



# Bothwell Primary School

Newsletter – September and October 2021

## Dates for your Diary



**Dates for your diary.**

**Cash 4 Clothes Uplift**  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

**September Weekend**  
School closed Friday  
24<sup>th</sup> and Monday 27<sup>th</sup>  
September.

**Dress Down Day for  
School Funds**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October

**Hallowe'en Fun –  
unless otherwise  
informed** Friday 29<sup>th</sup>  
October (within school  
day)



**Dear Parent/Carer,**

As I write this first newsletter of session 2021-22, I cannot believe that we are still enjoying glorious sunshine! What a summer, indeed Indian summer, this has turned out to be!

I would like to issue a very special welcome to all of our new pupils, their families and staff new to Bothwell Primary. Our 40 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. This year, we are also absolutely delighted to welcome our new nursery children to Bothwell Primary – you have been a joy to have!

In these testing times, it is so encouraging to see how well our pupils have settled into school. 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.

**Covid-19 Update:** As you are aware, in July, the First Minister for Scotland lifted some of the restrictions in place across the country. In education in South Lanarkshire however, it was determined that the mitigations which were in place pre-summer, would remain until further notice. So although “bubbles” were allowed to be removed, the other safety factors remained. As such, we continue to implement the following safety measures: hand sanitisers and hankies in every room and at “Snuffle Stations” throughout the building; children arriving and departing 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 some children P5-7, are eaten in their classrooms, due to the reduced capacity in the dining-hall and all children continue to sit with their classes to eat, to reduce their contact with other groupings. Staffing remains streamlined to reduce the numbers in each class and keep the variety of contact as low as possible. Playgrounds are however no longer segregated, again allowing the bubbles to be removed.

P1-3 continue to have a staggered finishing time and there continues to be a one-way system in place for exiting the school grounds at home-time. However, children are no longer required to wear face coverings when travelling on school buses. We are still not permitted to hold whole school assemblies or larger meetings. 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. Parents/ carers should continue to wear face coverings when on the school grounds. I *strongly* urge you to reinforce the above information to your children and also to implement the practices we ask that parents adhere to in the above.

You will be aware however that we have unfortunately had some positive cases over the past few weeks, but hopefully by continuing to be vigilant, we can minimise these numbers. A *huge* request from all at Bothwell Primary is that, if in doubt about your child's health with regards to Covid-19, please keep them at home, get them tested and let them remain at home until a negative result is received. If your child is positive, please advise the school a.s.a.p., so we can put measures in place and advise the school community. For guidance, please see the school website, in particular the letter from Dr John Logan, Acting Director of Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire. Thank you!

**Staffing** – Further to my previous letter regarding staffing, I would like to welcome two new members of staff; Miss Walker, who shall be working on raising attainment on a Thursday and (another!) Miss Campbell who is joining our nursery team. Mrs McSevny is also going to be remaining in R10 on a Monday, with Mrs Hunter being R10's teacher the rest of the week. We are sure our new staff members will settle in well to our school and we are delighted to have them on board!

### **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 and on the school website. 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.



**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.


**School App** - We currently communicate via the school app, which works in conjunction with our website. A leaflet with login details for the app, can be requested from the school office if required.

The app means we can communicate with you quickly and efficiently. Important information is shared this way, however, we will continue to use twitter @BothwellPrimary to share celebratory works and good news from the classes. More formally, certain information will be shared by email, so as above, please ensure your email address is current.

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.

**Lunch and After School Clubs – *Breaking news!*** We are finally allowed to recommence our extra-curricular clubs! Many teachers have volunteered to lead these clubs. Thank you to all who volunteered! Unfortunately we are not at the moment allowed any parent volunteers. More news on dates and activities to follow very soon!

 **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, due to restrictions, again this year fundraising may look quite different from previous years. 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 get 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 22<sup>nd</sup> October, when we have our next uplift. All proceeds from Cash 4 Clothes (see below), go to school funds. 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.

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!

**School Improvement Plan** – This year our focus will be on:

- School vision, values, aims and our curriculum rationale
- Creative learning approaches
- Raising attainment in literacy and numeracy
- Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion

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:

- **S**ensible
- **M**ature
- **A**mbitious
- **R**espectful
- **T**houghtful
- **E**co Friendly
- **R**esponsible



**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” beyond the school budget.

**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](mailto: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.*

**Family Holidays during Term Time** – We realise that holidays are fairly few and far between just now, but 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.

**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!

**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.

**Dress Down Day** - We will be having our first Dress Down Day for this session, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Remember the £1 donation goes to school funds!

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 2021.



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**Sept 2021 - 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@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14bothwellpsoffice@glow.sch.uk)