



Bothwell Primary School

Newsletter – September and October 2020

Dates for your Diary



Dates for your diary.

Cash 4 Clothes Uplift
Friday 4th September

September Weekend
School closed Friday
25th and Monday 28th
September.

Inservice Day
Tuesday 29th September
– please note this is a
new date

**Dress Down Day for
School Funds**
Friday 9th October

**Hallowe'en Fun –
unless otherwise
informed** Friday 30th
October (within school
day)



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the session and in particular a very special welcome to all of our new pupils and staff. Our 42 Primary One pupils have taken to school like proverbial little ducks to water, and our other new pupils throughout the school are settling in beautifully too! It is a pleasure to see all of our new members fitting in so well, so quickly.

In these testing times, it is so encouraging to see how well our pupils have settled into (or back into) school, following the closure period. This is a real credit to parents and carers who have prepared the children so well for their return to school, especially those for whom this is a new school, with very little transition having taken place. It has indeed been a challenging time for everyone and I thank you for preparing your child, irrespective of age and stage, for this return to school.

Returning to school: As you know, in June, the Deputy First Minister for Scotland, Mr Swinney, announced that all schools would return, full-time, in August, after the Summer break. This was a change to the previous announcement, which was that we would return on a part-time, blended learning approach. You will recall the communications I issued prior to the Summer, based on this model. As such, the blended learning model is now Plan B, which we will keep on stand-by, in case a further lockdown occurs and the schools are instructed to close.

In preparation for our return in August, we prepared the school as follows; hand sanitisers, hankies and wipes in every room and at "Snuffle Stations" throughout the building; children using separate entrances on arrival - which is over a staggered period of time; keeping left in corridors and sitting side-by-side in class and the dining-hall, rather than opposite each other. Packed lunches for children P5-7, are eaten in their classrooms, due to the reduced capacity in the dining-hall and all children sit with their classes to eat, to reduce their contact with other groupings. Playgrounds have been segregated, again to minimise varied groupings and staffing has been streamlined to reduce the numbers in each class and keep the variety of contact as low as possible.

Rooms 1-6 have a staggered finishing time and there is a one-way system in place for exiting the school grounds at home-time. From yesterday, children have been asked to wear face coverings when travelling on school buses. In addition, we are not holding assemblies or larger meetings at this time. The children have been very conscientious in adhering to all of this guidance. "Park and stride" – being implemented by many families has been a major help in reducing congestion at the school gates and the longer this can be continued the better. My thanks to you all, for reinforcing these important messages to your children – this has made the enormous transition to our "new norm" so much easier!

Staffing - We would like to welcome to Bothwell Primary, as staff members, class teachers Miss McNeill, Mr Paterson, Miss McIvor and Mrs Iles. We are sure they will settle in well to our school and we are delighted to have them on board!

Baby News - We have an extra special piece of exciting news – Mrs McSevney had a beautiful baby girl last week! We wish Mr and Mrs McSevney huge congratulations and we can't wait to meet their lovely daughter!

Breakfast Club, Lunch and After School Clubs – These presently are not running.

Period Poverty – I wish to make you aware that we have free and readily accessible sanitary products for our young women. These are located in every toilet cubicle in the senior girls' toilets and are also always available at the school office.

Stationery Pack – This year all of our pupils have received a stationery pack containing all the ingredients to being a super student! This shall reduce sharing and hopefully increase the protection of each child.



Promoting Positive Behaviour – As a school, we have agreed to have one school rule;

“Do as you are asked”. We aim to work in a mutually respectful environment, with a calm ambience.

Every year, everyone at Bothwell Primary; all pupils and all members of staff, work so hard to promote positive behaviour, by following our “Go for Green” positive behaviour guidelines. The children have been reminded of the importance of ensuring their good behaviour commences at the start of term and permeates all areas of the school and to all members of our school community. The guidelines of the system were issued to all new pupils at the start of term. If you have lost your copy from last year, please contact the school and we shall reissue the procedure we follow.

Please continue to support this system as positively as you have in previous sessions, as the children’s intelligence and maturity has been evident in their response to this system and all agree it has made the school a very pleasurable place to be!

Fundraising As you will appreciate, this year fundraising may look quite different from previous years, as we presently cannot have social gatherings such as the Christmas Fayre, or collection of donations for our Mothers’ Day and Fathers’ Day stalls. As such, we will continue to fundraise in ways which are safe and in line with our Cost of the School Day approach of promoting equity and equality. Some of the fundraising opportunities are below, e.g. If you shop online and have not yet joined up to our easyfundraising account (see below), then please join as soon as possible. It is free to join but the commission from your purchases raises funds for the school – *at no cost to you!* A win win situation!

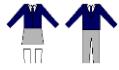
In addition, if you have been clearing out your cupboards and wardrobes – please bring your items for recycling to the school by 4th September, when we have our first uplift. All proceeds from Cash 4 Clothes (see below), go to school funds. If you have any other fundraising ideas which could take place in the current climate, please contact the school office or Parent Council.

easyfundraising.com - As previously intimated, we have put in place an 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 as all funds raised will be spent on our pupils. Please see below for details on how to join:

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

Dress Down Day - We will be having our first Dress Down Day for this session, on Friday 9th October. Remember the £1 donation goes to school funds!

Cash 4 Clothes – Each term we have an uplift from our recycling bin in the playground. The next uplift is Friday 4th September. Many thanks to all who have contributed items over the past few years as the funds raised by this means, have helped boost our school funds.



Proud to be Part of the Bothwell Family! – This term, it has again been an absolute joy to watch the children in the school, so smartly attired; school uniform and school shoes or P.E. kit and trainers, as requested. Should your child wish to wear trainers on the MUGA pitch or for the Daily Mile, we will encourage them to change into their trainers at playtime to prevent major “scuffs” to their new school shoes! Please ensure all items are labelled.

Please note that, in line with South Lanarkshire Council guidelines, at P.E. pupils should **not** wear:

- Jewellery (safety)
- Trainers which are not appropriately safe
- Sportswear advertising alcohol
- Team colours

Many thanks also to you for your support by continuing to purchase your child’s gym kit from our school – it also raises money to subsidise many “extras”, e.g. outings, materials, visitors, etc.

Late coming/Absence - Please remember to contact the school office before 9.30 a.m. if your child is late or absent. To ensure safety, the school shall call the main contact if a child has not turned up, but we have not received notification of absence by this time.

The office telephone number is 01698 852919, e-mail: office@bothwell-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Nut allergies - A further reminder that due to a number of children in the school having nut allergies, any snacks being brought into the school must not have any traces of nuts in them. This includes Nutella chocolate.

School Improvement Plan – Further to the school closure, this year we are implementing a “Recovery Plan”. As such our focus will be on:

- Whole School Wellbeing
- Health and Wellbeing Curriculum
- Re-identifying the poverty-related attainment gap.
- Learning In School
- Learning At Home

Please contact me if you have comments regarding our school or suggestions which could be of benefit to our pupils.

Bothwell Primary's Vision and Values - Be SMARTER

Our school aims to:

- Provide a range of learning opportunities through a variety of teaching approaches
- Promote honesty, integrity and trust
- Empower and enable our learners to achieve their potential
- Promote positive behaviour
- Equip our learners with Skills for Learning, Life and Work
- Be a happy, friendly, nurturing environment where everyone feels safe.

Our school is:

- where children feel safe and cared for
- where children are encouraged to be healthy and where they understand why health is important
- where children are included equally, regardless of their sex, race, faith or ability
- where children are honest with themselves, their friends, other children and staff
- where all children are encouraged to do well and where their efforts and achievements are recognised
- where all children learn as much as they can and where their knowledge, skills and personal interests are developed as fully as possible
- where our staff act as a team with our parents, carers and the local community to improve learning
- where children respect the rights of others.

We wish all of our pupils to display SMARTER attributes. As such, our school values are to be:

- **Sensible**
- **Mature**
- **Ambitious**
- **Respectful**
- **Thoughtful**
- **Eco Friendly**
- **Responsible**

Family Holidays during Term Time - Please note that S.L.C. requests that we record family holidays taken in term time as an **unauthorised absence**. This must also apply to additional time taken in the run-up to an official school holiday or end-on to a holiday period.

When parents have difficulty obtaining leave outwith the school holiday period and evidence is produced by an employer, this however, may be recorded as an authorised absence.

Mobile Phones – We appreciate that some parents wish their children to carry their phone to and from school. However, we do request that the phones are switched off during school hours, kept in the child's bag out of sight or passed over to the office where they shall be labelled with your child's name, for safe-keeping. Phones, including the use of the camera, are not to be used in the school.



Medical – If your child is requiring medicine whilst at school, please ask the office for a form, which must be completed by the parent, before any medicine can be administered by the school office. Many thanks.

 **Eco School – Letter Alert!** – As an Eco School, we are always keen to protect the environment wherever possible and also to work in as sustainable a manner as possible. As last session we are aiming to further reduce the quantity of paper we issue and photocopying we generate, where we can. Where letters of information are being issued, these shall be sent by email. Where a response is necessary, they shall continue to be issued on paper as we are aware that printing a reply slip is not always possible. Please ensure your email address stays current and advise the office of any changes when they occur.

If you are unable to receive the newsletter by email, please contact Mrs McIntosh at the school office and she will ensure your child receives a paper copy. The newsletter shall also be uploaded onto the school website.

Moving Forward - Over the coming weeks and months, we expect the guidance from the Scottish Government to change for all of us. We are currently in the Phase 3 of the Government's re-opening of society plan, and as such, we are still unable to do certain things such as; PE indoors, Parents Evenings; some school activities such as assemblies/dances etc., school trips and lunchtime/after school clubs.

Hallowe'en – You will note in the “Dates for your diary” we plan to have Hallowe'en celebrations – **if permitted**. The intention is to allow children to wear their Hallowe'en costumes and have Hallowe'en activities within their own class. News will follow *if this is not allowed*. No news is good news!

Keeping you Informed!

The school newsletter shall be sent out approximately every two months, keeping you informed and detailing recent and forthcoming events, plus highlighting achievements made by the children, both in school and out. Please do not be modest, share your children's successes with us and we shall be delighted to tell the wider school body! A copy of the newsletter shall also be displayed on the notice board outside the main office. Each newsletter will however highlight the upcoming events as a little reminder. Normally a school calendar would be issued, giving you an overview of the school year, indicating dates of assemblies, parties, parents' evenings etc., however, in light of the lack of events we are presently permitted to have, there is no calendar issued at present. Holidays are however on the school website.

School App - We are delighted to announce that the school shall be launching a school app, which will work in conjunction with our new website – coming soon to a screen near you! A leaflet with login details for the app, will be issued soon. Details for the new website will be posted on this app.

The new app means we can communicate with you quickly and efficiently. Important information shall be shared this way, however, we will continue to use twitter @BothwellPrimary to share celebratory works and good news from the classes.

We understand that at times information may not come to you as quickly as you wish, but we will always try our best to give timely and accurate advice and guidance.

Hopefully over the next while we will be permitted to meet with you in person, have events and try to get our pupils back to what should be a normal routine. Keep well and together we will get through this.

As always, if you wish to discuss matters regarding your child's education, please contact the school – your child's wellbeing is our highest priority.

I wish you and your child a successful first term.
Yours sincerely,

P Ross
Head Teacher
September 2020.



Sept 2020 - Bothwell Primary School, You suggest it – We listen!
If you have any other ideas you wish to offer to the school, please add below.



Suggestion or comment: _____

Please email your comments and suggestions to:
gw14bothwellpsoffice@qbow.sch.uk