



Newton Weekly Note

Week Ending 14.08.20

HELPFUL LINKS

Twitter - [@NewtonPrimary01](#).

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

[Free School Meals](#)
<https://www.parentclub.scot/>

NEWTON NOTE

Welcome Back to School – I would like to thank everyone for all their support and encouragement as our pupils returned to school this week. We have loved having our children back and we have been overwhelmed with the positivity and resilience our children (and parents) have shown. We are sure that there will be a few teething problems as we continue to work out what our new normal is but I am delighted to say that our children have settled brilliantly back into school life.

As our children settle into their new routines after spending many months at home away from school, we are mindful that they are getting to know each other again, meeting new friends, spending longer periods of time with larger groups of peers and the skills involved in negotiating with peers, socialising with others and readjusting to all of this will take time. As children, these are social skills they are just learning and through our school values of Kindness, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility and Unity we will work with the children to demonstrate and uphold these values in school as they play, grow and learn together.

Your child's previous teacher completed a full handover in June with your child's new class teacher and the new class teacher is getting to know the children. We ask for a little time for this. As we always do at Newton at this time of year, our focus in every class is Citizenship and we continue to focus on Health and Wellbeing. This will be reflected in the children's learning experiences over the coming weeks.

In line with current Stirling Council and Government guidance we would like to remind parents that we are unable to hold face to face meetings in school at the moment. All meetings will need to take place via telephone. Mrs Currie in the school office is happy to pass on any messages. If you need to speak directly with your child's class teacher please telephone the school office to arrange an appointment for them to call you after school.

Physical Distancing – Thank you to our many parents who are respecting guidelines that there should be 2m physical distance between adults. We feel our playground is big enough to allow for this at the end of the day and therefore we do not need staggered leaving times. We kindly request that parents do not enter the school grounds before 2.45pm for P1 pick up at 2.50 (next week only) and for all other parent 2.55pm.

Staffing reminder

P1J – Miss Johnstone	P1K – Miss Kemp
P1J – P2M Miss McDonald	P1R – P2I Miss Ingram
P2K – P3M Miss MacEachern	P2M – P3K Miss Kenny
P3M – P4L Mr Lunan	P3A – P4D Miss Duncan
P4M – P5R Miss Reid	P4S – P5M Mrs Miller
P5L – P6D Miss Davidson	P5S – P6A Mrs Alexander
P6G – P7S Mrs Spence	P6A – P7CF Mrs Campbell and Mrs Fitzgerald

Mr Edwards – congratulations to Mr Edwards, who has been seconded to Stirling Council Digital Team one day per week. Mr Edwards will continue to work in Newton on a Monday.

Mrs Whitehead will support in P4

Mrs Sharp will support in P5

Mrs McNally will initially support children in P5. Once children have had a few weeks to settle she will be able work with individual children supporting assessments where needed.

A few updates – We will continue to have a soft start for pupils in the morning **next week until 9.45am**. If you come after 9.30am your child may enter the school using the front entrance. From the following week we will reduce our soft start to between 9.00 and 9.30am.

Break Times - We have amended our break times to allow for reduced numbers of children in our playground and to reduce the number of staff in our staff room.

P1-3 break 10.30-10.45

P4-7 break 10.45-11.00

We have zoned the playground and year groups are only able to play on their designated area. For our younger pupils 3 areas will be rotated weekly – for example

- P1 – Monobloc and Trim trail
- P2 – Tarmac
- P3 – Field

After consultation with our older children they too have agreed that they will rotate 4 areas weekly – for example

- P4 – Monobloc and Eco Garden
- P5 – Monobloc and Trim trail
- P6 - Field
- P7 - Tarmac

Lunch Arrangements

We continue to serve lunch to the children in their classrooms. To be able to do this easily and to allow for physical distancing, cleaning and staff to have reduced numbers in the staffroom we have amended our lunch break.

P1-3 – Lunch from 12.00 – 12.45

P4-7 – Lunch from 12.45 – 1.30

Free school meals - Forms are available on Stirling Council website. We encourage any parents who may be entitled for FSM to apply

Physical Education – Our current guidance is that PE should take place outdoors. Please send your child to school with a change of outdoor shoes/trainers. At the moment we are not asking children to change for PE outside. We will continue to monitor this and make changes as appropriate. If you have already sent your child with a PE kit to school we will keep it here. PE days will be communicated to you by your child's class teacher. Teachers are however making use of the outdoor spaces as much as possible, so it may be that children take part in different physical activities throughout the week.

My Year of Learning Reports – Please return reports with children and parental comments with children to class teachers.

Newton Family Support – As we are now fully operational in school, as from today our Newton Family Support email address will be decommissioned. If you need to get in touch with the school please email newtonps@stirling.gov.uk or telephone 01786 237920.

P1 Parents – Parentmail is our main means of communication to parents at Newton. Our Newton Transition email address will also now be decommissioned. All P1 parents will be sent an email asking you to sign

up to parentmail and will include parentmail sign up details. Could those not already signed up please return the completed form as soon as possible to ensure they receive all communication from the school.

Eco garden and grounds – Message from Mrs Sharp It is wonderful to see the children back at school, enjoying each other's company and a return to learning within the school environment. Our garden has lots of produce growing, all based on the Groovy Gardeners planting plan and the group's preparation of the soil prior to lockdown. We look forward to harvest in the coming weeks. Our tubs at the school door are full of bedding plants the Gardeners were bringing on from seed in the classroom ready for planting. Thank you to the Groovy Gardeners for all of your efforts! I would also like to say a very big thank you to some folks who then helped to keep the eco garden and its resources going over lockdown. For example, Mr Stainton and Mr Dunning kept our grassy areas trimmed and under control. Mrs Whitehead came in to help, for example, harvesting the spinach.

Mr and Mrs McDonald (Murray and Fraser Baldwin's grandparents) cared for our lovely memorial planter and Mr McDonald reroofed the old shed and treated both sheds with preservative. All such efforts are all greatly appreciated. Truly a fine example of the Newton Family's teamwork!

Newton Primary – The Blossom House Memorial Project



Many of our parents will have read the article in the community page of 'The Wire' this month regarding Newton's project in memory of Jane McManus, former Headteacher. At Newton Primary School we are working on a special project in memory of Mrs Jane McManus who was our Head Teacher from 2012-2019. Jane sadly passed away in Strathcarron Hospice in July 2019. The children, staff and families of Newton Primary would like to remember Jane with a fitting memorial that celebrates her wonderful teaching legacy and makes a positive impact on the school and local community for many years to come.

Jane loved the outdoors and cared deeply about the education and well-being of all children at Newton Primary. She was particularly keen on outdoor learning and activity. Following discussions with pupils, staff, families and consultation with Jane's family, a new outdoor classroom and learning space has been identified as a fitting way to remember her.

The children have come up with the name 'The Blossom House' as Jane loved the spring blossom and the blossom tree in Japanese culture represents a short but vibrant life.

The Blossom House will take the form of a new gazebo style structure which will replace the current canopy in the school playground. The new building will come with a waterproof roof (much needed in Dunblane!) and side panels which will enable us to use the classroom all year round. There will also be the facility to use some of the side panels as whiteboards and chalk boards and the building will comfortably seat a full class of up to 33 pupils. This new

facility can be used for all sorts of outdoor learning, from numeracy and literacy lessons to drama, PE, art and so much more. The vision is not only to use the space as an outdoor classroom, but also as a year round hub for outdoor activities, Eco-projects and extra-curricular events. We are excited about the many health and well-being benefits this new space will provide for our children.

Once up and running, we plan to make The Blossom House available to local community groups for outdoor activities, sports or small social events, outside of school hours and during school holidays.

Timings wise, we really hope to deliver the project during school year 2020-21. Our challenge is to raise nearly £20,000 to do this. We are currently applying for a number of Scottish and UK grants. Additionally, we would like to invite anyone who feels they would like to contribute towards Jane's memorial project, to visit our fundraising page on Just Giving

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/newtonprimaryschool>

Thank for you taking the time to read this update and huge thanks to anyone who would like to make a donation. We'll keep you posted on our progress!

Have a lovely weekend, we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday.

Mrs Kane



