



# Bridgend News

November 2021



Dear Parents/Carers

Following on from the mid-term break, we continue to focus on our value 'Friendship'. We are encouraging our children to be kind and how to value the qualities of being a good friend.

We have introduced our Bridgend Bletcher, albeit in a different format. The aim of this is to further develop the use of digital learning tools that were used successfully during the lockdown period.

We have been so careful with following Scottish Government guidelines and restrictions, and I would like to thank you for your continued support with this. We were not able to hold a Halloween party or gathering this year, but hopefully, this will take place next year, with parent's support/input, as well as many other school events.

We organised a 'drop-in Café' so that we could chat about how we can support you in being involved in your child's learning and what additional support you would like from the school and Jordan, our Family Support Worker. We had a few parents/carers attend and we hope to run these meetings on a monthly basis, with a maximum of 6 parents/carers. If you would like to attend, please contact Mrs Mallon. Our next session is on Friday 3 December @ 10.15 am.

Kind regards

Jackie Aitken  
Head Teacher

## Health & Wellbeing



There continues to be a significant focus on support for our mental health. Last month we shared some ideas and links on a website, and we would like to share this again. This can be found at:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-mental-health/looking-after-your-mental-health>

## Anti-Bullying



We are continuing to raise awareness of what bullying behaviour is and promoting our anti-bullying strategies to support our pupils. We use NSPCC resources to support us with this and details can be found at [nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://nspcc.org.uk/speakout). This is a focus at the start of every new term to reinforce important messages and expectations with regard to tackling bullying issues. There are also lots of useful links to support with online safety.

## Financial Support



Information on how to seek financial support, which is available to everyone, can be obtained, confidentially, by telephoning 0800 328 0006. Further details can be found at [capuk.org](http://capuk.org).

West Lothian Council's Advice Shop are also there to help. Families can speak to an adviser who can check benefit entitlement, provide help with claims, assist

with budgeting support, energy and debt advice. To speak to an adviser, call 01506 283000 or email

[advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:advice.shop@westlothian.gov.uk),  
[www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice shop](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice shop)

## Nursery



We have been talking lots about our emotions and feelings. We have been using the story 'The Colour Monster' to help us learn about happiness, sadness, anger, fear, calmness and love. At the start of every session we ask children to identify how they are feeling as part of their self-registration.

Over the past few weeks our children have been interested in babies; how to care for them and role-playing 'families'. Whilst participating in these experiences, our children are developing their imagination and language skills.

Our children love to spend time outdoors every day. As the weather is now getting chillier, we would be grateful if you could ensure your child has a waterproof coat, wellies, hat and gloves each day (all items should be name labelled). We have a supply of waterproof trousers in nursery, however you are welcome to provide your own.

## Wellbeing Indicators



We continue to raise awareness of the 8 wellbeing indicators, Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected,

Responsible and Included. We have provided information on Safe and Healthy. This month's indicator that we would like to share information on is 'Achieving'. This also falls under UNCRC Articles 4, 8, 28 & 29. Article 4 – Rights are Real, Article 8 – right to an identify (name and nationality), Article 28 – right to an education and Article 29 – right to become the best that you can be.

This means that all children are supported and guided in learning and in the development of skills, confidence and self-esteem, at home, in school and in the community.

Being a Scottish Attainment Challenge School, we continue to strive for the highest achievement for all our learners and ensure they have access to a wide range of learning experiences.

LYPP and staff are providing free after school clubs which are going well. We have just started our second block of Lego Club and first Adventure Club. BPS also have a Coding Club, badminton, Hockey, Multisport club, however, uptake is low. Please encourage your child to attend as this is something where they can develop another skill. If numbers are too low, then we may have to cancel some of the clubs.

We are extremely fortunate to have small numbers in our classes, which ensures a high quality focus on achieving in literacy and numeracy. We will continue to keep you informed of your child's progress and continue to celebrate success.

### Book Week Scotland




This year, Book Week Scotland falls on 15-21 November.

During this week, our P1 to P3 pupils will be bringing home their Read, Write Count Bags with lots

of activities and resources to support with literacy and numeracy and details can be found at: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/home-activities>. Mr McKechnie, our Literacy Champion, has organised an Author visit for storytelling session to launch our new school library. This is set for Tuesday 16 November.

Friday 19 November is also Children in Need day as well as the end of our Book Week Scotland. This can be a dress up/dress down day, if your child wishes to do so.

### Christmas Events

 We may not be able to have you physically in to join us for our infant nativity again this year, however, we are looking to build on the success of our virtual nativity, last year. Details will be sent out with regard to this for our P1/2 parents.

Our Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 15 December. Once again, if your child wishes to wear a Christmas or winter themed jumper, then they can do so.

The Christmas party day will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday 21 December. Parties will be held in classrooms, but a timetabled slot will be identified to go to the gym hall for games. Children will be able to change into their party clothes after lunch.

### Playground & outdoor learning

The children are enjoying using the mud kitchen in our playground, however, we appreciate that 'mud' is messy! We do provide the children with aprons and encourage them to wear old clothes on the week that their class have been allocated this area.

With regard to outdoor learning, Kids Gone Wild are in on a Wednesday, and once again, we encourage your child to come in old clothing on these days. The school has a supply of waterproof clothing and wellies, which are distributed before this activity, however, they are out and about in the local environment, regardless of the weather conditions.

### UNCRC



Scottish Government have incorporated UNCRC Rights into a

Bill to ensure children are fully aware of and their voice is heard with regard to their rights. Our school has gained Bronze Award for Rights Respecting School and we need your support on our journey towards Silver status. We are looking to set up a group, involving parents. Once again, if you are interested in being part of this, please let us know.

### Community News



LYPP: Here at LYPP we have relaunched a new and exciting programme for young people of all ages at Bridgend to take part in, both in the school and in the community. We have restarted our 1:1 mentoring and lunchtime games club for P6/7s. We have also started our Lego Club. Within the community, our Wednesday evening football project (including crafts, games and baking) have also got off to a fantastic start with many young people showing their more caring, kind and respectful side. At LYPP, our aim is to bring 'hope to young people' and we hope to do this by building strong, fun relationships with those who want to get involved. If you want to find out more about us or our activities, then please get in touch, either via facebook 'LYPP Linlithgow' or by emailing [graeme@lypp.org.uk](mailto:graeme@lypp.org.uk).

**DIARY DATES**

15 Book Week Scotland

26 Flu vaccine – school

**December**

15 Christmas lunch

21 Christmas party day

22 End of Term

**January**

5 In-Service Day

Nursery resumes

6 **Pupils resume**

