

Newsletter

- For staff, parents, carers and the local community -

**August
2020**

WELCOME BACK

I hope you have all had a restful holiday and been able to catch up with family and friends.

I am delighted to welcome the children back and give a special welcome to the new Primary 1 children and those who have joined the school in other classes. I hope all of the children are looking forward to the new year and getting back to school, albeit in a more unusual way. Staff have been working hard to ensure that they provide a positive, interesting educational experience for their pupils despite the restrictions placed upon us all due to COVID-19.

There have been one or two staff changes from last year. We are delighted to be able to welcome Mrs Gail Ramsay to our team. She has been appointed as our Support Staff Team Leader and will be a valuable asset to the school. The updated staff list is as follows:

Nursery Teacher	Mrs Anne Coubrrough (Mon, Tues) Mrs Kirsty Bailie (Thur, Fri)
Early Years Team Leader	Miss Lesley Stewart
Early Years Workers	Ms Lesley Cairns Mrs Lorna Shaw Mrs Kate Stuart
Primary 1/2	Mrs Anne Smart (Mon, Tues, alternate Wed) Mrs Lynn McLeod-Kerr (alternate Wed, Thur, Fri)
Primary 2/3	Mrs Lisa McRae
Primary 3/4/5	Miss Linzi Stewart
Primary 5/6	Miss Maigan Reid Mrs Sharon Alexander (Principal Teacher)
Primary 6/7	Miss Morgan Smith

CCC and learning support throughout the school will be covered by Mrs Sharon Goodwin.

Support Staff:

Office	Mrs Gail Ramsay (Support Staff Team Leader)
Primary 2/3 and 3/4/5	Mrs Helen Cochrane
Primary 5/6	Mrs Karen Shearer
Primary 6/7	Mrs Elizabeth Scott
Office and P1/2	Mrs Tracy Porteous

The above classes are where Support Staff will start off the session but due to recent changes in planning they may move elsewhere in the school.

Should you have any queries or concerns regarding your child please speak to their class teacher in the first instance. They are the person who knows your child best and who is most likely to be able to answer your questions. If, however, you feel that the class teacher has been unable to deal with your query/concern please feel free to contact me.

Given the current circumstances we would ask that you do not come to school to speak to a member of staff unless you have an appointment. We aim to keep visitors to a minimum.

Please put a note in your child's home-school planner or give us a phone. A member of staff will phone you back if needed.

Achieved Rights Respecting School Award

June 2010



Achieved Fairtrade School Award

June 2010



Achieved Gold Health Promoting School Award

June 2007

and

Achieved Health Promoting Nursery Gold Award



WEBSITE

Please visit our website where you will find lots more information including photos

<http://www.carnwath-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/wordpress/>



NEED TO CONTACT SOMEONE OR MAKE A COMPLAINT?

School Contact

Head Teacher: Pamela L. Easton
Phone: 01555 840263

Principal Teacher: Sharon Alexander
Email: office@carnwath-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk



Parent Council Chairperson

David Knox-Welsh
Phone: 01555 840263 and your contact details will be passed on

GENERAL INFORMATION

Short Phased Return

All schools will re-open on 11th August	
Tuesday, 11th August	In-service day for staff
Wednesday, 12th August	Primary 1 only
Thursday, 13th August	Primary 1/2, 2/3 and 3/4/5 only
Friday, 14th August	Primary 5/6, and 6/7 only
Monday 17th August	All P1 - P7 children return

Children will attend 9am till 3pm. Once we see how things go during the first week we will decide whether we need to have a staggered start and finish time to allow the maintenance of social distancing. I'll let you know about that nearer the time.

Nursery children will return following the pattern of attendance that parents were given, by letter, at the end of June.

Breakfast Club and Lunchtime



Please note that the Breakfast Club will not run at the beginning of term but will be re-introduced at a later date.

Toast n' Go will run but in a different way than normal. Toast will be offered to the children at 9am once they are in class. This is a free service as it has always been.

Lunchtime arrangements will be as normal with children able to have a school lunch or they are welcome to bring a packed lunch. P1-3 lunches will be free as is the norm. Parents of children in P4-7 who are not eligible for free meals should pay by ParentPay in the usual way. Thank you.

School Uniform

We would be grateful if all children could attend school wearing the correct uniform. This identifies the children as our pupils and makes them all look very smart. Initially we would suggest that your child wear their school poloshirt and sweatshirt with black trousers, jogging bottoms or leggings. This will allow them to be more comfortable while outside for gym and other activities. Please note jeans are not appropriate for school. School uniform can be purchased through ParentPay at any time of the year. Please feel free to ask if you need assistance. You are also very welcome to buy non branded uniform from any shop.

Please note that your child will not initially need gym shoes to change into but would perhaps like to wear black trainers to allow them to run around more comfortably in the playground. These will also be worn for gym at the beginning of term.

We realise that some children will be nervous about coming back to school and that they may want to wear a mask. Your child is welcome to do so should they, or you, wish.

I would also be grateful if all items of clothing could have your child's name marked on them. This allows us to find and give back lost items.

Drop off / Pick up of Children

During the first week of school there will be plenty staff in the playground to support your child to find their class and enter by the correct door. All children will be using their classroom outside door to enter. If you or your child are unsure where to go please just ask - we are always willing to help!

In order to minimise the amount of adults around the school grounds and gates we would request that you consider your child walking or cycling to school. If you are walking with them we would be grateful if you could perhaps let them walk the last wee bit to school themselves and arrange a pick up point with them which is not right at the school gate (assuming your child is old enough to be walking to school by themselves in a safe way). Adults who are coming into the school grounds, eg nursery, P1, are reminded that they should maintain a 2m distance from other adults, including staff. If this is difficult our advice would be to wear a face covering where possible.

I would ask that you do not bring children to school by car since the car park will be closed to parents and there is limited parking in the streets surrounding the school. Perhaps if you need to use a car you could consider a park and stride approach; parking slightly further away and walking the final bit of the route. We will re-visit the car park being closed once we see how things are working.

Unfortunately the parents of our new Primary 1 children will not be able to take them into class on their first day. If you take them round to the back of the school their teacher will meet them at the door and show them into the class. I am aware that you like to have a 'first day' photo but their teachers will ensure that one is taken during the day and you will be given a copy in due course.

Entering School Building

Although we expect children to be in school by 9am if your child arrives after the doors are shut they must enter the building by their classroom door. They will no longer be able to enter by the main entrance. School gates will be shut and locked during the day when children are in school. We would ask that children arrive at school as close to 9am as possible and do not arrive early.

Home Time

Please ensure your child knows where they are going after school. There is not always someone in the office to take a message at the end of the day and we want to ensure that your child is kept safe and does not go to the wrong place. Feel free to write in their home-school planner if you feel they will forget what to do.

Medication

If your child requires medication during the school day I would be grateful if you could go to the office to fill in the appropriate forms. Please be aware that we will only allow one parent in the bubble at the main entrance so we would ask for your patience while this process is carried out. We are unable to administer medication without a current form being completed and signed by a parent/carer. I would also be grateful if an adult could deliver any medication to the office rather than ask a child to bring it with them. Medicines must be brought in their original packaging with the chemist's sticker with your child's name and the correct dosage on it. The first dose of any new medication **must** be given at home rather than in school.

Finance

In line with South Lanarkshire Council's financial procedures we are now using ParentPay to allow parents to pay for school meals, trips etc. If at any time you need a card to use at a PayPoint then please contact Mrs Ramsay who will be happy to arrange this for you. Very occasionally we may collect money but this is usually when we are doing charity events. If your child is new to the school they will not initially have access to ParentPay but we will set this up for them.

In line with current guidance there will be no trips organised for the children. For those of you with a child in Primary 7 I will discuss the Lockerbie Residential trip with both Lockerbie and South Lanarkshire Council and will let you know how they suggest we proceed. At that point your views will also be sought.

Assemblies

Assemblies will take on a different look when we come back since the children will not all be able to go to the hall. We are currently looking at ways to use Google Meet so that all classes can take part. We will trial this approach once the children have started back full time.

Electronic Devices

I would be grateful if you would remind your child that electronic devices, eg mobile phones, tablets, apple watches, are not allowed to be brought to school.

Health and Safety Information

The health and safety of all children and staff is important to us and I want to reassure you that we have a range of different measures in place to support this:

- *Children will be asked regularly to wash or sanitise their hands, including when they come into the school in the morning, and to avoid touching their face
- *Classes will be kept separate from each other, where possible, during playtime, lunch, learning and other activities
- *There will be good ventilation throughout the school with windows open throughout the school day (an extra sweatshirt or layer may be advisable on colder days)
- *School uniform should be washed regularly, as normal
- *South Lanarkshire Council have introduced enhanced cleaning, throughout the school, during the day
- *All adults will observe the 2m social distancing rule, including with children. Where staff are unable to support a child while maintaining social distancing for a prolonged period of time they will wear a face covering

COVID-19 symptoms

If your child has any of the symptoms related to COVID-19:

- *New continuous cough
- *Fever / high temperature
- *Loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

DO NOT send them to school. Should your child develop any symptoms while at school you will be asked to pick them up quickly in order to minimise the risk to others. It is therefore vital that contact details are kept up to date.

Thank you very much for your help with all of the above matters. If you have any specific questions about the arrangements please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

NEW BEHAVIOUR POLICY



We have previously used a 'Good to be Green' behaviour system in school however we felt that we needed to have a new approach which builds on our high expectations of the children. As a result we are introducing an approach that sits well within our work to become a nurturing school. Your child will receive a letter with more information at the start of the new term. I would ask you to note however that **during these times of social distancing the 'choice of greeting' will not be offered in the normal way.**

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

I look forward to a very busy year for staff and pupils. We have a very full Improvement Plan in place for the coming session which will help us develop our practice in order to help every child reach their potential. As part of our improvement agenda I look forward to engaging with all parents/carers in order to ensure that your opinions and ideas are taken into account.

Each year the school produces an Improvement Plan which must follow guidelines set by South Lanarkshire Council but be relevant to Carnwath Primary School and Nursery Class as well as the Biggar Learning Community. It's aim is to improve the quality of learning and teaching, the environment in which the children learn and the work we do with parents as partners in their child's education.

The main areas of development for this year are literacy, in particular writing, and Health and Wellbeing. Due to the lockdown and the impact this may have had on our children we will have a particular focus on Health and Wellbeing at the start of term.

PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Please note:

Most of our communication with parents uses:



our parental App which can be downloaded from the app store on your phone/tablet

and our website: <http://www.carnwath-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/wordpress/>

We rarely send letters home with the children. Any further information will be issued on the app and website.

If you would like to access the Scottish Government document about school returns it is available online at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020/>

Additional parent information is also available on the National Parent Forum at:

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/07/23/back-to-school-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/>



EDUCATION SERVICES
Executive Director: Tony McDaid
Carnwath Primary School: Head Teacher - Pamela L. Easton