

# Capturing Calderwood September 2021

## Building our future; Creating our history



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

- The kids faces as they explored their classroom for the first time... if you could bottle that up the excitement they felt and sell it, you'd make millions!
- Walking out of the school with the piper piping them out. Seeing the kids dancing to the live music (saxophone).
- It has been an amazing week summed up by being piped out of school today! Also loved the films of the kids dancing around to the saxophone!
- The excitement all the staff brought to the children and the parents. Great videos and communication from you all.
- Loved the kids being piped in and the scavenger hunt. The medals for keep sakes were so lovely.
- The whole week has been amazing for the kids. You have all made it so special. The party looked fantastic, the scavenger hunt, pipers, the medals! All so special. Thank you!
- The week has been amazing for the kids, amazing effort put in by all! Really lovely way to start off Calderwood primary school... Everyone should be very proud.
- The silent disco!
- Fantastic week for all the children, staff and community! We have enjoyed seeing videos of the piper and sax player! Great experience for all involved.
- After all the hard work that has been put in, to see the kids and champions today having so much fun. Shows it is all worth it and it's Real!
- Brilliant first week!
- \*\*\* has loved his first week in the new school. Thank you for making it special for all the kids.
- My son has enjoyed his first week. Think he's is now the first child in Calderwood Primary School to be sent home after falling and giving himself an egg on his head. (Yes, he is!) \*\* had so much fun during the neon party and it was lovely see him dancing away with the man playing the saxophone. It's brilliant to see the photos that Mrs Robertson has taken on Seesaw.
- How everyone knew my sons name, all the playground staff, even upon arriving at the gate for the first time on his first day. I was so delighted. It felt like home!
- What an amazing first week. The kids have talked non stop about how amazing their new school is. How glad \*\*\* is to have moved school even as a P5 when not a lot of others moved. From the amazing open classrooms, skeleton in the STEM class, the monkey bars that they are desperate to get on once the grass is ready, to the party today which just topped off a great first week. Well done to all involved for making it a week to remember and really make us parents realise how lucky we are to have this new school in our community!!
- Seeing the videos of the kids today dancing to the saxophone was priceless - such a special experience for them.
- The kids really enjoyed the party on Friday and they loved their Calderwood medals.
- Seeing the building for the first time. Very new to the area so impressive to see it.
- Huge smiles on the pupils faces at collection time - lots of stories to tell about their day.
- Walking to school on the first day, so many parents and children walking along Calderwood road, skipping, chatting, laughing, buzzing.
- Engaging with the community (and local businesses) to make the opening of the school a memorable occasion for all.
- We so appreciate the effort that you have all gone to to make this week such a special experience. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that \*\*\* first week at school would be such an extravaganza of fun, games and music! You really have pulled out all the

stops to create memories which will be cherished forever. We feel so lucky that our child can attend Calderwood Primary School. What a wonderful place!

- Lots of fun memories made. Excited for the years ahead.
- The kids faces and energy when they came out of school on Friday was amazing. Thank you for all you have done to make this week special for them but also taking into account how they would be feeling starting a new school. I am a massive advocate for health and well-being due to my job and the activities and just little touches that were planned for the kids have really helped. Thank you to all of the staff for the effort made.
- Seeing the video of the Glow party with the saxophone player - absolutely amazing and seeing the kids dancing around - they were really having the time of their lives at their new school 😊
- The feeling of the community coming together as families all walked to the brand new building for the first time. Epic!
- The neon day and celebrations were a big success. The children were so lucky to have all these nice things organised for them, especially the saxophone entertainment. Thank you.
- The children being piped out on Friday afternoon was lovely. Also the keepsakes were such a lovely idea.
- Neon party and all the kids and teachers having a fun week.

Lessons learnt ... Now we have had a week of new routines please share with us any ideas you have that will help improve the structure of our day.

- Enjoy the space, continue to embed the expectations.
- I think the hardest thing now is keeping the momentum up. So for me is getting a routine and maintaining it as much as possible with Covid. Well done for all the hard work this week.
- I wouldn't change a thing.
- So far nothing to change all worked well.
- I love what you're doing.

You suggested ...	We did ...
<p>Allow p1 parents access to either entrance. This avoids confusion for parents with buggies. Or alternatively, put a sign up for parents/carers with mobility issues/disabilities and buggies/bikes access on the gate with no steps (I forget which name is which as the 2 gate names are really similar!!).</p> <p>Please make the gate optional for people not being able to walk far not just buggies. My mum will have to use this gate on days she collect my daughter and I would hate her to be refused.</p>	<p>We will change the sign on The Glencoe Gate (car park gate) so adults know it can use as an accessibility entrance, as well as an exit.</p>

<p>Pick up and drop off has been well managed by Calderwood staff but being able to access the playground from both sides would be more beneficial.</p> <p>Allow access to collect P1 from closer gate would be really helpful.</p> <p>It would be easier at pick up to use the Glencoe Entrance.</p> <p>Both entrances available for everyone to use. I understand this is due to Covid restrictions however we are all standing in the one area at the end of it.</p> <p>I feel it would be easier for us to use either gate for drop off in the morning &amp; pick up at the end of the school day.</p>	<p>In terms of pick up at the end of the day we need to be mindful of a number of factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Covid guidelines</li> <li>- Primary 4-6 children leaving the playground independently</li> <li>- Staff ensuring that Primary 1-3 children are collected by a relevant adult</li> </ul> <p>If we have families entering and leaving the playground in different directions, it would be difficult for staff to check the relevant children have been collected, and that P4-6 have space to leave the playground safely.</p> <p>We will review the situation after October Break.</p> <p>Either gate can be used for morning drop off.</p>
<p>It would be nice if you could send home a book in their reading bags so that they get into a routine of reading everyday.</p>	<p>Home Learning will start this week.</p>
<p>Could there be a small amount of parking spaces for pick up drop off only. Some parents may drop kids off on the way to work, or don't live close by. This would likely be used for small children only. It would be useful to have these spaces marked as drop off / pick off only.</p>	<p>This is available. The two lanes of car parking spaces when you first enter the car park is available for drop off/ pick up, however you do need to walk your child across the carpark, as it is primarily a staff car park.</p>
<p>My daughter absolutely loved when East Calder introduced a music speaker in the playground. I believe it was something that they could enjoy if they had no-one to play with at the time or to bring children together to create a nice, fun atmosphere for them. After seeing how much they enjoyed the saxophone I think they would be thrilled if some music was available in the playground during playtime.</p>	<p>Yes, definitely! This is something we introduced at my previous school too. Could be an idea for our next fundraising. Thanks for the suggestion!</p>
<p>I don't think I could suggest anything in terms of the structure. What I would ask (I know this probably won't be you more the council) is what plans are in place for a crossing patrol? The corner road just by the mobility hub opposite the front of the school is an accident waiting to happen with busses, lorries, builders driving way to fast and also the volume of just resident traffic. This is our main walkway to the school and for others and I would like to let *** walk to school himself for some responsibility but right now I think it's too dangerous not having anyone to assist.</p>	<p>I did enquire about this. This was checked this with road safety and they said there is no need for provision of a patrol based on road safety audits and accident analysis.</p>
<p>Do we leave plimsolls at school or take them daily?</p>	<p>At the minute children don't need to change their shoes, we will review this once we are allowed on the grass. If you would like them to change you can leave them in school, in their cloakroom space.</p>
<p>May need a bigger bike shed as I hope a lot of children will want to cycle to school and we should encourage this.</p>	<p>We are looking into funding for this. It is great to see so many children cycling or scooting to school.</p>

When will they be able to play on the grass?	We are hoping after October Break, the contractors will give us advice on this.
Come to school in gym kit on gym days. This has worked really well previously.	We have started this again this week: <a href="https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/calderwood/2021/09/25/p-e-days-term-1/">https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/calderwood/2021/09/25/p-e-days-term-1/</a>
The end of the day trying to get out of the school gate and along the adjoining path to the right is quite chaotic. I fear it'll be worse next week when all the children are coming out together. I'm not sure of a solution!	Stirling Developments are planning to put a longer term solution in for that path.
Against parental instinct to leave a 4 year old at the gates in the morning. This "rule" has to be changed. Parents were not consulted on this and the reasons provided for the rule have no substance. Also it does not benefit children's mental health and well-being. Tricky to explain to *** why we could stay with her in the playground before, but not now.	<p>As much as we try to consult with families, it will not be possible to consult with every routine we implement.</p> <p>At Calderwood at East Calder Primary there was no natural drop off point for parents for the playground due to the location of the gates. Parent/ carers were requested to leave the playground after they dropped their child off.</p> <p>In the morning, children have the opportunity to play in the different areas of the playground before entering the school. The children are supervised in this area by champions and it is the same area they are used to playing in at break time, lunch time and outdoor learning.</p> <p>As children have free play in the playground in the mornings, it is not appropriate for adults to be walking through the playground at this time.</p> <p>Children can attend Breakfast Club at 8:05-8:25am and then go out to the playground or families can choose to drop their child off at the gate closer to the start of the school day at 8:45am.</p>
Friday finish time is very difficult for a lot of families.	We did share our plans for the structure of the school day with families in June and asked for feedback.
I would like it again if parents are reminded to wear a mask while in school grounds.	Done!
If the kids have an order, would it be worth the parents/ person collecting the children to get in the same order? It's sometimes hard to get past people to get to your child or for them to see you in the crowd (P1).	<p>The children don't have an order, as this would be difficult to implement everyday.</p> <p>We will continue to review this.</p>