

Calderwood School Information Meeting 22 April 2021

Meeting Summary, Questions and Answers



- **Greg Welsh Head of Education Primary**
- **Sarah Burton Head Teacher Calderwood Primary**
- **Catherine Campbell Education Development Officer**
- **Andy Cotton Planning Officer**

Introduction – Greg Welsh

- Proposal for the temporary arrangements for Calderwood children from Tuesday 17 August 2021 until Friday 8 October 2021.
- Children entering P1 will attend East Calder PS and placed in their class groups with their new teacher.
- Children entering P2 -P7 will attend Mid Calder PS and placed in their class groups with their class teacher.
- It is anticipated that these arrangements will help children build strong relationships with their new teachers and classmates until the school building opens.
- Calderwood Primary School and Nursery will be open to pupils on Tuesday 19 October 2021.

Transition Arrangements – Sarah Burton

- Our virtual transition programme will start on 17th May, we are currently waiting for all the admin tasks to align so that we can easily communicate with parents and children. Ms Burton will be in touch with information. You can find the link to information here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/calderwood/2021/05/10/into-calderwood-transition-programme/>

Transport Arrangements for P2-P7 children to Mid Calder

- WL Transport are currently assessing the most suitable transport route to Mid Calder including pick up and drop off points.
- Ms Burton has issued a quick survey to provide an early indication of the level of uptake – this can be revised later.
- It is anticipated that a further update can be provided at the next information meeting.

Next Meeting

Details of the next meeting on **Wednesday 26 May at 7.30PM** can be found here along with a link. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/calderwood/2021/05/12/calderwood-primary-information-meeting> .

Questions from the online participants.

1. Some people couldn't access the meeting. Will there be another information evening scheduled?

The next information evening will be on Wednesday 26 May at 7.30PM. We will ensure that the platform will be able to cope with the anticipated number of participants. The meeting link can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3fdHHnF>

2. Is it possible to have the information email address?

NewCalderwoodPrimarySchool@westlothian.gov.uk

3. Are applications happening through West Lothian council pages, or is there a different designated space to apply to school? And what sort of information is required to apply for those who are yet to move into the area (i.e. are initial missives satisfactory?)

School and nursery place requests are made through the West Lothian website (online application). If you are awaiting a move to the area there is an 'additional information' section where you can explain your circumstances i.e. bought a house and plan to move into the area (MONTH) and will update information/address on completion.

4. Have provisions been made to accommodate the increased number of children moving to Calderwood? (Is there a chance a child within catchment could be declined a space?)

The school capacity is 462 and has been built with the projected numbers expected for house building in the area. There are also plans in place to extend if required in the future.

5. Will children start in their Calderwood uniform?

Yes, information will be coming soon about the uniform and how you can purchase it.

The link is here: <https://sway.office.com/eBiBcy6OrweTDSdO?ref=Link&loc=play>

6. Do you have any information on nursery provision?

The nursery provision will be established in October 2021.

7. When will recruitment start for the nursery?

The priority is currently recruitment for the Primary and then recruitment will start for the Nursery staff – scheduled May/June 2021.

8. Has the school badge been confirmed?

Yes, it has! We will share this with the school community soon – watch this space.

<https://sway.office.com/JtHcyzYsT0cXhHki?ref=Link&loc=play>

9. Any idea what the nursery times will look like for funded places?

We will follow West Lothian advice and guidance for the Nursery class times and options.

10. My son's in a class with many children at East Calder Primary who are coming to Calderwood. Will there be efforts made to try and keep groups that have been in classes together up until now together?

We will follow the West Lothian policy for making up classes if there is more than one class within a stage. This includes considering; age, sex, personal and social development and academic progress. There will be a lot of opportunities at Calderwood Primary to learn across classes and stages

11. How many streams are you anticipating for p2-7?

We are still working on the class structure – taking new applications. However, we anticipate a 10-class structure from P1 -P7.

12. I love seeing the enthusiasm and excitement in you both! It's a good sign! Thank you!

13. Have the school uniform colours been finalised?

The uniform colour is mainly navy and white. The Head Teacher will provide uniform information at the next meeting.

14. I'm a parent from Mid Calder PS. Has there been any thought given to how the lunch and play breaks be phased if Covid is still an issue?

Ms Burton, Calderwood Head Teacher knows the staff well at Mid Calder PS having worked there previously. She has already had discussions with the Mid Calder Head Teacher about lunch and break arrangements for the children – this will ensure that all children continue to have their entitlement.

15. Will there be school visits to mid calder primary before the P2 -P7 start? Is it possible to have extra time/provisions for kids with anxieties?

The hope is that this would happen in June but it does depend on Covid regulations. If we can't physically visit Mid Calder we would provide a virtual tour. We will liaise with families and current schools to look at how we can ensure a smooth transition for all our children.

16. Are the school facilities likely to be used for sports clubs etc outwith school hours?

There are currently no formal arrangements for after school clubs at Calderwood Primary School. However, this may change in the future. The Head Teacher has had some initial discussions with Simply Play currently the main provider in East Calder but her priority will be the organisation of the school and nursery opening in October.

17. When do you expect to share teacher details to pupils and parents?

Across the school estate and if known this is normally shared just before the summer holiday. Ms Burton will keep everyone informed.

18. We are undecided as yet. When is the final date an application can be made for a p2-p7 pupil?

There's no deadline for applications for P2-P7 places.

19. Will the heavy goods/ dump trucks still be passing the school once it opens? Or is there plans for their site to move?

The road outside the school will be used by Construction traffic for the ongoing sites under construction. Stirling Developments have plans to provide an alternative route for the haulage traffic through Nethershiel Road.

20. Are there any functions or facilities of the new building that *aren't* expected to be ready in October?

It is anticipated that the school, nursery and outdoor spaces will all be completed in time for school opening in October 2021.

21. What is the plan for support for learning?

This will be organised by the school Senior Management Team once information is known about children's needs.

22. Will there be more than 1 class in p2/ p3 and upwards

Class structures are still being finalised.

23. Is it likely that the P5 and P6 pupils will be together in a composite or will each year group have their own (small) class?

Class structures are still being finalised.

24. Re: Haulage traffic from the farm. Hi Andrew. I'm not aware that that is the case but if there is can you provide details? also, how will they be encouraged to use that route over the route at the front of the school?

Stirling Developments tell us that they're looking to develop a plan to manage the construction traffic and haulage traffic to minimise impacts on the school.

Nb There is large haulage type vehicles that serve non-Calderwood related activities.

25. Will there be breakfast club provision?

All West Lothian schools run breakfast clubs.

26. Will it be simply play provision for once Calderwood opens for before and after child care. Seems silly driving kids up and then having them walked back down and vice versa. Will there be a club in the school?

After school provision varies across the estate. The Head Teacher has had initial discussions with Simply Play.

27. hi, when is the nursery opening? and how many to a class/group? Thanks

Nursery will open October 2021. The capacity is 128 children.

28. When do you anticipate the next parent consultation (like this) on zoom to be?

Hope to hold another meeting at the end of May – where we'll ensure that our platform can hold everyone who wishes to attend.

29. so are applications for the nursery open?

Yes, applications can be made online. Calderwood nursery will be made an option on the form this week.

30. Will nursery times be full time for all 128 children, or will it be half days or half-weeks?

West Lothian will follow latest government increasing the funded entitlement for all three- and four-years olds to 1,140 hours a year, equivalent to 30 hours per week term time.

31. Are you confident you will have all staff, be it teachers or other support staff, recruited in time for opening?

Yes, the recruitment process has already started. The level of interest and applications has been high.

32. Is it expected that the path along past the play park will be open right along to the school by October rather than having to walk along the road?

It is anticipated that all landscaping will be complete and school construction traffic off site by the opening date.

33. What method will be used to gather the feedback from parents about the transport to Mid Calder?

WL Transport will provide information regarding pick up and drop off to and from Mid Calder PS. The transport provider is currently assessing the most suitable route. It is anticipated that more information will be issued at the next information meeting.

34. When do you expect Calderwood nursery places to be confirmed to parents?

Pupil placement will be in touch soon to confirm places.

35. Where can you apply for nursery places?

Applications for nursery and school places can be made online. Applications are still being received by pupil placement and priority will be given to those in the catchment area in the first instance.

The easiest way to apply for a primary school place is to use the online link here

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/primaryapplication>

The easiest way to apply for a nursery place is to use the online link here:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/preschoolapplication>

36. Where can I find a map of the Calderwood School catchment?

The Calderwood catchment area map can be found on Page 21 of the published Consultation Paper link found here: [https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/37480/Calderwood-Primary-School-Consultation-](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/37480/Calderwood-Primary-School-Consultation-Document/pdf/Calderwood_Primary_School_Consultation_Document.pdf?m=637049188002870000)

[Document/pdf/Calderwood_Primary_School_Consultation_Document.pdf?m=637049188002870000](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/37480/Calderwood_Primary_School_Consultation_Document.pdf?m=637049188002870000)

37. What are the transition arrangements for new P1s starting at East Calder school? In particular for those children that are not currently at East Calder Nursery.

The Head Teacher Sarah Burton will provide information on the transition programme for all pupils when available. She takes up her appointment on Monday 26 April.

You can find out more about P1 transition here:

<https://sway.office.com/i7KBfLrJubodamU?ref=Link&loc=play>

38. What are the transition arrangements for P2-P7 in advance of them moving from East Calder to Mid Calder? Will they get an opportunity to visit Mid Calder Primary school in advance of the new school year?

The Head Teacher would like to arrange both a virtual and physical transition experience for all children.

39. What are the transition arrangements for all pupils in advance of when they move from East Calder or Mid Calder to the new school building in October?

Ms Burton will provide more information at the next information evening.

40. If P1s are to be temporarily located at East Calder and P2-P7 will be located at Mid Calder, what is going to be in place to bring the children together as one school community for the 2 months that they are separate.

The Head Teacher anticipates holding virtual assemblies during the temporary arrangements to bring the school together.

41. Where will the Calderwood Primary School headteacher be located during August, September, and October if her pupils are to be split across 2 locations?

In West Lothian Head Teachers split their time between the two locations and liaise closely with other members of the Senior Management Team.

42. Would there be capacity to keep the P2-P7 pupils at East Calder until October?

There was only capacity to accommodate the new 3 x P1 classes at East Calder.

43. How definite is the opening date of October 19th? Is there any possibility this date will slip?

The contractor is making good progress and has given assurances the completion dates will be met.