



August Newsletter 2020: Back to School Bulletin

Dear families

Over lockdown there have been some changes to staffing in our school that I would like to update you with.

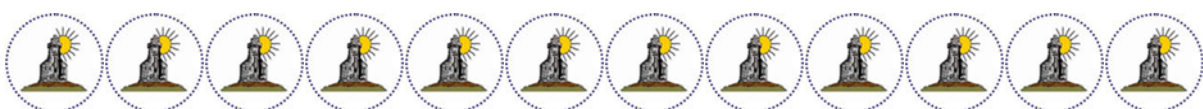
We said 'goodbye' to Mrs Emma Nelson who was our P1/2 teacher last session. Mrs Nelson was very highly regarded by us all and we will miss her. She has taken up a teaching post at another local school and we know she will be a great addition to their team. As shared previously we also bid a fond farewell to Mrs Bradley in the Office who has moved on to Mearns Academy. Mrs Lorna Simpson has joined Mrs Clark in the School Office. Mrs Simpson is very experienced in her field and we are all looking forward to working with her.

We are welcoming Mr Iain Simpson and Ms Alana Milne to our school. Mr Simpson will teach P5 and Ms Milne will be working with P3. In the nursery we welcome a new early years assistant to the team – Mrs Ruth Elertowicz.

Mrs Kay Samson has decided to retire from teaching after a long and successful career. Mrs Samson was a valued member of our ASN team and she was dedicated to supporting our children in whatever way she could. She was a kind, compassionate and empathetic teacher who always took the time to listen and understand. Her calm approach, even in the most hectic situations is certainly something that I aspire to! I know that everyone in Laurencekirk School will miss having Kay in our team. We join together and wish her the most fantastic of retirements – because this is what she so richly deserves.

It gives me tremendous pleasure to officially announce that Mrs Louise Anderson has been appointed as our new Acting Depute Head Teacher. Mrs Anderson is steadfastly committed to working with us all to make Laurencekirk School the best it can possibly be. Over lockdown Mrs Anderson has shown great determination and a patience to see things through whilst continually demonstrating her passion for teaching and learning and supporting our children. I am so thrilled that she is joining the Senior Leadership Team and look forward to working closely together over the coming months.

I am delighted to share with you all the happy news that Mr Steer has become a dad for the first time. Mr Steer and his wife Emma welcomed a beautiful baby boy into the world – Freddie James Steer. This is simply wonderful news and we are all so thrilled for Mr and Mrs Steer. Mr Steer will be taking two weeks paternity leave from August 10th so Ms Leslie will work with P6/7 until Mr Steer returns with Mrs Mackie teaching the class on Fridays.





Start and Finish

We are having a soft start this week. This means that our playgrounds are staffed from 0845. The idea is that children can arrive between 0845 hours and 0900. They won't go inside, they will play outside until the bell goes at 9am. I know you will be looking forward to seeing people for the first time in a long while but I do please politely ask that you don't linger outside the school premises. At the end of the day, all children will be dismissed from their designated exits, please ensure that your child knows their after school arrangements. We are promoting 2m distancing in line with government guidelines.

Below is a reminder of your morning arrangements. These will be reviewed at the end of the week and you will be notified of any changes.

P1a: patch at front of school – enter via school main gate

P1b: patch at front of school – enter via school main gate

P1/2: patch at front of school – enter via school main gate

P2: little ones playground – enter via side gate on the back path as normal. A PSA will collect your child from the foot of the path. Please do not come right up to the playground gate. This is a narrow space.

P3/4: little ones playground – enter via side gate on the back path as normal. A PSA will collect your child from the foot of the path. Please do not come right up to the playground gate. This is a narrow space.

P3 big ones playground – children to come in to the playground using the normal path

P4: big ones playground – children to come in to the playground using the normal path

P4/5: big ones playground – children to come in to the playground using the normal path

P5: corridor extension door - please come in the main school gate and wait/line up on the tarmac at the front of the school.

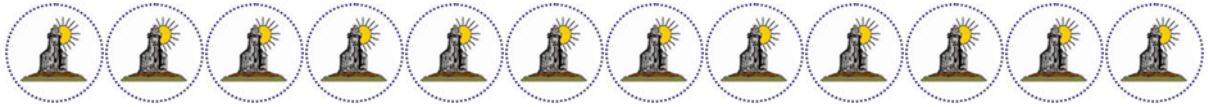
P5/6: external class door – please come in to school using the main school gate at the front of the school and wait/line up on the tarmac at the front of the school.

P6: external class door– please come in to school using the extension gate (sometimes referred to as the After School Club gate) and wait/line up round the back of the school next to your glass classroom door (at the big concrete steps)

P6/7: big ones playground big ones playground – children to come in to the playground using the normal path

P7: big ones playground big ones playground – children to come in to the playground using the normal path





Below is a reminder of our going home arrangements. We cannot pair up siblings at this point in school and all children must exit via their identified door. We thank you for your support with this. It may reduce congestion if you arrange a meeting point with your child, only if this is appropriate.

P1a: little ones playground

P1b: little ones playground

P1/2: little ones playground

P2: big ones playground

P3: big ones playground

P3/4: big ones playground

P4: big ones playground

P4/5 big ones playground

P5: extension corridor door (front of school)

P5/6: external class door (front of school)

P6: external class door (side of the extension)

P6/7: big ones playground

P7: big ones playground

Please do not send your child/siblings to school if he/she or any of your household has the following symptoms:

Persistent and continuous cough

Fever/high temperature

Loss/change of taste or smell.

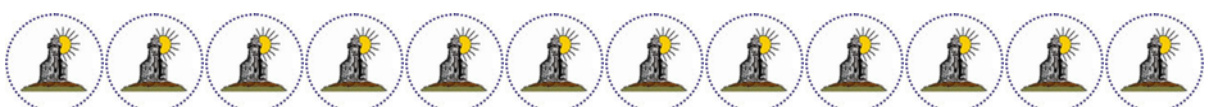
Please do not send your child to school if your household is contacted by NHS contact tracers.

Please let the School Office know if any of the above applies to your household so we can take appropriate action.

Please contact NHS Inform for advice on next steps. Compliance with this is incredibly important and is key to the safety of us all.

Children who are displaying these symptoms in school will be sent home (with siblings) and parents should refer to government guidelines.

Please do remind your children that adults will be maintaining a 2m distance from the children and the other adults in school as far as is possible and gently ask that they keep a step back from the adults if they can. This is a BIG change for all of us and we will all have to work together to keep each other safe. Our school is build on kindness and compassion for each other and I know we can do this.





Community Spirit

You will notice how fantastic our school grounds are looking at the moment. We are incredibly grateful to Oak Leaf Garden Services and Mr Dunbar who gave up their own time to help ensure our school looked its best for all our children coming back. This huge act of kindness is truly appreciated by everyone at the school. Our Primary Parent Partnership have supported the school hugely during lockdown in many ways including setting up resource stations for food and school supplies, organising our School Caterpillar (aka Mr Kirk), organising a Very Hungry Caterpillar scavenger hunt in addition to coordinating the aforementioned work on the school grounds. We are lucky to have such an engaged and innovative Parent Partnership group. They are always on the lookout for new recruits so if this is something that you would be interested in then reach out to them on facebook. They will be delighted to hear from you.

Mrs Kiedowskra and Ms Leslie have been busy preparing our school woods for the children to play and learn in. These are also looking very lovely. We are all so grateful for these endeavours, this will make a huge difference to our children.

It has been a pleasure to work with this school community over lockdown. It was humbling to see the village come together to support each other and support our school. The 'Loud for Leavers' for our Primary 7s was an incredible show of solidarity for a great bunch of children who missed so much in their final year of primary school. Seeing the village adorned with banners and posters wishing them well was incredible not to mention Memorial Park and the creative grass cutting! We wish these amazing young people all the best as they move on to this new chapter and hope to reconnect soon to say a proper goodbye. Laurencekirk is a wonderful community and it is an honour to lead a school which is placed firmly t the heart. So finally....

We are very much looking forward to opening up our school again. It has been strange working each day in an almost empty building and I can't wait to have it filled with noise once again. A school without children in it is like they sky without sunshine, come Wednesday our school will shine brightly once again and I for one cannot wait.

Kind Regards

Jill Smith

Head Teacher (Acting)

