



Bridgend News

December 2021

December

Dear Parents/Carers

It was inevitable, however, it took 18 months before the school was affected by positive cases of COVID19. I would like to reassure all parents/carers that tight procedures continue within the school in line with Scottish Government guidelines and restrictions. We have reverted back to bubbles and zones to ensure we minimise risk. Enhanced cleaning continues to take place daily in line with West Lothian Council's cleaning protocol and additional cleaning, twice weekly. Good hygiene measures are well embedded into daily routines within the school for all staff and pupils.

Our next 'parents' café/information session' will have to be postponed in light of our additional restrictions. However, we hope to resume this in the New Year, 28 January @ 10:15 am. We will send out an electronic Form for parents to complete, to ascertain definite numbers/interest in attending.

As you are aware, we continue to do our best to keep activities 'normal' for our children with ongoing and ever changing restrictions. Information with regard to these activities, has been sent out separately.

All that is left is for me to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards

Jackie Aitken
Head Teacher

Staffing



Jordan, our Family Support Worker has accepted a new role in another school. She is due to start this in January. We are sure that you will join us in wishing Jordan every success in her new position and a huge thank you for all the support that she has provided to the school, parents and pupils of Bridgend Community. We will miss her very much. We will keep you informed once we have information from Action for Children with regard to a replacement.

We are delighted to advise that Miss McAllister will be joining us from 29th November, and will be in school every Monday, to deliver PE. Please ensure your child comes dressed in their school tracksuit every Monday and Wednesday.

Miss Chapman is extending her time and she will be joining us every Wednesday in school. Miss Chapman will be working with groups of children to develop a range of skills, including social skills, resilience and promoting positive health & wellbeing.

Engineering Project



We have been extremely fortunate to be included in an exciting project with Heriot-Watt University. This is aimed at our Nursery, P1/2 and P3/4/5 stages. The children will be taking part in lots of exciting play activities, led

by a group of Engineers to develop their knowledge and skills in this area.

Financial Support



This is an extremely difficult time of year for everyone, emotionally and financially. I would like to signpost families to information on how to seek financial support. This is available to everyone and can be obtained confidentially, by telephoning 0800 328 0006. Further details can be found at 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,
www.westlothian.gov.uk/advice-shop

Nursery



Christmas excitement is starting to build up in Nursery. We have been making 'sweetie' decorations for the school Christmas tree that will be on display during the 'Festival of Christmas Trees' at St Michael's church. Their colourful sweetie creations are beautiful. We have also been decorating our own nursery Christmas tree and starting to talk about what Christmas means to us. More information about our Christmas celebrations will follow in the coming weeks.

Many of our children have been enjoying school lunches. We aim to make this a relaxed social experience, which is also a fantastic opportunity to try a range of foods. We would encourage you to support this option as much as possible.

Winter is definitely upon us and we would be grateful if you could ensure your child has a waterproof coat, wellies, hat and gloves each day. Please ensure your child's name is clearly labelled on their clothing. It's also a good idea to provide an extra jumper or hoodie, along with your child's spare clothes.

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.

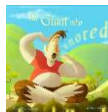
This month's indicator that we would like to share information on is 'Nurtured'. This means 'having a nurturing place to live in a family setting with additional help, if needed, or where possible in a suitable care setting.

In school we help to make your child feel welcome, supported and provide a stimulating environment in which they can grow.

This Indicator falls under UNCRC Articles 4, 5, 18, 20, 21, 25 & 27. **Article 5** – Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents/carers to direct and guide their children as they grow up so that they can enjoy their rights properly. **Article 18** - Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children as they should always think about what is best for each child, **Article 20** – If a child cannot be looked after by their family, governments must make sure that

they are looked after properly by people who respect the child's religion, culture and language, **Article 21** – If a child is adopted, the first concern must be what is best for the child, **Article 25** – If a child lives away from home, they have a right to regular check of the way they are treated or cared for, **Article 27** – Every child has a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical, social and mental needs. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

Book Week Scotland



We had a visit from Edinburgh author, Mike Nicholson, who has written many books, some being Museum Mystery Squad, Catscape, Edinburgh, City of Genius, to name a few. The children engaged in exciting workshops and carried out additional writing activities in the class. Mrs Lauder also was successful in entering a prize draw where we will be getting free books from Mike for the class library – well done Mrs Lauder!

Christmas Events



Details have been sent out separately with regard to all the Christmas activities taking place in school.

We are hoping to attend 'The Larder' on Friday 17 December with a small group of children to sing Christmas Carols within our local community.

Playground & outdoor learning



Kids Gone Wild are in on Wednesdays and you will receive a groupcall text reminding parents to ensure their child comes dressed for outdoor activities on that day. In school, we have a supply of waterproofs and wellies which are also distributed, if required. These sessions will go ahead regardless of the weather.

Feedback from everyone participating has been extremely positive and this reinforces what a fabulous 'green space' we have in and around Bridgend.

Community News



Well we've finally reached the end of 2021 and it's been amazing to see a more regular programme being filled by the young people of the village. Since the Summer, we've had 59 young people at our community projects including football, games, crafts and a youth volunteering programme and run our Adventure Club, Games Club, Lego Club and mentoring in the school. Our final week for events in Bridgend will be 13 December and expect to restart on 12 January 2022. From all here at LYPP, we hope you have a fantastic Christmas and restful New Year! Graeme.

DIARY DATES



December

- 15 Christmas lunch
- 21 Christmas party day
- 22 End of Term

January

- 5 In-Service Day
- Nursery resumes
- 6 Pupils resume

February

- 2 P7 tour/Linlithgow Academy
- 14 & 15 February Mid-Term Break
- 16 All resume

