakfast Club

As yet there is no indication as to when our Breakfast Club will resume. I will keep you updated as I receive further information.

Sacraments

Congratulations to the children in our P4 stage who recently received the Sacrament of Reconciliation – Fr O’Farrell conferred this Sacrament in our school a few weeks ago and we are delighted for our children.

Our First Communicants will receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sat 24th Oct, we have 2 Masses taking place that day in Our Lady and St Anne’s Church and the children are currently being refreshed in their preparation to help ensure they are as well prepared as possible. We would be delighted if you would keep them in your prayers at this time.

As yet we have had no further information regarding our children who have still to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from June. This would be last year’s P7 pupils. Our current P7 children will shortly receive information regarding the date for their confirmation which will be planned for later in this school session.

House Captains/Vice Captains

Congratulations to the following children who have been our successful candidates in this year’s elections, albeit virtual ones.

House	Captain	Vice Captain
St Andrew	Sophie	Alix
St Columba	Summer	Toby
St Mungo	Clare	Laila
St Margaret	Robbie	Rohan

All of the candidates took part in a video presentation and we are so proud of all our P6 and P7 children who threw their hat in the ring. Well done to all of you. Finally, a big thank you to all our boys and girls for casting a vote and being so supportive of this whole process and many thanks to Mrs Wilson for organising all this for us. We are planning to have a house colours day on Fri 23rd Oct - children can come to school wearing their house colours that day (please note no football tops though).

Head Boy and Head Girl

Likewise, we had presentations and voting for our prestigious position of Head Boy and Girl. Our successful candidates are Deshawn and Julianna – huge congratulations to both of these children, we know they will be wonderful ambassadors for our school.



School Uniform

Our Community Partnership have donated many items of school clothing which we would be delighted if families would take and use. These will be available at the front of our school on Thurs 8th and Fri 9th Oct . A donation box will also be available for anyone who would like to make a donation towards this however there is no obligation to do this. Any donations will go to our Community Partnership.

Promoting Positive Relationships and Understanding Distressed Behaviour

During our recent in-service day, we had a session focusing on this policy document which underpins our work on a day-to-day basis. A copy of the guidelines will be placed on our website should you wish to have a look at them yourself.

Emotion Works

The children continue to embed the principles and strategies that we learned about last session such as coping strategies for difficult situations, behaviours and responses and approaches to help us keep calm. A lot of these strategies are of course even more prevalent and important for our children in these times. Our staff have been doing a lot of work reminding our children to be in tune with and aware of their emotions and reactions and that of others. Our key focus is on being kind to one another in what we say and what we do.

Community Partnership

The AGM of our Community Partnership took place on Wed 23rd Sept and the next meeting is scheduled for Wed 28th Oct at 7pm. These meetings are currently held through Zoom and are **open to all parents and carers of children in our school - everyone is very welcome.** If you would like to attend, please let the school or Helen Toner know. You will shortly be receiving a Community Partnership Newsletter detailing key events that are being organised. We thank everyone for the support you give to each event, it is wonderful and greatly appreciated.



School Hoodies

You may know that each year our P7 children have special blue Leavers Hoodies for their final year with us. We would like to introduce blue hoodies for the rest of our school (a paler colour of blue to help ensure our P7 ones are different). We believe the children will benefit from these in our cooler classrooms and can also wear them for their PE days, again helping to build on our outdoor PE uniform and keeping us all the same. Blue hoodies with the school badge will be available for you to purchase via our school or plain blue hoodies are also available from Amazon as well as several stores. The cost of the school hoody is £12.50 and a maximum of 2 hoodies can be ordered through our Parent Pay system which will be available from Wednesday 7th October. Orders will be sent away on **Friday 23rd October** and we hope to have the hoodies with us shortly afterwards. Please click on the link below to visit the site our supplier will be using and the colour of the hoody we will have in our school will be Sky. The size guide is also available on the link below.

http://www.best4workwear.com/en-GB/product_UC506_Childrens_Classic_Full_Zip_Hooded_Sweatshirt?category=

Parents Evening

As we are unable to have Parents Evening as normal, our intention is to produce an interim report for you with key information about your child's learning at this stage. More information about this will follow after the October break.

Google Classrooms

We are continuing to make use of Google Classrooms and homework has been posted on this platform for all our children. We understand that it can be difficult to get in to this site initially and if you are experiencing this, please come along to our school hall with your device on **Wednesday 7th October from 8.15-9.30am or 2.15-4.30pm** and we will hopefully help you to get logged in. It appears to operate differently on various devices, IT is certainly stretching and challenging us here in St Elizabeth's! If you cannot manage along on Wednesday, you are welcome to send your device to school with your child on Thursday as we will be helping pupils log in on this day.

Each child has been given a jotter and pencil to be kept at home in the event of them having to do work from home. Should you require any further resource ie paper, crayons, coloured pencils, etc please let us know and we will get these resources to you.

You will also shortly be receiving an information sheet giving you details of the logins and password required for your own child and an outline of how we would use Google Classrooms for learning moving forward.

Hallowe'en

The children can come to school on Friday 30th Oct wearing their fancy dress costumes. We're planning on having a day of spooky fun in school to help bring a bit of cheer to us all at this time. Please note, in line with guidance, all props/masks, etc should be left at home that day.

Important School Information

***Nut allergies** – just a reminder to everyone that we are a nut free school. Children should not bring any snacks or items to school that may contain nuts or nut based ingredients. Thank you.

***Fizzy drinks** – fizzy drinks are not permitted in our school either as they contain a vast amount of sugar which affects children's attention and behaviour.

***Health Promotion** – we are a health promoting school and continually encourage our children to think about what they eat and drink. This includes snacks at playtime and lunchtime. Milk is available each week at a cost of £1.00. This can be ordered through Parent Pay.

***Absences/Lateness/Leaving Early** - If your child is to be absent from school, please phone our school office as soon as possible to inform us. We have an answering machine for your use. The legal requirement is that children attend school for the required hours each day. If they are required to leave early, please bring your appointment letter to our office staff who will then note this.

We monitor absence levels, lateness and leaving school early very closely. This session, you will be informed if your child's attendance drops below 95% or if lateness/leaving early is becoming an issue. Whilst we know it is not always easy to arrange, particularly in these current times, it would be really helpful for any appointments your child may have to be scheduled for out with school hours. We appreciate your support in helping to ensure any disruptions to your child's learning are minimum at this time.

***Head Lice** – We ask all parents and carers to please check hair regularly and if there is any case of head lice, it is really helpful if you can let the school know as soon as possible please. Many thanks for your support with this.

***School Uniform** – the children are very smart in our school uniform and we thank you so much for your great support with this. A wee reminder that trainers are not part of our school uniform except on a PE day and we would really appreciate if named items such as Nike, etc could be kept for home.

Contacting our school

Our office staff are delighted to help you in any way and, as you know, do a wonderful job keeping our busy school office running smoothly. If there is anything you feel we can help with, please telephone or email our school office on 01698 285080 or school office as early as possible in the day. Please only call the school office in an emergency. Many thanks for your help with all of this. **If your telephone number or e-mail address change throughout the course of the year, please remember to let our office staff know to allow us to update our records. This also applies to emergency contacts.**

Finally, once again thank you for all the support you give our school, it is greatly appreciated by us all. We wish everyone a safe and relaxing October break and hope everyone continues to keep well.

Best wishes to everyone,

Miss Christine MacPhee

Head Teacher