



Bothwell Primary School

Newsletter – November and December 2020

Dates for your Diary



Events

In-service Day – Mon 16th November

Odd Socks Day – Fri 20th November



Parents' Evenings – dates to follow

Christmas dress-down day (£1 donation for school funds) – Tues 22nd December

Christmas Holidays Please note that the school closes at **2.30pm on Tuesday 22nd December 2020** and re-opens on **Wednesday 6th January 2020 at 9a.m.**



Cash 4 Clothes Uplift – Fri 8th January 2021.

P1 Enrolment Week – w/c Mon 18th January 2021.



Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware from previous correspondence, last week we waved Mrs Crossan off to take up post as Head Teacher at Blacklaw Primary. We wish her much luck and continued success in her new role.

We are however delighted to welcome back to Bothwell Primary, Mr Frame, who undertook the role of Acting Depute Head, during Mrs Crossan's absence last year. Mr Frame is a wonderful addition to the school and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and range of skills. Welcome back Mr Frame! The post for Depute Head shall be advertised soon and a permanent member of staff appointed.

As you will appreciate, this term has been slightly different from usual, but I am delighted with how well all the pupils and staff have adapted to the new norm and how strongly supported we have felt by you, our parents and carers. Thank you!

Learners as Leaders

We are delighted to share with you the successes of those who have been selected as leaders in the school. Both myself and Mr Frame look forward to working with you.

This year we have selected an "Emergency Covid Prevention Committee" to be known as "CC-19". This committee shall be working very closely with me on a weekly basis to highlight measures we can implement to mitigate the risk of infection across our school. The committee have been immensely pro-active and in the three weeks since their formation, have already made a huge impact through their suggestions of changes to make, in order to increase the safety of all in the school. This is an exceptionally informed team and a delight to work with.



It is with pleasure I announce the members of CC-19 as:

Alex Wilson	Calvin Reidford	Iman Mahmood	Oliver Coakley
Jessica Ogston	Logan Marks	Joshua Hanson	Ava McCallion
Oliver Burnside	Claudia Provan	David Marshall	Olivia Yuill
Lexie Simpson.			

Pupil Ambassadors



Mr Frame shall be working very closely with this year's Ambassadors who will be leading a range of areas, which have been determined by their personal skills. In order to attain this role, our young leaders went through a rigorous application and group discussion process, which highlighted their strengths.

We are delighted to announce our Ambassadors for 2020-21 are:

Digital Ambassadors: Kerr Hopcroft and Stuart Russell
SMARTER Ambassadors: Rory Cunningham, Ruben Reid and Roma Ameera Jahan-Zeb
Fundraising Ambassadors: Olivia Rush and Roma Ameera Jahan-Zeb
COOL Ambassador: Noah Connell
Literacy Ambassador: Scott Wallace
STEM Ambassador: Jack Langford

Congratulations to all of our young leaders, we are very proud of you and look forward to working closely with you this session!

Engaging with learning

I hope you were all proud of your little ones when you received their reports last week; the children have all settled in very well to the new norm and I am sure you will appreciate that they are adapting well to learning in a slightly different environment. The Snapshot jotters will have given you a further insight to the level of work they are undertaking and I am sure you are keen to hear from the class teacher in person regarding your child's progress. This shall take place as below.

Parents' Evenings

Our parents' evenings traditionally take place at this time of the year, but as you will be aware, the format this year will have to be different. We have been awaiting guidance on this front and I apologise for the delay in advising you of the procedures this year. I would like to confirm that these "meetings" shall now take the form of a telephone call. Within the next week, you will be emailed information regarding your appointment(s).



Christmas!

Christmas shall be different in the school this session, but we have put on our thinking caps and are trying to be as creative as we can within the evolving guidelines, to enable the children to have as many enjoyable experiences as possible during this season. One event which shall remain on the calendar, is Christmas Dress-down Day, which shall be on the last day of term. Dressing-down can involve anything from a piece of tinsel in your hair, to a full Elf costume - the choice is yours! Unfortunately, at this time, we cannot implement the "jumper swap shop" we had planned.

In the absence of the annual Christmas Fayre, we are as you may imagine, going to have much lower school funds than normal, to supplement the expense of the experiences we like to give the children. As such, we politely suggest a £1 donation for dressing-down on this occasion, to help boost the school's coffers!

If you have any novel ideas for any Christmas activities/events which can take place within the current Covid guidance, please contact the school office. However, in the near future, information regarding some fun Christmas activities, shall reach your ears!

Hallowe'en

Hallowe'en in Bothwell was slightly different this year, but in the absence of the normal Hallowe'en discos, the children, whilst dressed up, enjoyed many fun activities with their classes, including crafts, a scavenger hunt and some British Sign Language sessions – the day proved a great hit with all! Please see a snippet of the fun in the photos below – more of which can be found on Twitter and the school website.



Mission Transition

Despite the restrictions, staff from Uddingston Grammar School found a way to visit our Primary 7 pupils and they spoke to them about 'Mission Transition'. Our Primary 7 children will be working on transition activities for Uddingston Grammar based on Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing and Digital Literacy – referred to together as 'Connect 4'. Another visit is planned in the near future and pupils will be able to find out more about life in high school and all the things they have to look forward to!



easyfundraising.com - As suggested by our very able PTA and Parent Council, we have put in place an [easyfundraising.com](https://www.easyfundraising.com) link, whereby once an individual follows the link below and creates an account, purchases made online to a wide range of companies, result in commission to the school. Please help support the school by joining up, all funds raised will be spent on our pupils. As you will appreciate, this is a particularly good time of year to register as the online shopping commences! Please see below for details on how to join:



- Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bothwellprimary/> and join for free.
- Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
- After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

Improvement Plan this session known as School Recovery Plan 2020-21

Every session the school compiles an improvement plan, based on the views of all stakeholders. Below are detailed the action points and our next steps we have taken or plan to take, to achieve them. If you have any questions in this regard or feel you could contribute to improving our school, please contact me.

In session 2020-21, the School Improvement Plan is a Recovery Plan which is focussing on the following:

Improvement Priority 1 - Promote the positive health and wellbeing of children & young people, parents/carers and staff:

Promoting the positive health and wellbeing of children and young people, parents/carers and staff; ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion. This will be done by focussing on whole school wellbeing and the Health and wellbeing curriculum.



Next steps:

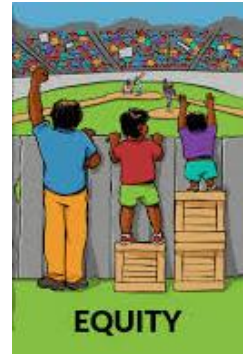
- Following staff training on attachment and resilience, share attachment principles with parents.
- Further develop parental engagement opportunities whilst maintaining social distancing and reduced contact; e.g. School assembly, class assembly, parents' night; these areas can be looked at with a view to having virtual events, enabling parents to engage with their child's learning as much as possible.

Improvement Priority 2 - Planning for Equity

Planning for equity by re-identifying the poverty-related attainment gap and planning to close this gap and reduce learners' barriers to learning, whilst being mindful of the Cost of the School Day for our families. Through tracking and monitoring we shall determine the impact of equity approaches.

Next steps:

- Following a rigorous analysis of the pre and post lockdown data with all relevant staff, establish the school's new "gap" position. Identified groups/learners/stages requiring additional support are being targeted.
- Currently undertaking class visits and having staff and pupil dialogue to monitor learners' engagement, participation and involvement.
- Continuing to reinforce Growth Mindset
- Finding new ways for consultation with staff, pupils and parents to inform planning.
- Updating programmes to approaches in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing being implemented and prepared for blended/home learning.
- Providing advance notice for parents of any activities and events that have a cost involved and subsidising costs where possible and particularly where need arises. Please note that expenses will be minimal this session through restrictions on visits and visitors.



Improvement Priority 3 - Continuity of Learning

Continuity of Learning both in school and when learning at home.

Next steps:

- Ensuring regular feedback and updates with information sharing to support parents engaged in home and school learning.
- Continue to liaise with parents and keep communication channels open and actions transparent.



Our aim is to ensure that we are as ready as possible for school closure or blended learning as directed by current guidance.

Learning Community Improvement Plan

- Embedding moderation of numeracy, reading and writing.
- Developing a Learning Community Google Classroom, across our schools by sharing good practice.

All stakeholders will be consulted over the development of these areas.

As we approach what is undoubtedly going to be a Christmas with a difference, I wish you all a happy and healthy time over this festive period and I look forward to welcoming your children back into the school in 2021, by which time the end of the pandemic will hopefully be in sight.

Please remember, that as always, your child's wellbeing is of primary importance to us. If you have any concerns at any point, please get in touch.

Have a lovely Christmas when it comes!
Yours sincerely,

P Ross
Head Teacher
November 2020.





Achievements – Up to November 2020

Well done everyone!



R1	Niamh Cowell Oren Stenhouse Nova Anderson-Houston Anna Lee	Swimming certificate Football trophy Swimming certificate Football trophy
R2	Max Mannering Daniel Rogerson Rory Bell Jack Provan Joshua Haddow Alice Hayward Nieve Wilson Craig Moffat George Chambers	Has improved his skills at hockey Learned to dribble the ball at football Has got better at his football Can now kick the ball and chase it at rugby Has got better at dribbling at football Enjoys dribbling at hockey Got into a new class at gymnastics Has got better at kicking the ball and running superfast at football Scored a goal at football
R3	Cooper Denholm Amber Kelly Ariana Syme Annabelle Morgan Arianna Vacca-Stewart Sophie Beresford Simpson Max McCaig Madison Jack Paige McArthur Laurel Kennedy Blake Allan Isla-Rose Morrison	Trophy for rugby Trophy in gymnastics Received a ticket in gymnastics Did a show for guitar lessons Can do handstands and cartwheels Medal for gymnastics Trophy for karate Trophy for gymnastics 2 medals for dancing Medal for swimming Certificate from the dentist Certificate for swimming
R4	Millie McCaig Evie Curtis Emma Ogston Noah Canning Charlotte Clink Jack MacRae White	Karate trophy Taekwondo-orange belt Swim Skills 3 award Football certificate Swimming certificate Kickboxing certificate
R5	Nieve MacFarlane Mia MacInnes	Horse riding badge for trotting and standing up (balance) Ribbon for horse riding
R6	Sophie McKee	Swimming achieved level 2 badge
R7	Isabel Lee Jay McCourt	Second place in gymnastics competition Awarded a trophy for scoring 100 goals at football
R8	Callum Russell Freya Davidson	Winning Uddingston tennis club championship 100m swimming badge
R9	Oliver Leitch	Tennis trophy
R10	Lauren Porter Charlotte McGavin Christopher MacDonald	Best pumpkin design at gymnastics Gold Award Brownies Scotcart 3 gold medals
R11	Mitchell Beggs	Moved up to club level in swimming
R12	Rory Cunningham Stuart Russell Kerr Hopcroft	Came 2 nd in junior golf club championship Came 1 st in junior tennis club championship Came 2 nd in junior tennis club championship