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Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Good afternoon all

### **Covid Update**

I truly hope you are all well. As you know from the news and information in the media, the incidence of COVID infections in Scotland has been increasing and we are experiencing some positive COVID-19 cases within our school community.

I wish to assure you all that we continue to robustly apply all recommended risk mitigations across school in line with the Scottish Government regulations. Please remain vigilant to the emergence of any Covid symptoms which include a high temperature, change/loss of sense of taste/smell and/or a new and persistent cough. If any of your household develops any of these symptoms a PCR test should be booked. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.

For our pupils who are self isolating, there is a range of learning on the school website which can be accessed should you feel this is appropriate. However, there is no expectation at all that this would be undertaken. This can be located on the 'Contingency Learning' tab.

### **Bikeability**

I am forever hopeful that we can gather a group of willing volunteers in order to deliver bikeability training to our older pupils. Thank you to those of you who have offered thus far, it is very much appreciated. Please do let the School Office know by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September if this is something that you can help us with. There is a weekly commitment for almost a term (one afternoon) and some training to do. However, it really is a brilliant opportunity for our children to learn key skills which will last a lifetime. We haven't been able to deliver this due to Covid and it would be brilliant to be able to do so again.

### **Pupil Group roles**

Please do remind your children of the opportunities which are available to join a pupil group. We have rights respecting, Eco and Pupil Council. Each class will decide together who will represent them. A sheet was sent home at an earlier date to help your child

prepare for this. The closing date for completion of these sheets is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

### **Cheery Chums**

Our Primary 6 pupils have undergone a training session this week to prepare them for their roles as Cheery Chums. This is an important role in our school whereby our older pupils help our younger pupils to have positive playtimes. Thank you to Mrs Milne and Miss Baillie for preparing our children for this role. I know our PSA team are very much looking forward to working alongside the Cheery Chums. Our Primary 6s are delighted to be able to help their younger peers.

### **See Saw**

Miss Duncan is kindly setting this up for us and we hope to go live with this very soon. I know how much you all missed Seesaw and it is brilliant that we are now able to invest in this valuable reporting tool. Laurencekirk School is a wonderful environment with high quality learning and teaching characterising all we do. Seesaw is a super way of sharing this with you all. We are still awaiting some replies – if you haven't already done so, I would urge you to join in with this. It is a wonderful insight into your child's school experience.

### **Morning drop off**

Although there is no official requirement to do so, each morning from 0850 hours our infant playground is supervised by a member of the management team. It is usually me (Mrs Smith). I really value this experience, it is lovely to meet and greet everyone as they come to school for the day. We endeavour to supervise in the big playground from the same time but if short staffed, it may not always be possible. I would reiterate the suggestion of arriving as close to 9am as possible and in the case of younger children, you may feel it wise to accompany them down the service path to the gates. In the event of the playground not being supervised, this would enable you as parents to decide whether to drop and go or to remain with your child until the bell rings. If you choose to wait, please do remain outwith the playground boundary. As per Aberdeenshire policy, the external playground doors open from 0845 hours so that children requiring access to the building for support or the toilet can readily do so.

Finally...

Please do take care of yourselves and each other and I hope you all have a lovely weekend when it finally arrives.

Kind Regards

Jill Smith

Head Teacher