

# Capturing Calderwood August 2021



## Building our future; Creating our history

Please describe a capturing Calderwood moment for our first week in Calderwood Primary:

- Entering the playground the 1st morning of school you could feel the buzz of nervous and excited energy from both the kids and the parents. The balloon arch and care packages were both lovely touches and seeing \*\* walk into the school with Miss Cunningham will stay with me forever.
- The excitement and enthusiasm of the children coming to school- the moment they stepped off the bus their faces lit up and they had big smiles on their faces!
- I have enjoyed listening to happy and cheering Calderwood pupils, who have settled into their temporary school setting with huge smiles on their faces- feeling the positive vibes around the new champions community and being able to begin our cluster relationship building!! Building our future bridges already!!
- Seeing all of the families from Calderwood walking to the bus stop on Tuesday morning, and seeing the line of people waiting, it felt like the whole community was coming together.
- The capturing moment for me was realising that no matter what ups and downs we have had this week, we have still managed to laugh & get through it as a team. Privileged to be part of the Calderwood Champion team.
- The Support Champions at East Calder, alongside teachers, being so kind and helpful with nervous children in the playground - creating such a strong bond with them almost instantly. Also, the bag for parents on day 1 was an incredibly special gesture that will be a treasured memory of this first week.
- My child was happy and engaged from day 1.
- For me, it was taking the children's 'my first day at Calderwood' picture, seeing their little faces proud as punch holding the plaque, made me feel excited to be of the Calderwood journey.
- Seeing smiley, excited faces on the bus, ready to start a brand new adventure!
- Love the Calderwood uniform. The kids all look so smart.
- Seeing all the excited faces waiting to start school! And also a special mention to the bus lady on the 503 bus - she is lovely. A little boy wasn't happy to go on the bus on Tuesday but she made him do a pinky promise he would come on her magic bus the next day – I thought that was lovely.
- Hearing how excited my son was after day 1. He said he favourite part was running through the front door! 😊
- Meeting the classroom assistant on the bus on day 4 of school and hearing that she already knows and loves my daughter. She told me a funny story about her in class. It's a relief knowing my daughter is being looked after by people who seem to appreciate her rather forthright personality!
- Waving all our kids goodbye on the first morning of school! Much excitement 😊
- Wonderful welcome on Tuesday - the teachers were so enthusiastic and the balloon arch was a lovely touch.
- The huge welcome our children got as they arrived at school for the first day. It was so lovely.
- Our son jumping off the bus and first words were that he had had a great day and wants to go back again tomorrow. His first sticker from Mrs Findlay which had a whale on it and her name too!
- The goody bags for the p1 parents - and the balloon arch. Amazing.

- 1st days at school and Gift bags for parents that made us cry.
- Good sense of community at bus stop.
- \*\* started P1 and has gone in everyday and come out with a huge smile on her face!
- Highs and lows but proud to see my girls walk out very happy after day 1!
- Seeing both my girls in their new Calderwood uniform was an amazing moment.
- The trooping in of the P1s on Tuesday morning was a beautiful thing to behold!
- Children waving happily from the school bus, parents chatting, dog's tails wagging
- \*\* was so happy to come off the bus on the first and tell us about meeting Mrs Findlay. It's only been three and a half days but he adores her already!
- Seeing both my boys being part of the schools history being among the first pupils at the school.
- The P1's all going in on day 1.
- Seeing everyone looking so smart in the new uniform! \*\* has really enjoyed her first week- she won't stop talking 😊
- Kindness! I have been overwhelmed with how supportive the staff are helping my wee boy settle into P1.
- The balloon arch was a nice touch and good spot for parents getting a picture of their first day at school. The bag with the poem for Mum (or parent) was lovely. I liked seeing pictures of my child on seesaw and on glow in his class.
- The school buses have been an issue this week but I need to thank Mrs Morrison who has been amazing with my son every morning to encourage him to go on the bus when he has been extremely upset and anxious. I cannot thank her enough. All the staff are lovely and my son loves his new teacher Mrs Findlay.
- Our boy came home after the first day and gave his teacher a 10/10 rating. It was so nice to hear and we wanted to share that!
- My two boys so happy, proud and excited (practically off-the-scale!) to be starting their new school and for the first time ever happy to wear a tie to school. Those big smiles were still on their faces when they came off the bus... ties askew!
- So Exciting. There was a real buzz on the first day and all the children looked amazing in their uniforms.
- Watching my little P4 getting on a big coach bus and waving him goodbye as he drove off to his first day in his new School.

## Lessons learnt after the first week:

- \*\* has been attending breakfast club which seems to be running smoothly. The end of day pick up has also improved with setting out areas for each clan.
- Continuing effective, positive communications and interactions around all of our many adults and children.
- Now the morning bus is sorted I can't really think of anything. I think the no homework until after the September break is a fab idea, \*\* is absolutely shattered when he gets home just now.
- Just keep smiling.
- Organising the school playground, which you are already doing.
- I think the CW champs have done amazing this week, everyone is working the best they can with the space and resources they have and I can see it only getting better as the weeks go on!
- The bus process is working much better. Our son is on 503 and its arriving in good time now. Thanks for everyone's hard working making the first week so great.
- Thank you very much to the staff for all their effort and care this week. It must have been hard, but I feel like my child is in good hands and I really appreciate that.
- I love reading the blog on what has been done in class. This week my eldest learned about Loch Ness. We enjoyed looking up Loch Ness facts together. To give my son more confidence in class maybe in the blog you could share events coming up in the next week. I could discuss with my son so he knows what hat to expect and could help with confidence.

- I think you handled the bus issues brilliantly and we all understand most of the issues were out of your control and related to the bus company. I think the end of the week started on a high - bus arrived in reasonable time and a bunch of happy kids.
- I think the effort everyone at Calderwood has made has been amazing! From the welcome bags for the parents to the balloon arch for the kids, it's been a great week! Everyone involved deserves a big pat on the back and a large wine.
- I know you are all busy settling the kids in and starting their journey at school and indeed setting up a while new school in temporary conditions which is a massive feat, and the children have had a fantastic start so Thank you! Fantastic job!

| You suggested ...  | We did ...  |
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| <p>Pupils could wash/ sanitise hands in the classroom at the end of the day to allow them to get on the bus quickly.</p>   | <p>Now implemented.</p>   |
| <p>A full Coach bus timetable, including Departure time from MCPS and drop off times at each bus stop, would have been very useful.</p> <p>If the buses were able to arrive early and depart at 8.40 or a few minutes after this would support parents who need to start at 9am.</p> <p>8.30am bus would work better.</p> <p>Having a better idea of when the bus will be there in morning and at drop off to limit hanging around time.</p> <p>The bus! It still isn't running to the planned times in the morning in terms of pick up!</p> <p>Request for more than one champion on the bus.</p> <p>Someone suggested sending out a groupcall message when the buses leave school. This is probably too complicated to implement but I thought I should mention it in case, since it would be really useful if it was possible! :)</p> | <p>We have to follow the times the bus company give us.</p> <p>They do not give a schedule for times on the way home apart from departing Mid Calder, as this can be subject to traffic, etc.</p> <p>The times were negotiated with families prior to the school opening. Families have access to the breakfast club at Mid Calder from 8:10am, of they require an earlier time.</p> <p>West Lothian policy is no adults on school transport, due to this unique situation we have been allocated funding for one staff member on each bus.</p> <p>We will send a groupcall if the bus is running late.</p> |
| <p>As we are so used to getting feedback from nursery each day it would be good if possible if we could get an update on how they are doing. I do understand however with the numbers that this might not be possible.</p> <p>Any photos or tweets are always greatly appreciated but we recognise you are all busy working with the children along with a million other things and honestly you have all done amazing this week!</p>  | <p>We are looking at our profiling strategy for sharing learning.</p> <p>Primary 1 are trying to share learning on Seesaw when they can.</p> <p><a href="#">Communication guidelines are here.</a></p>  |

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| <p>Could the playground champions wear high vis so parents and the children can identify them easily? This would make me feel more comfortable leaving my child.</p>  | <p>These have been ordered, we are still awaiting their arrival.</p>  |
| <p>Clearer guidance on homework/ where any communications will be!</p> <p>It would be good to get a reading book home</p> <p>I am still unsure where to find any updates of the week my child has had. Otherwise all perfect 🙌</p>  | <p>Home learning will start after September Break.</p> <p><a href="#">Communication guidelines are here.</a></p>          |
| <p>Wondering if there are many opportunities for play in the P2 clan. Our child has come from a very played based setting in P1. He has said there are no toys in the classroom. I think lots of opportunities for learning through play e.g construction would help with settling into the transition of a new stage and school.</p>       | <p>We are working on this and building up our resources.</p>  |
| <p>It would be good to know what days are PE days.</p>  | <p>This has now be shared, <a href="#">you can find it here.</a></p>  |
| <p>P1 parents should be reminded that masks have to be worn in the East Calder PS playground. It's unfair for the East Calder PS parents who stick to this requirement and also to the ECPS pupils who have to navigate their way through them.</p>   | <p>We have done this.</p>   |
| <p>There are lots of forms to fill in and I'm sure I've submitted the same one multiple times. Is it possible to implement a receipt/confirmation email containing the form I have just submitted? That would be handy way for me to keep track of which forms I've completed (if anymore are requiring completion).</p>                    | <p>Yes, we will add this option.</p>  |
| <p>It's a really long day for the wee ones by the time they're home from the bus journey. Obviously this can't be helped, but perhaps another small 10/15 break in the afternoon would be beneficial to break up the day and would allow for opportunities for playing with new classmates.</p>   | <p>We have now implemented this.</p>  |
| <p>Is it possible to introduce another colour of polo shirt, e.g. navy or the sky blue colour?</p>  | <p>Our Calderwood Couture has a wide range of options, which was discussed with families prior to the school opening.</p> |
| <p>I find the clan name a lovely idea and the kids have really embraced it, but I find it confusing when filling in forms and I'm fairly positive I've mixed them up on a couple of occasions. When the clans are listed on forms is it possible to put the class number in brackets next to them please, e.g. Ness (P3), Tay (P4) etc?</p> | <p>Yes, we will try to do this.</p>   |