

Dates for the Diary – Term 1

Fri 9 th Oct	School closes for October Break
Mon 26 th Oct	School resumes for Term 2
Thurs 19 th Nov	Flu Vaccination in school
Fri 18 th Dec	School closes for Christmas Break
Tues 5 th Jan 2021	Staff Inset day (non pupils)
Wed 6 th Jan	School resumes for Term 3

Car Parks and Parking

Another item raised by parents was 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!!!!

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 **no parental consultations** are to be planned until further notice.

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 isn't 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 2020

Welcome Back!! We are delighted to have everyone coming back to school after a most challenging and difficult time and our priority will be to get everyone settled and back into school routines as quickly as possible.

The continued low infection rate will mean we are open full time for all pupils but we are looking to continue with our 'Bubbles' and the staggered times indicated for pupil groups which we shared with parents before the summer. Our hope is that this will all help maintain pupil and staff safety as our school community comes out from lockdown.

I would like to thank everyone in our community for their efforts to keep learning going during the school closure. Evidence on 'Teams' and feedback from pupils, parents and staff indicated that some amazing things were going on and our challenge will be to build on this. We will continue to develop the use of technology to support learning in school and at home and to ensure our pupils make all the progress they can as we return to school and a new normal.

Technology is key in our communication with families and our 'App and Website' will play a huge role in our efforts to get news and details about the life of our school out to parents and guardians. 'Microsoft Teams' which we used during lockdown will continue to be developed over the year and will become an excellent homework tool.

Please make sure you have the 'App and Website' in favourites and complete the 'Data Update' for us, so we have your update contact details.

This coming session will present us all with a mix of familiar and very new challenges and communication will be key. The medical and government advice to schools will continue to change and we will need to respond to that and we may need to make changes as the term and year progresses. We will try to keep parents as informed as possible but I am sure everyone can acknowledge there may be a number of challenging times ahead.

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 2020/21:

Teacher

Class

Miss Hollis	P1A
Mrs Murray	P1B
Mrs Marrs	P2A
Mrs Bell/ Mrs Carruthers	P2B
Mrs Ferguson D.H.T / Mrs Graham	P3A
Miss M ^c Ewen	P3B
Mrs Swan	P4A
Miss Mutch	P4B
Mrs Jefferson / Mrs Magnay	P5A
Miss Porter/ Miss Nicholson	P5B
Miss Simonian	P6A
Mr Scholar / Mr Armstrong	P6B
Miss Neill/ Mr Armstrong	P7A
Mrs Duignan/ Mr Armstrong	P7B
Mrs Bingham / Miss Nicholson	Learning Zone
Mrs Gallagher	Nursery

Clubs

Newington P.S has more club activities led by staff than any Primary School I know but due to the challenges of the pandemic and as part of our efforts to keep everyone safe we will not start any clubs during Term 1. We will review our clubs over this term and look at the advice provided and hopefully get details out to parents about club activities from Term 2 onwards.

School Meals

P1-P3 pupils will all continue to have access to free school meals.

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 can't be allowed to continue.

Class Topics

Class Topics provide the stimulus for lots of cross-curricular activities, structured play and research work. Our website 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've 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:-

P1A/ P1B	-	Autumn/ Our School
P2A/ P2B	-	Transport/ Katie Morag
P3A & P3B	-	Forces & Magnetism
P4A & P4B	-	The Human Body
P5A & P5B	-	Mary Queen of Scots
P6A & P6B	-	Europe
P7A & P7B	-	Plants for Wildlife/ History of Scottish Independence
Learning Zone	-	Animals

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 won't need school bags/ pencil cases etc. brought into school. Not having materials come to and from home/ school will help reduce risk of infection.