

Carmondean Primary School Newsletter 9

March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our youngest pupils are now back with us and it is a school of two halves. The usual buzz across Primary 1 to 3 has thankfully replaced a quiet stillness. However, quietness remains at the other end of the school but not for much longer. The children who have returned have been so excited to see their teachers and friends again and it has been a joy to watch and to listen to.

Week beginning 15th March all children will be back in school. Speaking on behalf of the staff, we cannot wait for their return so we can get on with what we all do best. Obviously, we are still restricted in the usual things we would be doing at this time in the school year but at least the children are in the building and face-to-face teaching is once more possible.

On-line learning has been an experience for all us, both positive and negative. For us, for the most part, it has been a huge success and has certainly increased the staff's expertise in all things ICT. This time last year, Microsoft Teams was something of an unknown. Now we can add Seesaw to our wealth of knowledge and understanding of technology.

Breakfast Club

From week beginning 15th March, the Breakfast Club will re-open to all children. Breakfast Club starts at 08.15 and access to the building is through the P6/7 entrance.

Previous Information Reminders

What should my child bring to school?	<p>At the moment we are asking the children to bring very little with them to school.</p> <p>Children can bring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A waterproof coat and appropriate clothing to be warm in and out of doors.• A water bottle to be filled at home each day.• A packed lunch or pre-order a school meal on iPay.• A school bag with just essential items• A snack for morning interval. <p>Children should not bring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Separate P.E kit. On P.E days children should come to school in their P.E kit.• Additional items from home such as games, toys etc.
What will be different?	<p>Children will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To sanitise/wash hands regularly and spend the majority of the school day with their class group and teacher.• To go directly to their classroom at the start of the day.• A staggered end time to the day.• Staggered breaks and lunches.• Limited mixing between classes.• An allocated gate to enter and leave at the start and end of the day.

	<p>Parents/carers will be asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enter the outer and inner playgrounds. • Not gather on the paths surrounding the school and to maintain a 2m distance from other people. • Wear a face covering at drop off/pick up times.
<p>What will be the same?</p>	<p>Children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear their school uniform. • Meet up with their teacher who is ready to care for them and to teach them wonderful things. • See their friends again and play outside. • Order lunches as usual on iPay. All families should now use iPay to make payments. Cash is no longer accepted at the Office. Registration details can be obtained by contacting the school office.

Covid Reminders (as always)

It is **essential** that if anyone in your household develops Covid-19 symptoms:

- a new continuous cough
- a fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

that you **do not** send your child to school or nursery. It is imperative for the health and safety of the whole school community that the person showing symptoms self-isolates along with everyone else in the household, including the children. If you or a family member develops symptoms during the school day, please arrange for immediate collection of your child in order to isolate.

The person showing symptoms should be tested immediately. Whilst the person waits for the test results all members of the same household should continue to self-isolate and no child should be sent to school during this waiting period.

If the result is negative, self-isolation can end for everyone.

If the test is **positive**, the person should self-isolate for 10 days from the day their symptoms started and not from the day the test results are received. They should only come out of isolation after 10 days if they feel better and **if they have not had a fever for 48 hours**. The rest of the household should self-isolate for 10 days from the start of the symptoms, even if they do not have symptoms themselves. If they develop symptoms of COVID-19, they need to continue to stay at home and arrange to be tested.

School Office

A reminder that all hands on deck continues to ensure our children are well looked after and supervised at morning interval and at lunchtime. Mrs Wotherspoon and Mrs McLean have kindly stepped in to help with this and are away from the Office at various times throughout the day. If you are calling the Office for any reason and the phone continues to ring or there is no answer, please leave a message on the answering machine and someone will get back to you as soon as they can. Alternatively, email the School Office at w/carmondean-ps@westlothian.org.uk.

Please note that the Office opens for business at 8.30am and closes at 4.00pm so if you call the school before or after these times please leave a message on the answering machine.

Yours faithfully,

Gillian E Millar

Head Teacher

Dates for the diary

Monday 15 th March	P4-7 children return to class
Friday 19 th March	Comic Relief Dress Down Day
Thursday 1st April	Last day of term
Friday 2 nd – Friday 16 th April	Easter holidays
Monday 19 th April	All pupils resume
Monday 3 rd May	May Day Holiday
Thursday 6 th May	Staff In-Service Day
Monday 24 th May	Victoria Day Holiday