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25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

Dear Families

### School Crossing Patroller

I would like to make you aware that there will be no school crossing patroller on High Street immediately after the Easter Break. This will be the case for a minimum of two weeks. I will update you if this situation extends beyond this period.

### Dogs in School Grounds

Whilst we understand that walking your children to and from school/nursery is an ideal opportunity to walk dogs, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and families is paramount. Please ensure that dogs are not brought into school grounds, with the exception of service dogs.

In addition, should you choose to walk your dog to and from school, please be aware that some children are intimidated, unsure or even quite frightened by dogs, so please remain a reasonable distance outside of the school gate to enable children and adults to enter and exit the school grounds safely. I would be grateful if you could share this information with any adults who have a role in school drop offs and pick ups.

### School Improvement Update: STEM visits

This school year we were successful in securing funding from Education Scotland to deliver professional learning to staff in STEM subjects. (Science, technology, engineering and maths). We have used this money to support staff to develop their knowledge of how STEM can be delivered outdoors. This week we had a visit from an outdoor learning specialist who worked with some of our teachers and their classes to teach STEM outdoors. Our teaching staff engaged in training after school on the use of our fire pit which we have invested in. A fire can provide lots of opportunities for learning and I especially like the idea of lighting a fire whilst hearing our class novel outdoors!



Our teachers were learning about the building, siting, lighting and cooking with fire. This always starts with involving the children in a benefits v risk assessment. So....  
"What is really great about us doing this today?" Followed by "What do we need to be careful of and why?"



Science class: Bashing the natural pigment out of leaves on to fabric to create prints. A wonderful sensory experience and a simple and effective way to learning a little more about plants and trees and a creative way to make beautiful prints. All that is required is some white fabric (old pillow case?), stone or mallet and some leaves or flowers. We used mallets to learn about the safe use of tools. Very easy to try at home!



Research shows many benefits to introducing real tools to children including the promotion of hand eye co-ordination, thinking critically, creativity, responsibility, independence and active learning. We will consider how we can introduce this work into our curriculum as we continue to consider the transferable skills we are teaching alongside knowledge.

### School Improvement Update: Reporting to Parents

We continue to use Seesaw to share our learning with you all and hope that you find the updates valuable. As part of our approach to reporting to parents, we will be hosting Parent Consultations via Teams next term. The dates for these are the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June. More information will follow but I thought it sensible to let you all know the dates in advance. Each consultation is 10 minutes long.

We will share Curriculum for Excellence attainment levels, attendance and lateness data with you all via a paper report which will come home with your child On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, so please look out for these envelopes in your child's bag ahead of the holiday long weekend.

### Spring Holiday

A reminder that school finishes for a two week break on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April and we resume again on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April for another busy and productive term at Laurencekirk School.

The weather is certainly brightening up and our Primary 1 and ½ children are enjoying coming into the playground in the morning to 'sunbathe.' I am not convinced we are quite at the sunbathing stage yet but they are happy!

Have a lovely weekend all.

Kindest Regards

Jill Smith

Head Teacher