



# Bridgend News

January 2022



Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely festive break and enjoyed some family time.

We have returned to school with continued restrictions in place. There is a hold on after school clubs, which involves mixing classes, until further notice. We will inform you as soon as these restrictions are eased in order that clubs can resume.

In the meantime, please continue to support us by ensuring that national guidelines are followed. Entry to the school building should be by appointment only, adhere to the 2m social distancing and wear a mandatory face covering in and around the school grounds.

Attendance/lateness is an ongoing concern. Missed school mounts up quickly and is closely monitored. As a parent, you are responsible for getting your child to school on time and making sure your child develops the habit of regular attendance. We are bound by Local Authority Policy, to ensure we communicate attendance/lateness issues with you, particularly when attendance falls below an acceptable level. Can I please emphasize that parents/carers contact Mrs Mallon by 9 am each day to advise us as to why your child is absent and provide a reason for this.

Kind regards

Jackie Aitken  
Head Teacher

## Staffing



We are still waiting to hear from Action for Children with regard to Jordan's replacement. We understand that they are currently going through their checks and necessary paperwork and hope to advise us shortly with regard to a start date.

## Free Bus Travel/Meals



As from 31 January, all children and young people aged between 5-21 years are entitled to free bus travel across Scotland. The quickest way to apply for children from 5-10 years is through the Parent Portal. Cards can also be applied for at: <https://getyournec.scot/nec/> You can also contact the school to organise an application form.

January 2022 also sees the roll out of free school meals for all P5 pupils. This means that Nursery through to Primary 5 have an option of a hot school lunch Monday-Thursday and a packed lunch every Friday.

## Financial Support



Following on from the festive period, this can put additional financial strain on families. Remember that there are many ways to seek additional support or advice 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)

## Early Years



The children have been showing an interest in looking at their online learning journals in nursery. They love showing their friends and staff photos from home. Please continue to update them regularly.

Reminder to all parents - If someone else is going to be collecting your child please let the nursery staff know as soon as possible. Even if the adult who is collecting your child is on your pickup list, please ensure the nursery staff know this in advance.

## 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 'Active'.


To be active, children should exercise, play, dance, take part in

games, go on outdoor adventures. They should have opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities that contribute to healthy growth and development and be encouraged to do this on a regular basis.

In school, Mrs Blaikie supports the class teachers with outdoor learning, building on the valuable experiences from their early years. We also value input from Kids Gone Wild and this will resume again after the Easter break.

We encourage our pupils to look at being 'active' in many different ways, as well as many sporting activities, such as football, golf, tennis and gymnastics.


### Health/Medical

 Should your child have any symptoms of COVID19, please ensure you adhere to national guidelines of self-isolating and booking a PCR test through [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot). Symptoms include new continuous cough, high temperature or a loss of, change in normal sense of taste or smell.

Please also remember to check your child's head for head lice on a regular basis.

Another signpost to Scottish Government's digital resource which support families with a wide range of tips and advice, including staying calm and dealing with challenging/difficult behaviour.: [www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/coping-with-parenting](http://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/coping-with-parenting)


### Online Safety

 Upon our return to school, we have been made aware of several incidents over the holiday period where pupils have not been using the internet responsibly. Please ensure that you supervise your child's use of


sites, particularly if they are accessing ones that are not age appropriate. Information can be found at the following two sites: <https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/securing-key-accounts-devices/parental-controls/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>


### Learning Overview

 This term, we will be sharing our 'Windows into Learning' overview of what is happening in each class. These will be with you by Friday of this week. We hope you find this useful.

### Book Week Scotland

 We received a considerable donation of books to have a book swap during Book Week Scotland back in November. However, this is when COVID19 hit our village and we decided to postpone this event until more people could be involved. We received some adult books and given current restrictions, we will send these to The Larder in order that adults can pick up a book there.

### Community News

 "Happy New Year! This year, LYPP are excited to get back in to Bridgend and continue our clubs and events both in the school and the community. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we can't get back to normal yet. This means that for the next few weeks, our Wednesday evenings will be based completely outdoors on the kick pitch for both the primary and secondary sessions and focus on football. We'd love to see you all with us, however, due to the weather, we may need

to cancel last minute. Please check beforehand that we're definitely running and dress appropriately if you do come down. Within the school, one to one support will continue, however, unfortunately our Lego and Adventure clubs won't be able to start yet either. As soon as we can return to indoors working, we will and we look forward to seeing you soon and throughout 2022! Graeme."

### DIARY DATES



#### January

- 5 In-Service Day  
Nursery resumes
- 6 **Pupils resume**  
Scottish focus for learning

#### February

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

#### March

- 10 Parent Consultations
- 14 British Science Week

