



### **In the News!**

The Times Newspaper published a table of Primary school performances on 18<sup>th</sup> August and our school has been placed in the 'Top 5' on a score based on numeracy, reading, writing, literacy and talking data collected by the Scottish Government.

A group of schools all achieved a top score of 380 and the schools were then ranked on a deprivation factor. Newington is the highest placed in Dumfries and Galloway and there are only two from our region in the Top 50 for all of Scotland.

We are delighted with this recognition of all the hard work of our school community.

### **Dates for the Diary – Term 1**

Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	School closes for October Break
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	School resumes for Term 2

### **Information Sharing with Parents**

All our pupils will work on their 'Profiles' again over the coming session, setting targets for learning and recording success and achievements over the year. Some of the teachers may send the initial information pages home to complete and we would appreciate your support with this.

We have been advised that **we cannot hold parental consultation** events in Term 1 as usual. Staff are keen on having meetings so we will look to see if we can undertake this in Term 2, depending on new guidance.

We will keep parents informed about our plans.

### **Absence from School**

If your child is absent from school, please contact us by text on our designated absence line on **07860029432 text only**. If you are unable to make contact via text, please telephone the school office to advise.

The office staff will look to contact families directly if we have had no information about why a pupil is not in school. The SEEMIS system will also direct us to contact parents if a pupil's absence level falls to an unacceptable level. A child's attendance at school is crucial to their progress.

### **Head Teacher Introduction**

**August 2021**

Welcome Back!! We are delighted to have the children back in school and we all hope we can get settled and back into routines quickly.

We are returning to a few changes: 8.45am start and 2.50pm finish, break from 10.20am-10.40am and lunch returns to 45 minutes from 12.30pm – 1.15pm.

The school is organised into two geographic bubbles for the start of term and we will continue to have assembly online and monitor pupil movement around the school. All our hand washing/sanitising and additional cleaning are all in place again.

Things are to be reviewed nationally in a few weeks and it may be that we return in October to a more normal set up.

This newsletter will be coming to you via the School App, or Website. The office staff have worked hard to get and update email addresses and with "Teams" being used by pupils across the school "technology" will be key in our contact with parents and families. Please ensure you have the 'App and Website' in favourites and make sure you complete the 'data return' and keep us updated about email/mobile changes.

Please note parents/ carers if you have any specific concerns or questions, please contact the school on 01461 205326 to discuss things with myself or a member of the Senior Management Team. Parents/ carers can also e-mail me directly at gw08torbettirvine@ea.dumgal.sch.uk and I will try to reply as quickly as I can.

Once again, I am looking forward to working with all the members of our school community over the coming year. We will always achieve more for all our pupils by working together.

**Irvine Torbett, Head Teacher**

## Staffing

Please see below a list of all teachers and their stages for this coming session 2021/22:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Class</u>
Mrs Murray	P1
Miss Hollis	P1/2
Mrs Marrs	P2
Mrs Graham/Mrs Bell	P3B
Miss M <sup>c</sup> Ewen	P3A
Mrs Swan	P4
Miss Quince/Mrs Ferguson	P4/5
Mrs Magnay/Miss Mutch	P5
Mrs Duignan/Mr Armstrong	P5/6
Miss Simonian	P6
Miss Neill/ Mr Armstrong	P7A
Mr Scholar/ Mr Armstrong	P7B
Mrs Bingham / Mrs Walker	Learning Zone
Mrs Gallagher	Nursery Manager
Mrs Mannall/Mrs Duignan	PE Input
Miss Crombie/Mrs Carruthers	Music Input

## Car Parks and Parking

A regular item raised by parents is the concern about parking and traffic around our school. This continues to be an issue and a worry...and it is one that can only be solved by ourselves.

Work has been done to keep our pupils and families safe, but we rely on all our parents adhering to the traffic markings, crossing restrictions etc. to ensure this works. As a school community we are the ones that must resolve this.

Please help us keep our pupils safe!!!!

## School Meals

P1-P4 pupils will all have access to free school meals. P5 will have this opportunity from January 2022 with P6 and P7 from August 2022.

I would like to remind parents/ guardians **we are a 'Fizz & Nut' free school.**

Could I ask all parents/ guardians to help the kitchen team in the coming session by ensuring meal payments are made on the day or in advance for the week. Please send money in a sealed envelope with pupil details on the front. Hours of valuable kitchen time are being lost following up missed payments and this cannot be allowed to continue.

Details about 'cashless' catering and online ordering will be coming out to parents over this session.

## Class Topics

Class Topics provide the stimulus for lots of cross-curricular activities, structured play and research work. Our website/Teams will carry details about current class topics and suggestions for websites etc. to support home research where possible.

As always, we would welcome your support and encourage parents to discuss with the children what they have learned about a topic or what made them go wow! Children may well have 'knowledge organisers' home to study each week or term so they can do some self-quizzing!

Class topics for the start of this session are as follows:-

P1/ P2	-	Mix of tasks linked to seasons, return to school and continuous provision
P3s	-	Forces and Magnetism
P4	-	The Human Body
P4/5	-	The Caribbean Island
P5	-	Britain
P5/6	-	The European Holiday
P6	-	Europe
P7s	-	Plants for Wildlife/ History of Scottish Independence
Learning Zone	-	Under the Sea

## Specialist Input

As highlighted in our 2020 HMIE report, we are fortunate to be able to provide specialist PE/Music and ICT input for our pupils. My thanks to the staff who lead this and go above and beyond to ensure our children have a great Primary experience.

## Uniform/Equipment

Our school uniform colour is **Red** sweatshirt, **Red** poloshirt, dark trousers/skirts and when worn by all our pupils looks very smart. A uniform order form will be coming out in October and again in May. Please could we ask parents to take this opportunity to order any required uniform items at this time as office staff only keep a small stock of uniform for new enrolments. We work hard as a school to reinforce the importance and the role of our uniform and we appreciate parental support with this.

## Equipment

The school will provide the pupils with all the items they need at the start of term, so we do not need school bags/ pencil cases etc. brought into school. Not having materials come to and from home/ school will help reduce risk of infection.

## Clubs

I am extremely proud of the range and quality of clubs we have traditionally been able to offer to our pupils. We are hopeful that we will be in a position to have clubs return over this session so please keep an eye out for details via the 'App' etc about start dates and times. All clubs are supported by staff and are free to pupils in the school.

The clubs are stage appropriate and often for older pupils but we continue to look at opportunities for our younger classes.