



Bridgend News

December 2020



Dear Parents/Carers

I'm sure many of you will be waiting, with anticipation, of what the Christmas period will look like for us all, but at least we will be able to have some kind of celebration with family. Thank you for your support with the many changes/guidelines that we have had to adhere to over the last few months. This has contributed to us ensuring a safe environment for all staff, pupils and parents. As you know, we are still in Tier 4 and therefore, we should continue to support this by maintaining the 2m social distance guideline, wearing a face covering when entering/exiting the school and avoiding gathering/blocking entrances/exits. Primary 1/2 parents can continue to come into the playground, however, please leave space for the other classes to pass safely, and if possible, please consider only 1 adult to collect your child/ren. 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 in avoiding spreading contamination.

We still have many parents who have not engaged with parent portal. I would strongly urge you to seek support with this, if you have not already done so. Mrs Mallon will be able to help you – it should take less than 5 minutes.

Kind regards

Jackie Aitken
Head Teacher

Pupil Voice



As you know, we are always looking to support our pupils and encourage them to have their opinions and points of view heard. In this regard, some of our older pupils have raised their concerns about not feeling safe because of parents gathering and not wearing masks when collecting their child/ren. They are in the process of preparing something to communicate their concerns. Please respect their requests.

We were extremely proud of our P5/6/7 pupils last month during Scottish Book Week, where they led activities with the younger children. They demonstrated responsibility, understanding and commitment to achieve success with this activity, adhering to all the safety guidelines. This was a particular challenge, to which they responded well.

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 and to have a lovely Christmas.

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. This area can be extremely busy at the start and end of the school day.

Online Safety



With children indoors and spending more time online during this period, it's important to continue to ensure they remain safe, particularly when on their devices. The following link has lots of useful activities to support your child with learning at home, as well as information as to staying safe.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=dd271ec52e-TUK_GLOBAL_12_11_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-dd271ec52e-64817325

You can also set parental controls to ensure your child does not access particular games that are not age appropriate. Given that there are frequent scenes of violence, *Fortnite* has been given a rating of 12 years and over, and *Among us* is recommended for aged 9 years and above. The impact of some of these online interactions, result in children using inappropriate vocabulary and physical aggressive towards their peers and adults.

Community News



LYPP: 'Here at LYPP we've unfortunately ground to a halt again with the change to Tier 4, meaning we are unable to continue with our Thursday football or Friday street work in the village. Whilst we don't know exactly when things may start back, our hope is that we'll still be able to see the young people again before Christmas, once restrictions ease. Please keep an eye on Facebook and Instagram pages for updates, as to any activities that we'll be able to relaunch in December or January, and share these with others.'

We're also pulling together the final elements of Bridgend Community newsletter, which should be delivered during week of 13 December. As restrictions ease, we hope that the young people in the village will take over the running of the newsletter, including editing, formatting, researching and delivery.

Finally, from all of us at LYPP, we want to thank you for your patience and kindness throughout 2020 and we look forward to a much more active 2021! We hope you have a happy Christmas and wonderful New Year! Graeme'.

Church news: 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. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2021!

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.

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.

Outdoor Learning



In addition to Mrs Blaikie's outdoor learning sessions, P3-P7 have had the advantage of 'Kids Gone Wild' being involved in promoting further interest and engagement with the great outdoors. The children have loved these sessions, although, we are mindful of them coming home very muddy. We would strongly urge that all children have a change of clothing in school, in order that they can be changed into clean, dry clothing. As previously highlighted, it is unfortunate that we are not able to provide a change of clothing, in current climate. Mrs Blaikie and Kids Gone Wild, have a range of risk assessments for all of the activities that the children engage in, with safety being paramount at all times. Some of our pupils will also be out and about in the local community with Outward Bound Trust, who are working in partnership with Inclusion and Wellbeing Service to provide support to Bridgend Primary. These sessions will take place on a Wednesday, starting in January, and once again, please ensure your child has extra clothing on this day. Details for PE/Outdoor learning are:

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

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

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

Every Monday: Kids Gone Wild

Every Wednesday: Outward Bound Trust

Some pupils had started to engage with West Lothian Youth Foundation in football sessions. However, once again, these have had to cease in line with current restrictions that come with Tier 4. We hope that these will resume in January/February 2021.

Medical/Health & Safety



New health procedures are coming into force as from January. The main change is that there should be a reduction of the number of forms that are required to be completed in order for us to meet your child's health care needs. That said, however, please ensure that you keep the school informed of any changes that affect your child. Further information is available by contacting Mrs Mallon in the school office.

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

I would encourage parents, if they have not already done so, to check out the Scottish Government resource: 'Parentclub'. There are lots of tips and advice to support you in coping with challenges at home. This website also shares information about the new changes to the law in regard to physically punishing children. The website details are: www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/coping-with-parenting

Nursery



We are shortly to have an early years student join us for a period of time and we look forward to welcoming Miss Watson into our Nursery. Our children have

particularly enjoyed exploring water, both indoors and outdoors. This means that they get wet, so please ensure your child has a change of clothing (or waterproofs) and footwear, clearly labelled with their name. The weather is turning colder, with a considerable drop in temperature. Once again, please ensure your child has a Winter hat and gloves. Please continue to support our nursery team by **not** bringing backpacks into our setting. You will be able to access lots of photos on your child's learning in their online learning journal. If you require assistance with this, please speak to your child's key worker in the first instance.

Can we stress please, that you adhere to your child's pick-up time. These times have been set to allow for a safe environment, adhering to COVID-19 guidelines and regulations. We appreciate that there may be times that this will cause an issue/concern, and we would request that you speak to a member of the nursery staff team to discuss further, as they are here to help. Please be mindful that these guidelines have been put in place across West Lothian, in consultation with Scottish Government advice, and therefore, it is not staff being awkward.

With regard to the afternoon session, please do not arrive prior to 1:15 pm. The staff team are involved in undertaking an enhanced cleaning regime of the environment to ensure safety measures are in place between both sessions, therefore, cannot let any child in prior to this time.

We would also like to thank you for your continued support in the successful return of our lending library. Resources are returned, as requested, to allow for the books to be quarantined for the identified time.

On Wednesday 16 December, we are hoping to celebrate Christmas. Further details of this will be issued in a separate letter, however, both morning and afternoon sessions will continue as normal.

Social Security Scotland have introduced a new benefit and this will open on Monday 15 February 2021. This is a payment for families on certain benefits or tax credits. Eligible families will get £40 for every four weeks for each child under the age of 6. More information can be found at mygov.scot/benefits or calling 0800 182 2222.

Active Schools

Please see link for Active Schools' Newsletter:

<https://sway.office.com/Es4V0hSAkQFBhVSo?ref=Link>. Our

Primary 5/6/7 pupils have been involved in the Young Leaders Programme with our Active School Co-ordinator, which promotes mentoring and leading playground games.

Festive Celebrations



Our Christmas lunch is on Thursday 10 December and the pupils can wear a Christmas jumper on this day.

Due to current measures being taken in school to minimise items going between home to school and other homes, we would request that pupils do not bring in cards to exchange with other pupils. If they so wish, they could bring one in for the class, and the teacher would then be able to display this.

As we are not able to hold the normal Christmas events, classes will have a party, albeit within their classrooms and limited games,

adhering to Government guidance and safety measures. The day will finish with an online virtual Pantomime, 'Cinderella'. This year, there will be no charge for any of these activities as the school will cover the costs. This will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 17 December and the children can change into party clothes.

Dates for your Diary



December

- 3 Columba 1400 (P5/6/7)
- 10 Christmas Lunch – wear a Christmas jumper/or something festive
- 16 Nursery Christmas celebrations
- 17 Christmas party day/Pantomime - Cinderella
- 18 End of Term

January

- 6 All resume



Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

