



# Bridgend News

September 2021



Dear Parents/Carers

We see a dip in temperature and Autumn has arrived. With this in mind, please ensure your child comes to school wearing a waterproof jacket to ensure they are kept warm and dry, when outdoors.

Once again numbers are on the increase with regard to COVID19 and we still need to ensure we are kept safe. To avoid any disruption, please continue to wear face coverings and keep a 2m distance. All hygiene procedures continue to be in place in school and this forms part of the normal daily routines.

As previously mentioned, we continue to focus on 'Respect' for the month of September. This is one of our values and we want to ensure high expectations are modelled across the school community. Ask your child what they have been doing in school to focus on 'respect' and we'd love to hear how well your child/ren have been doing with this at home.

Kind regards

Jackie Aitken  
Head Teacher

## Safe Arrivals



Attendance continues to be an issue for some of our pupils. Missed school mounts up quickly and 90% attendance can mean that your child has missed 1/2 a day

each week. Attendance is tracked and when it dips below 90% we are bound by council policy to make contact with you, by letter, to highlight low attendance. Where there is no improvement over several months, the school is bound to contact additional agencies for support.

If your child is not well enough to attend school, please contact the school office to advise by 9 am at the latest. In the event of your child not being at school and we do not have a response to the groupcall text sent, we will have to go through the safe arrivals procedures in line with West Lothian's guidelines.

## Parent Council



It would be great to have a parent gathering, maybe outside in our school gazebo. A groupcall text will be sent advising as to when this will happen and we would love you to join us to have a chat about life at school.

## Autism Awareness



Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder which can present with difficulties with social interactions, problems with speech and communication and issues with repetitive behaviours. No two people on the spectrum are the same. There can often be a misunderstanding of how behaviours are perceived or dealt with. It is important that we support all our young people in

becoming informed in understanding that we are all unique and different. This will form a large part of our curriculum this session. If this is something you would like more information on, or you have personal experience and feel you could offer support, then please contact us.

## Bikes/scooters



There are an increasing number of bikes/scooters being brought to school, which is great to support our children with their wellbeing. However, please support us by asking your child to park these safely as they can cause a trip hazard.

P5/6/7 have started their bikeability sessions and it has been encouraging to see them take all the safety measures, including the wearing of helmets, seriously.

## Leadership Roles



We always try to encourage our pupils to develop life skills and take on responsible roles across the school. In this regard, this year, we are looking to promote 'Value Wardens'. The Wardens will be issuing the children with 'Respect' tokens which will count towards house points and there will be an end of session celebration for the leading house.

We also have some vacancies within the school and again, we are encouraging our older children

to have the self-belief (another one of our school values) and put themselves forward for these roles. These include: Quality Control; Digital Technician; Playground Leaders; Hall/Corridor Monitors; Lunch hall Assistant and a Library Assistant.

### Maths Week



This year, maths week falls on 27 September to 1 October. We will be involved in lots of fun activities and this will be a great opportunity for you to ask your child what they have been learning.

### Bridgend Blether



We are still unable to hold events in the school for parents/carers to attend. However, we value you being involved in your child's learning and would like to trial this as a homework task. Your child will be supported in uploading some work onto their Seesaw/Teams page and this is something that you can talk about at home. There will be an opportunity to write feedback on this activity. This will be carried out on Monday 27 September, with a view to it being completed on 1 October.

### Wellbeing Indicators



The Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach, supports children and young people so that they can grow up feeling loved, safe and respected and can realise their full potential. Across the whole school community, every child should feel: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. These are the 8 wellbeing indicators

which can also be known as 'SHANARRI'.

These indicators help to make it easier for everyone involved with children, to discuss how they are feeling or doing at a particular point of time and to ensure they have the support, if required. Every child is unique and how their wellbeing is, may be influenced by experiences at that particular time. Throughout the school year, we carry out surveys and activities with your child, to provide them with an opportunity to talk about how they feel with regard to each of the indicators. If a child is not feeling particularly safe, for example, then they will be involved in a 'One Trusted Adult' conversation to support them in ensuring they feel safe at school. You may find it useful to use the language around the wellbeing indicators at home.

Within each newsletter, I will include some further details around each of the indicators to help you with this. Feeling Safe means:

- You feel protected from harm within your school and home and know when things are risky and try to stay away from danger.
- The people who care for you teach you how to protect yourself from harm and know who you are with and where you are when you go out.
- You are not scared when you go out and about in your local area.

### Bullying Behaviour



Raising awareness of bullying behaviour, also forms a large part of our curriculum in school. It is also an extremely topical issue at the moment, particularly in the

sporting world. It is important to highlight and gain an understanding of what bullying behaviour is.

Bullying affects lots of people and can happen anywhere, at school, coming to and from school, sporting events, friendships, family groups and in the workplace.

There is no set definition of 'bullying', however, the rule of thumb is that if the behaviour is carried out with intention to hurt someone – either emotionally or physically, or if it is aimed at certain people because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or any other aspect because of appearances or disability, then this can be deemed bullying behaviour. Bullying can take many forms, which includes: physical assault, social bullying, threatening behaviour, name calling and cyberbullying.

We have recently developed our Positive Relationships Blueprint and would now like to update our anti-bullying policy. If you would like to be included in this, please contact the school office in the first instance.



### September

- 3 Bikeability for P5/6/7 pupils
- 20 & 21 September holiday
- 23 All resume
- 27 Bridgend Blether (homework)

### October

- 8 Mid-Term break
- 18 In-Service for staff
- 19 School pupils resume

