

Dates for the Diary



April 2021

- Monday 12th School returns for Term 4. All Bubbles/Staggered times to continue - see App
- Wednesday 21st Forum & Fundraising Meeting

May 2021

- Monday 3rd May Day Holiday
- Wednesday 12th Virtual Euroquiz for P6 Team

June 2021

- Friday 11th End of Year Reports for Parents/ Guardians
- Wednesday 23rd 1.20pm P7 Leavers Event (details to follow)
- Friday 25th School Closes for the Summer Break

August 2021

- Wednesday 18th Staff Return**
- Thursday 19th Pupils Return**

School Contact/ Information

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School
App for
Parents



Newington Primary School



NEWSLETTER

Head Teacher Introduction

My thanks to all parents and families, school staff and pupils for their efforts with home learning and on the return to school following the unexpected school closures period from January 2021. On the whole, engagement was very good, the quality of materials and activities provided by staff was excellent and as a school we supported all we could with resources, copies of materials and telephone calls to home.

As a school we will build on the lessons learned and the skills developed to support homework etc in the future.

The return of P1-P3, Learning Zone and Nursery was successful, as was the return for P4-P7 three weeks later. Our children have been happy to be back, working with friends and school staff and enjoying the routine and familiarity that school brings.

The Government road map for recovery is becoming clearer but not fixed. As a staff we have agreed that we will continue with all our bubbles and staggered times for the whole of Term 4, with a view to return to our normal school times etc at the start of session 2021-2022. We all feel it is better to keep things as they are rather than change mid-term and in a worst case have to change again.

We all hope that Term 4 will see us able to reintroduce further school activities but we already know that parents attending sports will not be allowed and that trips will not go ahead as in previous years. Government data shows we are not at that stage yet but we can all hope that 2021/2022 will see a return to greater school normality.

At present we are available to contact by phone and email and we will aim to get back to you as soon as possible.

Once again my thanks for everyone's continued support during a most challenging period for us all.

**Irvine Torbett
Head Teacher**

April 2021

Pupil Equity Funding

We are aware of our funding for session 2021/2022 so we can continue with the support of school recovery, helping pupil groups and individuals to close the attainment gap. The bulk of this funding will be used to employ four General Assistants across the school. This has been very successful to date. Beyond that we will look at other projects on the return to school in August and continue to use finance to ensure all pupils have all the resources they need for school and that every child can access school clubs, trips and activities.

Pupil Equity Funding plans are included in the School Improvement Plan and it is an item for discussion at your school Forum Meetings.

Cycle Scheme

Letters will be going out to pupils in P4 who wish to bring bikes to school during Term 4 and beyond. All children must sign up to the school scheme to be involved and ensure helmets are worn and bikes are safe. Forms are available for pupils in P5-P7 who haven't signed up previously.



School Improvement Plan

The school closure periods have impacted on our SIP projects over the last two years but during this time we have been 'signed off' by HMIE having completed the follow up to our 2019 Inspection. (The follow up report was sent out to parents via the APP in January)

For 2021/2022, the staffs have agreed to develop work started around a new Tracking and Monitoring system and build on various technologies developed during school closure, the introduction of Windows 10 in schools, an update to our School Management System and a new virtual desk top. Finally in the P1 and P2 we will have a development of outside play and continuous provision as part of a grounds development project being led by Mrs Ferguson DHT and the Early Years Team.

The completed SIP will be posted via the App and Website once it is agreed by staff, School Forum etc in June.

Inter House Events 2021

We cannot have a Sports Day but the pupils will undertake their sports events during P.E and gain points so we can present our Inter House Awards. We also hope to have an online Inter House Quiz via Teams and depending on the data we may try to have some of the other events.

P7 Leavers Ceremony

This is a work in progress but we will look to have something this year and details will follow as we organise this.

It may be an outdoor event with limited numbers and will be without the other classes but whatever we agree on (and are able to do) this will take place on Wednesday 23rd June at 1.20pm.

P7 Transition and Moving Up

Annan Academy have already set up a Teams page for the whole P7 transition groups and have sent out tasks, videos etc.

P7 staff will be working on these with the children but at this time we are unsure if they will have a physical visit during Term 4. More details as we get them.

Likewise, for classes in school, we will need to see if 'Moving Up' is possible later in the term. If not, staff messages, virtual tours etc could be setup once our staffing is settled for next session.

Active Schools

For a two week block in April, some classes will have input from Active Schools staff. This will take place outside.

Student Teachers

We will have two student teachers undertaking final placements in Term 4. We will also have two third year students undertaking professional experience blocks and they will provide extra pairs of hands in P1-P2 and P4-P5.