

Lochdonhead Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2020

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DEAR PARENTS

STAFFING

PUPILS

Well what a year it has been so far! The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on all of us, but I am delighted that the children have come back to school with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and an eagerness to continue on their learning journey.

I would just like to say again a massive THANK YOU for all your support throughout lockdown. Thank you for engaging with Seesaw and supporting your child at home, they learned so much!

Do not hesitate to contact the school if you want to chat over any areas of concern. Also be assured that no matter which school I am in, I can be contacted at any time.

For point of reference, the telephone number for Ulva Primary School is - 01688 500 246 and my mobile number is 079029 44626/07786685227.



Susie Carmichael,
Head Teacher

We would like to welcome 2 new members of staff to Lochdonhead Primary:

Gemma Paterson - Clerical & Classroom Assistant



Craig Pritchard - Cleaner & Janitor



And Goodbye, Thank You and Good Luck to Sarah Dickinson who is leaving us to embark on her Primary Teaching course.



WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!



We are delighted to welcome 2 new Primary 1s to the school. They have settled in very well and are enjoying learning lots of exciting new things.



ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

Individuals should not attend school if they feel unwell.

The main symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

As we move into autumn, we feel it is a good time to remind everyone about NHS advice on children's attendance at school when they are feeling poorly. For bouts of sickness or upset stomach children should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. If your child shows signs of being unwell, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please refer to the "Advice on Illness" page on our school blog <https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com> for advice relating to the exclusion period following various ailments or you can request a paper copy from the office. Thank you for your co-operation and partnership in helping us to maintain a happy, healthy school.

If your child is absent from school it is important that the office is contacted on the morning of absence before 9:15am if possible. This procedure is in place for the safety and security of pupils. You will receive a telephone call or text message if no call is received. Please inform the school office as soon as possible if your mobile telephone number changes. Thank you.

PICK UP / DROP OFF

Parents / carers should avoid coming into the school grounds unless it is essential. Can you please drop your child off at the school gate no earlier than 9.10am for a 9.15am start. We would ask that parents maintain the 2m distance between families while waiting at the school gate for your child at 3.30pm.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Helen Ramage our Catering Manager will provide a lunch menu for 3 weeks. If you would like to order a school lunch please contact Gemma Paterson at the office. We request that payment is made online.

WATER & SNACKS

Children are encouraged to drink water at any time throughout the day. Please send in a water bottle to school where it can be refilled. We would ask that juices are kept for lunchtimes only.

At present we will not be providing healthy snacks. Can you please therefore provide a healthy snack for your child.

PE KIT



We will be having PE at school as before but this will be done mainly outside. We will let you know when to bring a PE kit into school.

500 WORDS

Just before lockdown, all the children entered the 500 words competition, organised by BBC Radio 2.

All the stories were amazing and Lucille's story made it through to the second round!



THIS TERM

Good health and wellbeing is central to effective learning. The Scottish Government and the stakeholders who are part of the National Education Recovery Group advise that schools should be prioritising the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people, practitioners and families. This will therefore be the main focus for the first few weeks back until we have all settled back in.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

We plan to enjoy a lot of outdoor learning. We have a number of waterproofs and wellington boots at the school that have been thoroughly cleaned. We will not be using these on a shared basis as before, but we can allocate a set to your child to be used if you would like, or you may prefer to send in a set of your own from home.

WILD TEDDIES

As I'm sure you know, the children found some wild teddies in the playground. These are providing a base for a number of cross-curricular learning opportunities. Last week we were learning more about technology and using the iPads to take photos and videos of our bears doing activities such as sleeping, hunting and climbing.



PARENT COUNCIL

The post holders for the Parent Council are:

Emma Alecock - Chair

Danielle Grimley - Secretary

Helen Windsor-McGrail - Social Media

Vacancy - Treasurer

WORKING WITH PARENTS

As you know we are very keen indeed to involve you in any way we can in the working life of the school. Unfortunately, at present, we have been advised against non-essential visitors to the school. We will therefore be getting in touch with you online for your thoughts and views. I am happy to organise a Google Meet for the next Parent Council meeting.

For more information, and many more photos, please visit our blog on <https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com>

REPORTING

We will be continuing with 'Seesaw' as a reporting tool. If you need any assistance with this please let us know.

We will send out an interim report in December and a full written report in May.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

11.8.19 - In-service

12.8.19 - Schools open

2.10.19 - Schools close

19.10.19 - Schools open