



Bankhead Newsletter—Bankhead will SOAR

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October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our October newsletter.

Happy School Bag

Thanks for all the donations for Happy School Bag. It raised £440.10 for the school funds. A great effort and thanks for the support again from Friends of Bankhead for helping to organise.

Halloween—Friday 30 October

Halloween will be a little different in Bankhead this year. We can't have a disco and we can't have our Halloween Parade in the hall, which had become something of an institution in recent years. Instead we will have a celebration in the classes. Friends of Bankhead



have donated some decorations for the classes and there will be activities for the children to take part in. The children are invited to dress up in Halloween costumes. We will use our digital technology to let the children see how others throughout the school have dressed up.

We will take in donations of Halloween costumes from previous years if you wish to donate them. Children will be able to borrow costumes from the school.

This will be carefully managed, as any donations will need to be quarantined for 72 hours due to COVID 19 regulations. So the last date to donate would be Monday 26 October. We are determined not to let COVID 19 spoil the children's fun.

Road Safety

Please remind all children of the dangers of crossing roads before and after school. Bankhead Road and surrounding streets can be very



busy at these times. I'm sure many of you will have witnessed cars travelling at speed as they pass the school, which can make things more dangerous for our children.

To try to ensure everyone is safe, please instruct your children to cross Bankhead Road at the crossing patrol at the top gate of the school. If you are with them I would encourage you to use the crossing patrol too to develop good habits in the children.

Another danger is in double parking outside the school. This heightens the risk of an accident happening. Please make sure you are not double parking outside the school. Police do patrol outside schools at peak times and would take a very dim view of anyone doing this.

Engine Idling Campaign



South Lanarkshire Council are currently launching their Engine Idling Campaign. This is highlighting the dangers of engine idling to children's health, encouraging all to be "switched on to the benefits of switching off". More information will be made available through our online platforms.

COVID 19 Measures—Keep it Going!

We continue to try to make the school as safe as possible for children, staff and parents / carers in these difficult times. With the R number seemingly on the increase, it is vitally important that we re-inforce the rules regularly with the school and the whole community, and ensure that none of us becomes lax or complacent when sticking to the rules. Within the school building and playground, we will continue to ensure the children follow all hygiene and safety rules.

At the start and end of the day, we encourage all parents / carers to do likewise to try and keep the whole community safe. As we move into the winter months, this will become even more important. Thank you for working so well

with the school to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Self-Isolation / Google Classroom

Though we have been very fortunate that thus far we haven't had to deal with any pupils or staff testing positive for COVID 19, there have been occasions when staff and pupils have had to self-isolate due to various levels of contacts with people who have had or were suspected of having the virus or because of quarantine rules. In such circumstances we wish to provide a Continuity of Learning for the children and will provide work



for the children to do at home whilst they are self-isolating. This may be in the form of paper copies or through Google Classroom. Therefore it is very important that children are able to access Google Classroom from home. In the event of a whole class having to self-isolate, or indeed the whole school being closed, Google Classroom would once again become a crucial tool in continuing children's learning. All classes have been set up so that they can use Google Classroom at home. We are able to see who is accessing it. Homework is currently set through Google Classroom. We encourage you to make sure you and your children are familiar with how to access and use Google Classroom at home. Potentially, at any time, we may need to use this if children have to self-isolate or if there was a school closure. If you need some assistance with Google Classroom, our gurus are Mrs Yardley and Mrs Urquhart. Please contact them if you need to. They would be happy to offer you some guidance.

Reporting to Parents

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we are unable to again hold our parents' evenings. They were due to take place this week.

We will however, be issuing interim reports to parents in the coming weeks to give you an update on how your children are progressing at Bankhead. If there was ever any problem or if you needed more information, then please phone the

school and we would be happy to speak with you.

We have parents' appointments planned for March. If we are in a similar situation at that time we would postpone these until the summer term to give ourselves every chance of meeting parents / carers, as we feel it is very valuable for parents/ carers and for the children and staff too.

Student Teachers

We will soon be welcoming student teachers into Bankhead. All schools are required to have student teachers every year to give them vital training in their route to full-time teaching. We have found they are a great asset to the school and the children enjoy the experience of working with someone new. The universities will have the student teachers fully briefed on all the necessary COVID 19 regulations. Most classes will have a student teacher working with them at some point throughout the year.

Mrs McCarthy

Mrs McCarthy has retired from Bankhead Primary this week after giving 18 years service to the school. We worked out that she has taught over 500 children in her time at Bankhead, and has been a huge part of the whole school community. We thank her for all her efforts over the years and hope she enjoys a long and happy retirement. Her current duties will be taken over by Miss Thomson, who we welcome to the Bankhead community.

Dates For Diary

Monday 12 October to Friday 16 October—
Holiday, school closed
Thursday 12 November—Flu Vaccination Day
Monday 16 November—In-Service day—
school closed to pupils
Tuesday 22 December—school closes at 2.30
for Christmas holidays—returning on
Wednesday 6 January
Monday 8 to Tuesday 9 Feb—holiday—school
closed
Wednesday 10 February—Staff In-Service
day—school closed to pupils.

A reminder that we finish on Friday 9 October for a week's break. I think all pupils and staff thoroughly deserve this and hope everyone has an enjoyable and restful time.

Gerry Hamill,
Head Teacher

