

Burnside Primary Update – June 2020 (1)

Firstly, I hope you are all keeping safe and well and have managed to enjoy some of the recent sunshine. I can imagine how busy life away from school has been for everyone but I hope these challenging times have brought some positivity too and perhaps an opportunity to spend extra time together as a family.

We have been busy too while we have been 'away'. Many of our staff have been working in the childcare hub and helping to put resource packs together for children in our community. They have been sourcing online learning, managing class blogs, communicating with families, working on school developments, developing IT skills (even me!), working on transitions for P1 and P7 pupils, writing pupil reports, completing online training, meeting virtually, supporting each other and even delivering hoodies to surprised and delighted P7s. Like our parents/carers, they have been doing their best to juggle working from home with ensuring learning for their own children and looking after the family (I had hoped my adult sons might have stepped up and become master chefs but no such luck!) and I thank them for their commitment. Our school app has been so helpful in allowing us to keep you updated but as the schools recovery process is now underway I thought it might be helpful to provide an overall update. Please accept my apologies in advance for the length of this.

Communication

We are missing our pupils and families desperately but being able to keep in touch through a variety of ways is helping us feel that we are closer. Children's messages on blogs and the many photographs are a real tonic just now. Thank you for supporting us with the weekly 'check-in station' on class blogs. Teachers have been doing a tremendous job of monitoring communication on the blogs and replying to any questions/comments. As our blogs are public (allowing us to avoid the use of passwords for our younger children) teachers will not publish photographs of pupils' faces and are required to approve all comments before they are visible. Please ensure you add your name to comments/questions as it can be difficult to identify pupils otherwise.

We have a duty to do what we can to ensure our pupils are well while we cannot physically see them, but it's also just great to see these messages and is helpful for children to still feel part of school. Our older pupils have also been able to keep in touch via their glow e-mail accounts, which they are used to using in school. Due to GDPR we are unable to use platforms such as Zoom and must continue to follow guidelines which currently advise against any live interaction between staff and children. Communication between teachers and pupils is electronic with the exception of myself, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Miller who are in telephone contact with families, where necessary.

Thank you for the many heart- warming photographs posted on blogs and e-mailed to gw18burnsidephotos@glow.sch.uk My favourite time of the week is looking at these and it's great to see our pupils completing work, joining in activities, learning new skills, helping out and having fun especially when we know how challenging recent weeks have been for families. Keep an eye on twitter @burnsideprim for photographs, news and reminders also.

Our website is not so up to date although it will be undergoing a spring clean (or rather a 'summer' one) soon. We will mainly use our website during this time to post information for parents/carers of our new P1 pupils.

Home Learning

I cannot thank you enough for supporting your children's learning at home. We are very aware of the many varied circumstances our families find themselves in currently and we know that while some children may be able to engage with many of the suggested activities on class blogs, others simply cannot for various reasons. Please know that this is ok! In time, learning will catch up and the best chance our children have of being ready to learn on their return to school is if they come back happy and well.

In the limited time we had to prepare for school closures, staff worked hard to put together initial packs and agree what Burnside's home learning would look like. As we knew we would soon have no access to the school to continue to provide paper packs, we knew that activities would need to be online. We chose to use our class blogs as these were already familiar to pupils, parents and staff and would allow for communication as well as posting of suggested learning. We agreed that activities would be posted, in the main, once a week to provide flexibility and allow families to work round other priorities; there would not be a structured timetable to follow. It was also crucial that we did what we could to avoid additional pressure for children and families. It is unnatural for young children to undertake schooling, as they know it, at home and trying to do too much work can increase anxiety during an already anxious time. Attempting to make tasks compulsory would be impractical, unrealistic and potentially counter-productive. In line with all guidelines we have ensured a menu of weekly suggested activities which:-

- are crucially only suggested. Teachers are unable to teach and learning cannot be assessed right now. Under normal circumstances teachers are assessing children every minute of the day and a completed piece of work provides limited assessment, especially just now. The journey to that completed piece, dialogue between teacher and pupil and between pupils cannot happen just now so any assessment of learning would be inaccurate
- aim to provide no more than 2 to 3 hours max suggested learning per day
- are age/stage appropriate and allow for some differentiation where possible
- allow for a focus on literacy and numeracy as well other curricular areas
- do not always rely on the same materials or resources
- include challenges, problem solving and fun learning

Our main aim throughout this period is to keep children engaged and connected with learning and school and to support parents in their children's learning. Teachers know that true learning has taken place when a child can apply the skills they have learned in another context. What better way to reinforce measuring skills by helping with a home D.I Y project or making a meal! If you are however looking for some more ideas for learning at home, there are a wealth of sites out there (see letter issued in home learning pack issued in March and Information section of school app). Education Scotland's regular newsletters for parents/carers are also very information and you can sign up for these at <https://education.gov.scot>



parentcarernewslet
terissue4.pdf

As school slowly re-opens, teachers will continue to provide suggested learning on the class blogs. This will stop at the end of term on 24th June and will commence again in August. By then we will be

providing a blended approach to learning (both in and out of school) but it is unclear what this will look like at the moment.

Re-opening

All school buildings are re-opening to HTs/DHTs and Facilities staff only, w/c 1 June. This will allow us to access the building for the first time in 2 months and means we can begin to re-organise our building with Health & Safety staff and plan for the following week when staff will begin to return alongside some children of key workers. From w/c 8th June, teaching and support staff will oversee emergency childcare in school on a rota basis, continue to support home learning, and plan for August. Until the end of June there will be no other access to the school building, with the possible exception of new P1 pupils tbc (see below) and it is likely that preparations for re-opening will continue through the summer.

From August, all going well, pupils will return to school on a part time basis although at this stage, we have no further information regarding the organisation of this. Class sizes will be smaller and social distancing measures will be put in place throughout the building. Pupils will have their own equipment and working areas and will spend more time outdoors. There will be staggered start/finish times, breaks and lunches. As more information arrives, I will keep you updated. We will also post photographs of classrooms etc. as soon as they are prepared. It seems like such a long time until we will see all those little smiling faces but I'm sure it will come round sooner than we think!

Emergency Childcare

We are so grateful to many of our own staff and those across the council, who have been volunteering in the Camglen Childcare Hub at Calderwood Primary, while keeping blogs and communication going. The children have been a real credit to their families and have had lots of fun (the adults too!) during the last few weeks. From Monday 8th June, the hubs will be 'paused' and children attending will return to their own schools, where they can attend Mondays to Fridays, 9-3pm. Children of school staff who meet the criteria can now apply to the authority for places for their own children, in their local schools. Although school will officially finish on Wednesday 24th June at 1pm, the childcare facility will remain in school until 26th June. From Monday 29th June to Friday 11th August, emergency childcare will revert back to the original hub model. There are some lovely photos from the hubs on twitter @HubsSLC

Classification and transitions

As always at this stage in the year, we are unable to configure classes for next year until we know the outcome of placing requests as the number of children coming in to P1 dictates the make-up of all classes. This process is now underway within SLC and will be reviewed regularly, including throughout the summer. We would hope to have a clearer picture before the last week of term, when we plan to provisionally compile classes and let you know.

As P7 pupils and parents are aware, Stonelaw HS have set up a transition page on their website <http://www.stonelaw.s-lanark.sch.uk/Pupils/P7-Transition/> which provides invaluable week by week information for P7 pupils. We are saddened that our pupils have been unable to enjoy the usual

'moving on' events but we intend to address this in some capacity, as soon as we are able. I am grateful to the Parent Council who are supporting us with this and will be purchasing ties for P7 pupils.

Although we will be unable to provide our usual full P1 Induction Programme, we will ensure that families will be provided with information packs, goodies and video footage before the end of term. We will also work with SLC to hopefully provide the opportunity for a brief visit to school for new P1 pupils, most likely in the final week of June. We will flag this up on the school website soon and will contact parents directly. Already next year's P1 teachers (Mrs. Chan and Miss Ferry) and I have been speaking with nursery staff to hear all about our new P1 pupils and we can't wait to meet them!

Other school business

Please see letter here issued by South Lanarkshire Council regarding reimbursements for school



excursions. We will issue refunds for Lockerbie Manor as soon as we receive the deposit money.

ParentPay are also working on transferring any balances for P7 pupils to siblings, where this is possible. I imagine reimbursements will follow once school returns, for P7s without siblings in school.

Thanks to those of you who requested devices or physical resources from SLC for pupils at home. As you can imagine demand has been high across the authority so these have been distributed on a needs basis. Some of our children have received resource packs, with some more on the way very soon.

As always at this time of year, teachers have been working on pupil reports which will be issued by the end of June. Due to the circumstances, this year's reports will be cover the period August-March and will highlight key strengths and next steps as well as the CfE level your child was working at by school closure. Once we know how these will be issued, we will let you know when to expect them.

School events

We are planning on holding a couple of our favourite end of session events and hope our pupils will be keen to take part.

Sports Day – although we can't be together this year, we are looking forward to taking part in an even bigger Sports WEEK. During the week commencing 15th June, we will post some sporting challenges each day on twitter/school app and we challenge as many pupils (and staff & parents) to take part as possible! Of course, we will want to see that you have joined in so during w/c 15th June, please e-mail your photos to gw18burnsidephotos@glow.sch.uk adding 'Sports Week' as well as your child's name and class in the subject box.

Burnside's Got Talent – this is my favourite fun event and it's back! We know how much talent our pupils have so let's share this again this year. 15th – 19th June you are invited to tweet a video/photo of your child's performance on twitter. Tweet @burnsideprim and we will re-tweet. There will also be a special certificate on the app/twitter for you to download and award to your child from us. Through the years we have enjoyed



amazing performances from

musicians, singers, actors, comedians, magicians and gymnasts to name but a few. Time to get practising!

I will keep you updated of any developments and in the meantime keep safe and well. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can help in any way

headteacher@burnside-pri.s-lanrk.sch.uk

deputeht1@burnside-pri.s-lanrk.sch.uk - Mr. Miller

deputeht2@burnside-pri.s-lanrk.sch.uk - Mr. Campbell

