



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**
Burnside Primary School
Head Teacher - Mrs Helen McGarvey

19 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to extend my thanks to you for preparing your child so well for the return to school under the challenging circumstances we find ourselves in. While we are mindful that this is far from a normal return to school, we are so pleased with how well our pupils have settled within their new classes and to school in general. They are looking so well, are incredibly upbeat and seem so glad to return to school; long may it last! It's just wonderful to have them all back! Our updated school Risk Assessment can be found in the Information section. We are confident that this covers all eventualities however please contact me directly should you have any questions. This will be continually reviewed.

The School Day

Our revised arrangements for staggered start/stop times are going very well. Pupil numbers in playgrounds at the start and end to the school day are greatly reduced, helping us all to keep safe. Thank you to parents/carers for remaining outwith school playgrounds at drop off/pick up times. As well as helping to keep our school community safe, this is helping pupils clear grounds safely and helping staff to oversee pick-ups. Parents/carers are reminded to remain outwith school grounds where possible and to follow social distancing rules at all times. If parents feel waiting areas are congested they may wish to wear a face covering.

If late, your child should report directly to the school office, as doors will be closed promptly each morning.

At lunch time, classes are allocated specific tables as far as possible and pupils are required to wash hands after eating, before joining the playground. I must say our P1 pupils are adapting very well to school lunch routines thanks to parents/carers and our dedicated P1 teachers and support staff!

Curriculum

In line with current guidance, class timetables will focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing. ICT lessons will be taught during teachers' non-contact time by Mr. MacKenzie, in most cases. This term, classes will also introduce an Inter-disciplinary Study which will allow for the exploration of another context and experience of some other skills within other areas of the curriculum.

We are pleased to announce that Burnside Primary School has a new blog to support Additional Support Needs. The idea is that information is contained as a 'one-stop-shop' for parents/carers should you have any questions/concerns. There are many topics providing lots of information, resources, contact details and support for a variety of Additional Support Needs as well as Coronavirus/lockdown, bereavement/loss/separation, transitions and Young Carers.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sl/additionalsupportneeds/>

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P.E

Teachers will issue class P.E times at the end of this week. Please be aware that all P.E will take place outdoors until further notice and that although times will be issued, in the case of inclement weather, these are subject to change. Class teachers will also take children outdoors at other suitable times in the week, therefore we advise comfortable, loose clothing is worn to school for the time being as pupils will be prohibited to change for P.E under current circumstances.

Homework

It is vital that children are able to settle back into school routines and learning, before homework is issued. We also need to be mindful that activities will no longer be able to travel to/from home in the way that we are used to. As a staff, we are looking at the best way of issuing homework that allow for consolidation and extension of learning. We aim to have some form of homework activity issued by each class w/c 31 August e.g reading, comprehension, numeracy consolidation. We will continue to promote learning platforms such as Study Ladder and RM Easimaths and will provide further information on these in due course. In school, we are working on this year's online platform (Google Classroom) for class communication, homework and home learning (should this become necessary again in the future) and we will issue further information on this early September.

Covid-19

Thank you for your support in ensuring guidance is followed should your child display any Covid-19 related symptoms. It is vital for everyone's safety that we work in partnership to follow this guidance.

- Do not send your child to school if they have any associated symptoms (new continuous cough, fever/high temperature or loss of/change in sense of smell or taste). Contact the school office to report the absence as normal and arrange for testing via NHS. Forward test results, whether negative or positive, to the school office.
- Should your child display any of the above symptoms while at school, we will contact you to collect your child as soon as possible. Your child will be supervised outwith the classroom, by school staff until collection. Arrange for testing via NHS and ensure your child remains at home until test results are available. Test results should be forwarded to the school office. If negative, your child can then return to school.

This guidance is followed by staff also.

Other information

Water bottles – your child should bring a filled water bottle to school each day. **This should be spill proof e.g sports cap.** We have had a few unfortunate spillages so far. In line with guidelines, pupils will be unable to refill water bottles during class time however these can be re-filled during lunch time in the lunch hall, if necessary. Any parents concerned can send in a second filled water bottle.

School packed lunch items – **we ask for your support by not sending in any item your child cannot open themselves** e.g yogurt tubes, cheese strings etc. In line with current guidelines regarding Covid-19, myself, Mr Campbell and Mr Miller are unable to handle children's packed lunch items. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Parents in playground – P1-3 parents can enter the playground at the end of the school day or wait behind the fence. Please remember to observe social distancing rules and stay as far back as possible from the school doors. It might be helpful to wait at the same spot each day if possible, to help your child. Children are taught to return to the teacher or school office if they are not collected.

ParentPay – we believe there may be some issues at the minute as ParentPay are currently updating their systems. Please don't worry if balances don't show at any point; we will always ensure your child has a lunch. Thank you for your patience with this, I'm sure the system will be back to normal very soon.

Admin forms – the annual data and medical forms will be sent home later this week. **Please ensure these are returned to school as quickly as possible.** It is particularly important that we have updated information within the current circumstances.

Flu Immunisation Forms – annual forms will be sent home this week. There are always discrepancies with pupil movement in/out of school. If you do not receive a form, please don't worry as office staff will have noted this to be passed on to NHS staff. If you do not receive a form in the first instance, you should receive one prior to the date for Flu Immunisations which is Tuesday 27 October.

Pupil belongings – we have a number of belongings in school from lockdown, when there was no access to the building. These include shoes, shorts, tops etc. These items are currently in bags, within our security bubble at the main door. You are welcome to come to the office to have a look for your child's items, although please be aware there are a large number of items. We can only accommodate one adult at a time and hand sanitiser is available. **We will dispose of any unclaimed items by Monday 31 August.**

As always, I will keep you updated with any new information. In the meantime, should you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Helen McGarvey
Head Teacher