



Newton Weekly Note

Week Ending 29.5.20

HELPFUL LINKS

Twitter - [@NewtonPrimary01](#).

Technical Support -
newtontechsupport@stirlingschools.net

Family Support –
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

[Free School Meals](#)

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

Education Scotland Parent
Newsletter Issue 4

<https://education.gov.scot/media/lyzeimtx/parentcarernewsletterissue4.pdf>

NEWTON NOTE

Re-opening of Schools – I understand that many families will be waiting in anticipation for news and next steps on the reopening of schools. As the First Minister indicated yesterday and in line with Stirling Council advice school buildings will reopen on Monday. Miss Alison, Mrs. Brown, and I will be the only staff members to have access to the school building in the first instance along with key cleaning and janitorial staff. The first step will be to ensure risk assessments have been fully undertaken and agreed across the local authority. Our priority once risk assessments have been agreed will be ensuring the site is fully clean and safe. Health and safety is paramount, and measures must be in place before any of our teaching, support staff or nursery staff return.

I know that there is much speculation in the press and on social media currently about arrangements for children returning to school in August with different local authority models beginning to surface. I am also aware that this sets in motion much discussion and potential anxiety amongst parents on WhatsApp, Facebook, and other social media platforms. For now, I ask parents to please be patient with us whilst we work with our local authority to agree a model for Stirling. As it stands currently, I do not have clear information on Stirling's model, and initial information on our recovery plan will be issued to schools in the coming days and weeks. Once we have much more firm arrangements in place, I will communicate this information fully to families. I fully understand that the blended learning approach agreed by Scottish Government brings many challenges for parents particularly around the issue of childcare. This also applies to our teachers who are working and once we have more information around an operating model there will be further discussion with parents around how we can best support this. As yet no operating model has been agreed.

Please see statement released from Stirling Council at 4.45 this evening.
<http://ow.ly/d3FE50zTJld>

In preparation – I ask parents to prepare themselves and for you to begin to prepare your children for school not being like it was before lockdown. What we will be able to offer and how we operate will change. Information about blended learning approaches, our recovery curriculum and how children will learn in school and at home will come in good time. Priorities around health and wellbeing of children, parents and staff, how we operate safely and how we carefully plan to ensure equity for our learners across our local and wider community are our key focus as we begin to emerge with a new 'normal'. As I have said before, our children are resilient and will adapt (I have full faith in them). By being open, transparent and honest with our children (It is ok to say I don't know, or I don't have the answer right now) we are gently and carefully preparing them for changes.

Staffing – We continue to try to work out our staffing complement for next session. We know that we will have 4 new members of teaching staff deployed to Newton next session. These teachers are to cover Miss Guthrie and Mrs. Russell's Maternity Leave of Absence, Miss Myles is leaving us to take up a post in Perth and Kinross nearer to where she lives, and Miss Porter will be leaving us to take up a post in Killlearn Primary which is also much closer to home. I have not yet met our new staff members, but I have been in touch with them via email and telephone. On Wednesday of this week Mrs Welsh was appointed

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

WE HAVE TEAMED UP WITH HEY GIRLS TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE
PERIOD PROTECTED
DURING #COVID19

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

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 or 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

Encourage eco awareness around our school

Never drop litter

Value outdoor learning

Improve our playground

Respect our school grounds

Opportunities to grow and cook

Nurture all living things

Make community links

Engage with the Global goals

Never leave lights on when not in use

Tell everyone that Newton is an Eco School

Nursery Administrator and takes up her new post in August and Miss Nicholas has been appointed permanent SLA today to replace Mrs Campbell who retired at the end of April. Mrs Aitken will continue her maternity leave until the October break. Miss Thomson and Mrs Robertson were appointed Senior Early Childhood Educators in the nursery last week and they, along with Ms Murray who was appointed Principal Early Childhood Educator in February will take up their posts in August. These nursery posts are to support the nursery expansion programme. We are currently advertising for a permanent Principal Teacher to replace Mrs Brown who is now permanent Depute Headteacher and will be advertising Mrs Welsh's post in due course. Mrs Sharp who currently works 4 days a week will be reducing her days and will work 2 days a week as part of the phased retirement scheme.

Transitions - Our new Primary 1 children will hear who their teacher is going to be week beginning 8th June. No other classes have been confirmed yet and parents and children will be informed of their class and teacher in June. We understand that some children will be anxious about transitions and there will be support for children who require an enhanced transition to support specific additional needs. We have lots to work out and agree over these next few weeks and we thank you in advance for your trust and patience as we work through this.

Support - Please remember all links on the left of this note are there to help. Continue to access our 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.

Learning Grids – Our next Learning Grids will be sent to all families later this evening via Parentmail. For some stages there are supplementary materials to go with the grids. All material is also uploaded to Google Classroom and to our website. Please can I remind parents that Google Classroom is a forum for children to upload learning and comment. We appreciate that this is not possible for children in the early years and that we need parents to do this for them. What is uploaded should be children's words and work if possible. As with social media, it is important that parents are mindful that although we are all in the same storm not everyone is in the same boat. We must support each other and be aware of each other as we muddle through this.

Newton Primary Virtual Sports Week 15th - 18th June 2020 - We are delighted to announce that despite not being at school for our usual Sports Day, this year we will be holding a Virtual Sports Week instead! The children will be competing in their Leading and Learning Groups from P1-7 and taking part in 2 events each day over the course of the week. Participation is optional but it would be great to have as many of our children take part if they can, especially if the weather keeps up. A Virtual Sports Week Google Classroom is being set up for the children to join, where all the information they need to know to take part will be. Watch out for more information over the next week or so on how to take part and join in the fun.

And finally... In this time of change and uncertainty, we continue to really appreciate and are grateful for the support of our school community. By embracing change, thinking about, and finding the positives in these evolving circumstances will help us to realise that these changes will also bring about opportunities as well as challenges. These possibilities are what allow us to move forward.

As we know the only real certainty in life is change. Our children change every day (sometimes depending on mood, by the hour or by the minute)

and they definitely keep growing. When we do return to school our staff will particularly notice how much they have grown, and we look forward to listening and learning about all their experiences during this prolonged period.

At home with you just now, our children are watching, listening, and learning from all that is going on around them. They can hear the anxiety in your voice as you speak or feel comforted by your calm tone. They see the unease on your face as you look, or they see a smile and feel safe. They feel the tension in your body as you hug them, or they feel you relaxed in their arms. We know this is difficult for everyone and it can be especially difficult for us as adults making decisions and worrying about what will happen next. Our children are aware, overhear and pick up on our 'adult' anxieties. I couldn't decide this week which quote I thought was most appropriate, so I have included both. I hope you like them as we move on to the next phase.

Kindest thoughts,
Mrs Kane



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

by Charlie Mackesy

