



Bridgend News

January 2021



Dear Parents/Carers

It's not quite the start to a new year that we had hoped for, however, we have some of our pupils in school, supporting them with their learning. With regard to remote learning, this is well underway and if you haven't done so already, please advise the school if you have any issues with regard to accessing devices or the internet as a matter of urgency. It is critical that your child engages with the 'live' sessions with their teachers and they 'attend' class lessons as part of the normal school day. Scottish Government are gathering information as to how every child is accessing and engaging to ensure progress of learning, and we need your support with this. If you have any issues or require support, please do not hesitate to contact us. Remember, Jordan our Family Support Worker is here with a wealth of resources, including training undertaken with Sleep Scotland and she will be able to help you.

Given the new variation of the virus, it is more important than ever that we adhere to the strict guidelines to avoid cross-contamination. We would ask for your support in reinforcing the importance of following instructions at all times.

Kind regards

Jackie Aitken
Head Teacher

Pupil/Parent Voice



A questionnaire has been sent out by the Local Authority to gather information on home learning. Please ensure you complete this before 27 January. We will be sending out our own school questionnaire, and once again, it is important that this is returned in order that we can respond accordingly.

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. We have not been able to hold an AGM this session, but as soon as we can, we will organise this.

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

It is also important that you set parental controls to ensure your child does not access particular games that are not age appropriate.

During the 'live' online sessions on Teams, it is important to be aware that others can see your background. We appreciate this is coming from your own home, however, please ensure that others are dressed appropriately.

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 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 January, and share these with others.'

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! 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.

Playbase: Our Monday Night Munch zoom sessions are starting again next week. These are really popular where we have healthy family cooking sessions together and then eat the meal). Our very popular zoom game sessions are also successful, one for families and one for the adults – this is a great way to keep us connected. I am also looking to do a wee Haggis Hunt for Burns Night.

I am looking to start a buddy system to promote health and wellbeing outside for the under 5's. Again, these are on a Monday. Please check out our facebook page or get in touch with myself, Leigh to get involved.

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



Kids Gone Wild are currently still able to operate on a Monday with our pupils. During these sessions, it is important that your child comes dressed for outdoor activities, wearing wellies, waterproofs (if possible) and warm clothing. It may be useful to have an additional set of clothing that is kept in school, just in case this is required.

Medical/Health & Safety



New health procedures are coming into force over the next few months. 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. This also includes ensuring that if you change your phone number, the school needs to have up-to-date records of this. Please remember to inform the school office.

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/corona-virus/coping-with-parenting

Please find attached an additional sheet where you can find a range of supports available to families during this challenging time.

Nursery



We have a new member of staff joining our team next week, Mrs Chapman.

Our staff team have been working really hard to be creative in providing lots of support at home. The 'borrow bags' have had positive feedback. This is all being carried out safely with the appropriate quarantine period in place and cleaning of all resources. This has been highlighted as good practice and shared across West Lothian Council.

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.

Dates for your Diary



January

6 All resume

February

15 Holiday

16 Holiday

17 All resume

