



## Bankhead Newsletter—Bankhead will SOAR

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

August 2020

### Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our August newsletter. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to welcome the children back to Bankhead after such a long time. The children have settled in well and seem very happy to be back meeting their friends and the school staff once again. Our new primary ones and a few new children throughout the school have had a good start to their time and Bankhead and we extend an extra special warm welcome to those children and their families.

Though school is different in many ways just now, in other ways it is very similar. Children are still learning in class and enjoying time with their friends in the playground.

It is heartening to see that they are not letting the current situation get them down, but are taking the dangers and the essential hygiene and social distancing rules seriously.

This is something we will be continually reinforcing with the children and the whole Bankhead community in the coming weeks and months.

This newsletter will be a little different from usual, as we seek to make clear to parents / carers the measures we have put in place to keep your children safe. It will also outline expectations for pupils, and expectations for parents / carers in these most trying of times.

The Bankhead community will get through this by working together, showing understanding and sticking to the rules to keep everyone safe from COVID 19.

### Welcome to the

# NEW NORMAL

### Measures in Place

- Staggered start and end times. This is to reduce the number of adults and children in the area at the same time and so reducing the chance of passing on infection.
- Staggered break and lunch times for the same reason.
- Designated areas for classes to play at break times and so reduce mixing with pupils from other classes or "bubbles".

- Children sit in class groups in the lunch hall too.
- Regular handwashing or sanitising for all pupils throughout the day.
- Regular reminders for the children on rules for hygiene, social distancing etc.
- Limited movement of classes and individuals throughout the school.
- Limiting the numbers of visitors to the school and meetings in the school.
- Our assemblies will be online for the children, we have no large gatherings in school for now.
- One way systems in place within school and playground.
- Children using own individual resources as much as possible.

### Expectations of Pupils

- Follow all school rules at all times.
- Particular attention to be paid to hygiene and social distancing rules.
- Stick to designated playground and lunch hall areas.
- No sharing of food or drinks.
- Bring in their own full water bottle every morning.
- Look after their property—don't share resources.
- Let parents or staff know if they have any symptoms of COVID 19.
- Keep 2m distance from adults in the school whenever possible.

### Expectations of Parents

- Follow social distancing rules in the playground.
- Spend as little time as possible in the school grounds and areas outside school—drop off children as near to their start time as possible, pick them up as near to finishing time as possible.
- Ensure all clothing, bags, lunchboxes etc. are clearly marked with child's name. Parents are not allowed in to look for items in Lost Property at this time.
- Do not send children to school if they have any symptoms of COVID 19. Ensure the children are tested if they have any symptoms. Test and Protect procedures should be followed.
- Please contact the school by telephone

if there is anything you need to discuss rather than turning up in person. Parents are not allowed in the building at this time.

- Re-inforce the hygiene and social distancing rules with the children. We can't allow this to slacken off.
- Talk to the children about the dangers and what they must do to keep everyone safe.

By all in the school community working together we can make Bankhead safe and ensure the children are happy and achieving in school. Bankhead Will SOAR!

#### What to do if your child has any COVID 19 symptoms



Please inform us by phoning 0141 647 6967 if your child is not attending school. If they are unwell we will ask you if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. If they are showing any of the symptoms, a high temperature, a new continuous cough, a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, you MUST isolate your child for 10 days. You should arrange for your child to be tested. You can book a test online at NHS Inform. Any other children in the household should be tested or isolated and kept off school for 14 days. We thank you for your understanding with this. We are following Government, NHS and SLC guidance to ensure the safety of all in the community.

#### Money Matters

As a school we are aware that at times some families can find themselves struggling financially, particularly in these difficult times. South Lanarkshire Council are promoting the use of **Money Matters** to offer advice to families on how to deal with such difficulties. **Money Matters** have agreed that any referrals through South Lanarkshire schools will be treated as a priority, so if you are considering seeking their advice feel free to contact the school and you should be able to get a quicker appointment. If you wish to contact Money Matters direct the number is **0303 123 1008**.

#### Other Differences this Year

There will be some other differences you will notice in school for the time-being:

- We normally organise many trips and visits for the children. We are unable to do that at the moment.

- We usually have a large selection of after-school activities that the children enjoy. We are unable to offer these at the moment. Nor can we get involved in competitive sports with other schools.
- Our Breakfast Club is not running at the moment. South Lanarkshire Council will let us know when we are able to get this up and running and we will let you know.
- We are not allowed to sing in school at the moment, so no shows, concerts, choir etc.
- We can't have parents' evenings or have parents in to school for the variety of activities we normally offer. For now.
- Our Friends of Bankhead meetings will be online. As we can't have large gatherings, we will be unable to have discos etc.

We hope that as the year progresses, if things are better in the country as a whole, we will be able to again offer all these to our children and families.

#### Bankhead Out of School Care

This will be starting up again from Monday 24 August. It is a private business that offers childcare in the school from 3.00 to 6.00 every school day. It has been running successfully in Bankhead for several years. If you wish more information please contact them on 07379277640

#### Dates For Diary

Friday 25 and Monday 28 September—  
Holiday, school closed  
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

It is going to be year like no other in Bankhead. We are delighted to be back and delighted that the children have settled so quickly to a new way of working. Please contact the school if you need any more information about how the school is operating under these extraordinary circumstances.

*Gerry Hamill,*  
Head Teacher

