



# Newton Weekly Note

Week Ending 5.6.20

## HELPFUL LINKS

Twitter - [@NewtonPrimary01](#).

Technical Support -  
[newtontechsupport@stirlingschools.net](mailto:newtontechsupport@stirlingschools.net)

Family Support –  
[newtonfamilysupport@stirlingschools.net](mailto:newtonfamilysupport@stirlingschools.net)

School Website -  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/newtonprimaryschool/>

Advice to support children regarding Covid-19 -  
[https://www.cosla.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/15570/covid19adviceforsupportingchildrenandyoungpeople.pdf](https://www.cosla.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/15570/covid19adviceforsupportingchildrenandyoungpeople.pdf)

### Free School Meals

Educational Psychology Service  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/stirlingeps/information-for-parents/>

Education Scotland Parent Newsletter Issue 5  
<https://education.gov.scot/media/21kmbm5e/parentcarenewsletterissue5.pdf>

## NEWTON NOTE

**Re-opening of Schools** – Thank you once again to all parents and families for your ongoing patience, care and the many positive and supportive messages we have received throughout this period of immense uncertainty. Myself and my staff team really appreciate this as we continue to work through this next phase. I continue to understand that many families will be waiting in anticipation for news and next steps on the reopening of schools in August and what this will look like. I wish to continue to reiterate to all that things will be very different to what they were before and I continue to ask you to prepare yourself and your children for many changes to be in place. I anticipate that key information will be shared with parents from Stirling Council via a statement very soon. I am aware there continues to be increasing speculation about the model Stirling will adopt and this can add to the uncertainty and cause confusion. I would like to be clear with parents that our teachers, support staff and nursery staff as well as our senior leadership team including myself will be informed of the model as it goes public. We will not be told in advance of any statement made by the local authority.

As I'm sure many of you are aware our buildings reopened on Monday to janitorial staff and the Senior Leadership Team. Miss Alison, Mrs. Brown, and I have been in school this week. Some of our tasks have involved:

- preparing and carrying out a full risk assessment of all areas within the school initially for staff returning and then thinking ahead for pupils returning in August.
- Creating and issuing staff guidance to ensure they adhere to Health and Safety guidelines set out by Scottish Government and Stirling Council and to ensure everyone is aware that there is now a very new and different way of working in place.
- Developing protocols around entry and exit procedures
- Developing protocols around handwashing, hygiene and sharing of equipment e.g photocopier etc.
- A one-way system in place
- Assessing our school capacity to ensure all classrooms and desk arrangements can comply and meet 2m social distancing requirements
- Arranging for additional furniture and resources to be packed up and stored
- Arranging for classrooms, cupboards, open areas, and other areas within the school to be cleared.
- Arranging a Staff Rota to ensure teachers can be in school, work in the Childcare Hub and continue to monitor, comment on and share information on Google Classroom whilst preparing and planning the next set of learning grids for our children.
- Fully revising our Fire Action Plan and evacuation procedures
- Auditing and agreeing resources we will need in each classroom for each child for next session
- Considering break, lunch and other arrangements when staff and in the future children are not in class.

We are making progress with all of the above and I would like to reassure parents that we are planning and organising carefully to ensure our children are able to return to school into a safe and welcoming environment. As I'm sure you are well aware this will mean compromise. A reduction in capacity to guarantee social distancing will mean, in reality

Stirling Council have teamed up with Hey Girls to make sure you are 'Period Protected' during Covid - 19.



Thanks to funding from the Scottish Government, free sanitary products will continue to be available throughout Stirling.

Although our School collection points are temporarily closed during COVID-19, we are trialling a new ordering service so you can still get access to the products you need.

Any young person who menstruates up to 25 years is very welcome to use this free service, but you must live, go to school, or work/volunteer in the Stirling Council area and provide a Stirling post code for delivery.

A range of products across four care packs are available to choose from.

The online trial is for an initial two weeks (until 25 May 2020) and then will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Products may take up to six weeks to arrive after initial ordering. After the initial 2 weeks, the survey monkey closes orders are confirm then they are packed and delivered to your house.

We will endeavour to keep this time as short as possible, but we also want you to plan ahead.

If you don't receive your order after 6 weeks, please email SPandYP@stirling.gov.uk

To make an order complete your online form here.

<https://www.young.scot/campaigns/stirling/period-protected-during-covid-19>

**TALK** **Our Speech and Language Therapists are missing seeing all of our children and families** **NHS Forth Valley**

If you have any questions or are looking for advice or ideas to help your child's speech, language and communication skills while schools are closed, please have a look at our online information or get in touch.

- Find us on **Facebook**: 'NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy' Speech, language and communication advice and ideas updated regularly
- Visit our **webpage**: <https://nhsforthvalley.com/health-services/az-of-services/speech-and-language-therapy/>
- You can call us on **01786 434078** (Monday-Friday 9am - 4pm) We will answer your call if we can, but as our therapists are working differently just now to support the wider NHS, you may need to leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Remember to keep using Makaton! Have a look at [www.makaton.org](http://www.makaton.org) or [www.singinghands.co.uk](http://www.singinghands.co.uk) for some signing fun, including signed stories.

**We look forward to seeing you again soon**  
**NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy**

**Newton's Eco Code**

**E**ncourage eco awareness around our school

**N**ever drop litter

**V**alue outdoor learning

**I**mprove our playground

**R**espect our school grounds

**O**pportunities to grow and cook

**N**urture all living things

**M**ake community links

**E**ngage with the Global goals

**N**ever leave lights on when not in use

**T**ell everyone that Newton is an Eco School

a reduction of in school provision. We will, however, do our very best to ensure a quality experience for all of our children.

**Staffing** – Stirling Council have shared with me this week that Ms Samantha Kemp will be joining our staff team. Miss Kemp has been working in Cornton PS this session. Ms Elizabeth McEachern will also join our Newton Family. Ms McEachern has been teaching in Drymen PS this session. Ms Fiona Young will join our team. Ms Young has been redeployed from our nursery provision and Ms Isla Davidson will also join our team and she has been working in Dunblane PS this session. The closing date for our Principal Teacher post is 12<sup>th</sup> June and interviews will take place in the final week of term.

**Uniforms** – I understand that some families have been concerned about purchasing school uniforms for session 2020-21. I have heard today that our uniform supplier, Logo Xpress is now fully open for online orders and deliveries. We will send out their order form and sizing guide next week.

**Learning Grids** – Our final learning grids will be sent to families on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. These grids will have an emphasis on transition, saying goodbye and looking forward to next session and will be of a similar format to our previous grids.

**Newton Primary Virtual Sports Week 15th - 18th June 2020** – There will be an information sheet for children and parents scheduled to go into each year group classroom on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. This gives information on how to join the Sports Week Google Classroom and the format Sports Week will take. This will also tell parents and children how to find out which group they are in and how to enter scores etc. There will also be a list of which Leading and Learning Group each child was in incase they have forgotten. We usually have a lovely picnic lunch on Sports Day so we have included a Virtual Sports Week Picnic on the last day of sports week and asked that people send in pictures/videos of them having a picnic with their families if possible. A huge thank you to Mrs McNally for organising our virtual sports week and I hope everyone has a fab time week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**Reporting** – 'My Year of Learning' reports will be issued to parents' week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June. These will be sent by post.

**Support** - Please remember all links on the left of this note are there to help. Continue to access our [newtonfamilysupport@stirlingschools.net](mailto:newtonfamilysupport@stirlingschools.net) if you need to get in touch with us. Our website continues to be updated regularly and there is information available on there.

**Some very sad news** – Some parents and families may already know that one of our Support for Learning Assistants, Mrs Cartner tragically lost her son on Sunday evening due to a terrible accident. He was 22. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs Cartner and her family.

**And finally,....** Being in our lovely school today and looking around I particularly noticed our open areas. Here there are opportunities for our children to dress up and become whoever they choose. They use the home corner – to role play being mums and dads by putting the baby to bed, making the dinner, and reading stories. They go to the shop where they learn to use a credit or debit card, use coins and money, and learn what they can afford or not. They visit the hospital or vet's area where they play doctors, nurses, and sometimes patients (human or otherwise) They use the construction area and become budding builders, engineers, and architects. At the creativity area they draw, make boats, televisions, aeroplanes, monsters – anything they like. We have comfortable seating,

soft furnishings, soft lighting, plants, homely décor. We have a kitchen area where the children learn to cook and to bake. Our tech trolleys have chromebooks and laptops where our children learn about computer technology, coding, and research.

Whilst browsing these areas it reminded me why as a school, we continually try to replicate the home environment our children know best. We do this because we know that it is at home most children feel safest, protected, nurtured, and supported. Although it was really sad to see these areas empty of the buzz and chatter today it occurred to me that I shouldn't be.

Enjoy watching your children play - Perhaps today they are being the very busy high powered banker, or tomorrow the engineer who creates and builds amazing structures and bridges, or the caring and kind nurse or doctor who helps get them better, or the shop assistant who helps them find what they need, the train driver who takes them where they want to go or dare I say the teacher who helps them to learn.

Our children learn, grow, and develop through play and through this they often role-play the successful people they admire, look up to and love the most in the world - you.

Have a lovely weekend,  
Mrs Kane

*"What do you think  
success is?" asked the boy*



*"To love," said the  
mole*

**The boy, the mole, the fox, and the horse,**

**by Charlie Mackesy**

