



## Bankhead Newsletter—Bankhead will SOAR

[www.bankhead.pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.bankhead.pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

September 2020

### Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our September newsletter.

#### P1 classes

It is great to see that our primary one children have settled so quickly into life at Bankhead. They are now well aware of the classroom and playground rules and routines. They line up very well when they are ready to come in to school after break and lunch.

We now feel that they are ready to line up in the mornings without the need for parents / carers to be in the playground with them.

From immediately after the September weekend, parents / carers should say their good-byes at the gate at the nursery and send the children into the playground to line up, as happens for the rest of the children in the school. There will be school staff in the playground to keep an eye on them.

This will help with social distancing, as it will mean there are no adults in the playground at all, apart from staff.

To help with this process for our P1 children, staff in the P1 classes have agreed that when children come into the playground, they will be able to enter the P1 classes straight away between now and the September weekend. The gates and the classroom doors will not be opened before 8.50 am. Please send the children round to the classes from the nursery gate to get them into the habit of going round themselves, before lining up officially starts after the September break.

This new routine will reduce the possibility of COVID 19 infection and also develop independence in the children. It is a win-win situation for all.

We thank you in advance for your support with this.

#### Social Distancing in School Grounds and surrounding areas



We'd like to thank all parents / carers for

helping to ensure that social distancing rules are being kept in the school grounds and areas around the school. This is helping to keep everyone in the Bankhead community safe at this time. It is important that no-one becomes complacent though, so here are a few reminders for parents / carers to follow:

- When dropping off children, only come into the school grounds if absolutely necessary. Similarly, when picking children up, if you can meet them outside the school grounds, then please do.
  - If you must collect your children, please try to time your arrival for just before their finishing time, to reduce numbers in the grounds.
  - Please ensure you and your children leave the area as quickly as possible once you have collected your children.
  - Adults must adhere to 2m social distancing from each other and children. For your reference, 2m is about the length of a bed.
  - Parents / carers of Rooms 3 to 6, plus GP Room should wait in the MUGA until their children are dismissed at the nursery gate at the end of the day. Rooms 1 and 2 will be dismissed first, and parents / carers of other classes should not come forward from the MUGA until those two classes have gone. This is to reduce the numbers in the area at the nursery gate.
  - This is a small thing, but please don't wave to your child until they get to the front of the line when getting picked up. Sometimes when staff are trying to unite children with their parents / carers there are several people waving which is confusing for the children and staff.
  - If you are picking up more than one child please move away from the immediate area once you have the first, to avoid congestion.
  - Please don't allow your children to run around the area at the front of the school. There may be cars entering and leaving the car park at this time, and we want to make sure everyone is safe.
  - The school gates will be open from 8.50 am, to allow children into the playground to line up. We have a staggered start, so it is important that children arrive as close to their start time as possible.
- If we all stick to these rules, we can hopefully

get out of the current situation a bit quicker.

### Wet Weather

The weather hasn't been that good since we started back at school. Below are some of the procedures we have in place for wet weather, for your information.

- If the weather is extreme in the mornings, we open the doors at 8.50 to allow the children to come in to shelter from the weather. In normal times, this would be in the lunch hall, but because we are not allowed large gatherings, children are allowed into classrooms. We don't open the doors unless the weather is extreme, so children should wear jackets in case of rain etc.
- If possible, we get the children out in the fresh air at breaks and lunch. They should always bring a jacket and appropriate outdoor shoes. They change into indoor shoes when they come into school, so all children should all be warm and comfortable in class.
- At wet intervals, staff patrol the classrooms to ensure all children are safe and occupied. We would normally have wet weather monitors too, but in the current situation, we are unable to do this.
- We are not allowed to have PE indoors at the moment, so all PE activities will be outdoors. Children should know their PE days by now. With our climate, this may mean that they will be outside when the weather isn't great. If they have waterproofs they can bring them to school, but at the very least they will need a jacket to wear outside.

Here's hoping we see an improvement in the weather in the coming weeks!

### Homework / ICT equipment



# Google Classroom

As you will be aware, we have set up Google Classrooms again this year. Homework will be issued and children are encouraged to submit completed

work through Google Classroom. We can't accept paper copies of homework at this time due to the current situation. There may be a few teething problems in getting things set up at home. If you have any problems accessing Google Classroom then please contact the school and we will do what we can to help.

If things get worse in terms of rates of COVID 19 and we were forced to introduce "blended learning", it will be important that all children and families are familiar with using Google Classroom and have appropriate equipment and internet access at home. If you do not have appropriate equipment or internet at home please contact Mrs Yardley at the school as soon as possible.

### Polytunnel

We are looking to do some work in our polytunnel, to try and develop it as an outdoor classroom, If you know of any companies or individuals who might be able to help us out with resources or in working in the tunnel to get it fit for purpose, then please contact Ms Bestel or Mrs Yardley at the school.

### Toys etc.



Due to the COVID 19 situation, children are not allowed to bring toys and such items to school. Please ensure all such items are left at home as it can

cause distress to some children when they are asked to hand them over in school.

### Dates For Diary

Friday 25 and Monday 28 September—  
Holiday, school closed.

Tuesday 29 September—In-Service Day—  
school closed to children

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

Gerry Hamill,  
Head Teacher

