

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, 28 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,

A warm welcome to our latest newsletter. We hope you and your families are all keeping well in these strange and challenging times for everyone.

I would like to reassure all families that we continue to stringently follow and implement guidelines throughout our school and nursery. Our staff now wear masks moving around the school and we also make use of masks within the classroom. Staff continually remain 2m away from children (no easy task!) and all staff remain 2m away from each other throughout the day in St Elizabeth's. We have seating plans in place for each classroom and also within the dining hall to help ensure we are constantly aware of where each child is during the day - this helps to minimise risk but also allows us to pass very precise information to the Health Protection Team should we need to.

Your support in keeping a 2m distance from other adults out with your household outside the school is greatly appreciated and can I please encourage everyone to adhere to this for the sake of our school community and all our families. I have received a few concerns from parents about families standing too close and we all ask for your help in ensuring we do not allow this to happen please. Once you have collected your child, many of you make your way home or away from the school promptly and we thank you very much for doing this.

We have received orders for our new school hoodies and these will be processed this week. We hope to receive the hoodies very soon and the children can wear them to keep nice and cosy in school!



We continue to do PE sessions outdoors and most 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.

### **Sacraments**

Congratulations to the children in our P5 stage who recently received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> October. We were delighted to be able to join the children at 2 special Masses and we were so proud of them all. We hope they all enjoyed a lovely day with their family.

We are still waiting information regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation and I will keep you informed.

### **Junior Road Safety Officers**

We have 5 Junior Road Safety Officers from our Primary 6 children. Congratulations to Jack, Brooke, Kian, Beth and Jacob – we look forward to working with them on ways of helping to keep our school community safe. The children have raised 2 issues they are concerned about – adults smoking outside the school and swearing outside the school. I'm sure the children will come up with good ideas to help address these issues and we are excited to hear their suggestions.

### **Community Partnership**

The next meeting of our Community Partnership takes place on Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7pm and this is **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.

### **Hallowe'en**

Children can come to school wearing their hallowe'en costume on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. Masks and props are not allowed. Face paint/make up or headbands are permitted. The children can also bring a small goodie to enjoy in their classroom during the afternoon. We are also looking forward to seeing the wonderful pumpkins our children always create – these should be brought to school please on Thursday and should be given to your child to place outside the front of our school in their class zone. We will direct your child to their zone in the morning.

### **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. The interim reports will be sent out to all parents via pupil post on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

### **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 certainly 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 continues to be on kindness to one another in what we say and what we do. We have also reintroduced our Class Bears, wearing masks of course! The little bears help us with any worries or concerns in our school.

## Google Classrooms

We are continuing to make use of Google Classrooms and homework has been posted on this platform for all our children.

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 have received 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. If you have any questions or difficulties, please let us know and we will do our best to help.

## 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.

## 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. Happy hallowe'en, keep safe everyone.

Best wishes to everyone,

Miss MacPhee