



# Bridgend News

November 2020



Dear Parents/Carers

You have received the recent update from Scottish Government with regard to the new guidelines that have been published. Please continue to support us in ensuring our school stays open, by adhering to the social distancing and wearing a mask when dropping off or picking up your child/ren either at nursery or in the school. We also have our QR code displayed to assist us with our track and trace procedures, which I would be grateful if you could scan prior to entering the school building.

We have also sent out communication on several occasions to ensure that we have accurate records of whether your child has access to a device/internet to allow home learning. If you have not already done so, can I please urge you to contact the school office advising of any difficulties with this.

With regard to parent portal, I am also aware that many of you are encountering difficulties with this. Could I please ask you to contact Mrs Mallon or Jordan, who will be able to support you in rectifying issues.

We continue to encourage pupils to keep within their bubbles in school and we would appreciate your support in emphasising the importance of this action.

Kind regards

Jackie Aitken  
Head Teacher

## Walking Bus



Jordan has started to re-introduce our walking bus this week. This starts opposite the village shop at 8:05 am, Auldhill Entry and up to Auldhill Avenue, to finish at the school. All children welcome to join, however, road safety rules should be followed at all times. We would appreciate that you reinforce this with your child/ren if they intend to join the group. This means the children will arrive at school and be able to take part in having breakfast with their friends. We are still restricted in activities that are taking place, however, the children have been enjoying our new large screen to watch some film or cartoon.

## Parent Council



Our Parent Council would just like to say that they are thinking of everyone and hope that they are managing to stay safe.

## Car Park



We are still having issues where families are walking through the car park and parking at the school gate/bus turning circle. Please ensure that all children enter/exit the school, staying on the footpath at all times. We respectfully ask that you give consideration to the bus drivers trying to turn into the turning circle with large buses and avoid parking

opposite this area or within the turning circle at all times.

## Bicycle/Scooters



Children continue to bring bikes or scooters to school and under normal circumstances we would strongly encourage them to do so. However, given the change in weather conditions and the restrictions of COVID-19, could we please ask that for the foreseeable future, these stay at home. If you accompany your child in the morning, please take this home with you. There have been a few incidents that have put pupils at risk. When using their mode of transport, the pupils must always wear the appropriate safety equipment, e.g. helmet.

## Community News



**LYPP:** We are delighted to be able to start the Football Project between 6:30-7:30 pm for Primary ages and 7:45-8:45 pm for Secondary school on a Thursday night. As with most things this year, we've had to add additional hygiene measures to stop the spread of Covid-19. Whilst this is frustrating, we're delighted to say that all of the young people attending having taken this seriously and we're really proud of their efforts. If you would like your child to attend or find out what measures we're putting in place, then please get in touch with me. We're also collecting articles for a Christmas

Bridgend Newsletter to be put around the village and we'd love the young people to draw a happy picture of Bridgend, Winter or Christmas to be included. One you have your masterpiece, please send a photo of it to: [Graeme@lypp.org.uk](mailto:Graeme@lypp.org.uk) for it to be included.

**Church news:** Not much more to report at the moment. For those intending to come to church, please send a message to the Minister: 01506 890919, or, text: 07415028678 providing name and number of people attending.

**Playbase:** Due to our community centre being closed, weekly play sessions are still on hold. We are providing small family play sessions. Details can be found on our facebook page: Playbase, West Lothian. Our current sessions are full, with a waiting list. Contact Leigh, with the purple hoodie (wee red men logo) in the village for a chat or, for more information.

**Speech and Language (Early Years):** If you have concerns about your child and their speech development, please contact us on our helpline: [www.lets-talk.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.lets-talk.scot.nhs.uk). Flyer attached.

### Outdoor Learning



Mrs Blaikie's outdoor learning sessions have been going well and the children are enjoying a range of experiences using resources in our natural environment. This is a significant part of our national curriculum and we will continue to be outdoors throughout the school session. In this regard, and the change of weather conditions, please ensure your child comes dressed appropriately. They will get muddy and/or wet. Their uniform can be brought in a separate bag on the day they have

outdoor learning and they will then be able to change into dry clothes and another pair of shoes. Our branded tracksuits should continue to be worn on the days that your child/ren have PE. If you are unsure, details are noted below:

P1/2 – Outdoor learning – Wednesday; PE – Tuesday & Thursday

P3/4 – Outdoor learning – Tuesday; PE – Monday & Wednesday

P5/6/7 – Outdoor learning – Monday; PE – Tuesday & Thursday

### Remembrance Day



You will have received a groupcall text advising that we have poppies available in the school. Your child can bring in a small donation and the class teacher will ensure they receive a poppy.

### Medical/Health & Safety



As you are aware, Mrs Melrose and Mrs Dooley are our school first aiders. All other members of staff have been trained in emergency aid and are able to deal with minor incidents that occur. Letters will be sent in the event of your child being involved in a nose bleed, bump to the head or in the event of a more serious incident, you will receive a telephone call. A record is kept in school of incidents and the treatment that is applied. Given that we are outdoors more and encouraging the children to take part in 'risky play', there can often be bumps and bruises. Please be aware that these are considered minor injuries and no cause for concern.

We would also recommend that parents/carers continue to regularly check their child/ren's head for head lice.

Scottish Government have launched a digital information resource to support families across Scotland. This site includes tips and advice, including helping parents/carers to keep calm and coping with difficult behaviour. This can be found at: [www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/coping-with-parenting](http://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/coping-with-parenting)

### Nursery



Our children continue to develop their interest and knowledge about our local community and the different aspects of it. The interactive panel is being used to explore lots of mathematical games. Now that the weather has changed considerably and temperatures have dropped, please ensure your child remembers to wear a hat and gloves. All items of clothing should be clearly labelled with their name. Please continue to support our nursery team by not bringing backpacks into our setting.

Our lending library will also resume this month. All safety precautions and guidelines have been put in place to minimise spread of infection. There is an appropriate quarantine period between book distribution to and from school.

As you may already be aware, the Christmas holidays are now in line with the school Christmas break. Further details can be found at: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/64845/Early-Learning-and-Childcare-Terms-and-Holidays-2020-2021>

### Guy Fawkes



Every year there is a TV campaign to raise awareness

and encourage safe use of fireworks. With this in mind, a separate letter will be sent out advising of safe procedures. In the meantime, please check out the TV link 'Make the Call': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6SuAYiCN1s>

### Dyslexia Awareness



West Lothian Literacy Services have prepared some information for parents/carers with regard to how they can provide support and also with regard to Dyslexia Awareness Week. This can be found on:

<https://sway.office.com/SMPdfdAGHC1nflD?ref=Link>

### Scottish Book Week



This takes part 16 November. This will be led by our pupils and information will be shared with you shortly. However, P1, 2 & 3 will receive their Book Bug Bags with a range of activities and resources for you to support your child at home.

### Dates for your Diary



#### November

- 11 Columba 1400 (P5/6/7)
- 16 Book Week Scotland

#### December

- 3 Columba 1400 (P5/6/7)
- 18 End of Term

#### January

- 6 All resume

