



# Community Connections

Issue 11/20, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Hello from Mrs Gillespie

Hello everyone. I sincerely hope that the last few days have provided an opportunity for you and your family to have a bit of down time, away from your learning at home routines. I have certainly benefitted and feel reenergised and ready for the remainder of this term.

We are of course, approaching Spring – though admittedly the snow we are currently experiencing is very wintry! But the lighter mornings and slightly longer days, the emergence of snowdrops and resurgence of early morning birdsong all confirm that Spring is definitely on the way, traditionally representing of course, new life and hope.

So what have we got to feel hopeful about and to look forward to? The answer is quite a lot!

First of all, following the recent Scottish Government announcement, we are hoping that it won't be long before our youngest learners in the nursery and in Primaries 1 – 3 are back in our school building. This is an exciting thought and we are busy preparing for this. We are hopeful that the rest of our pupils won't be too far behind.

Our building is getting a lick of paint, starting in our classrooms, which will spruce things up and hopefully give us a bit of a lift.

Work has commenced in some of our outdoor spaces which we hope will give our Nursery children a more enriching outdoor experience. The welcome addition of a potting shed will also benefit school pupils in due course.

We have taken delivery of some new modern languages resources, and some outdoor play equipment for our Primary 7 pupils is on the way, all of which will enhance the delivery of our curriculum. So despite some challenging days, it is clear we have things to look forward to and to feel hopeful about – and that's got to be a good thing!

## Get to know our staff...

Mrs Fay Robertson, Early Years Education and Childcare Officer



### What I am grateful for

I am grateful for my family and friends.

### Interests

My interests are walking, reading and swimming.

### Favourite Food

I like salmon, especially when served with new potatoes and veg! I am partial to a bit of chocolate too...

### Places to Visit

I like to visit the Outer Hebrides – I just love it there.

### What I'm learning

At the moment I am learning more about play pedagogy and effective observations in the nursery setting.

### What I'm reading and watching

I am reading Play is the Way and I am watching The Stranger on Netflix

### Something quirky about me

I understand Gaelic though don't speak it very well. I also used to be an air hostess many years ago!

## Learning Matters...

Whilst we anticipate nursery and Primary 1, 2 and 3 children returning very soon, pupils in Primaries 4 – 7 pupils will continue with remote learning for a little while longer yet. We are developing our approaches all the time and are striving to provide rich and meaningful experiences to ensure continuity of learning. We know from parental feedback and analysis of our data that engagement is better on days where we have live sessions, though interestingly, not all pupils enjoy the experience. We are, however, increasing the number of live sessions; the Monday and Thursday Sessions will remain at the fixed times already in place and class teachers will inform their own classes of additional sessions via their class Teams page.

It is so important that all children, whether working from digital assignments or paper packs, access their team daily to check in and to ensure they are aware of any sessions scheduled. We also know that many pupils are finding the suggested weekly timetable helpful and this will be provided by teachers to provide structure to the week. Thank you for supporting home learning. Please contact the school if you have any queries or require any assistance in supporting your child to complete tasks. Thank you.

Once the nursery children and P1, 2 and 3 pupils return, the Critical Childcare and Supported Access to Remote Learning Hubs will change from being three separate entities to being one P4 – P7 provision, forming a new bubble. We expect that this will take effect from Monday 22nd February.

In the annual calendar sent home last September, we indicated that our Parent / Teacher Meetings and Pupil Reports were timed for March. The year has obviously not gone according to plan, and so, following consultation with our Parent Partnership, we have taken the decision to move written Pupil Reports to May, with Parent / Teacher meetings remaining in the Spring term and taking place during the week beginning 15th March. At the moment it is highly likely that these meetings will again be conducted by telephone as in November. Further information will follow.

## Health and Wellbeing Matters...

Mrs Cushnahan

As explained in our last edition of Community Connections, we are focusing on each of the Wellbeing Indicators over the remainder of the term.

In the last issue we focused on Safe; this time we will look more closely at Healthy.

Here are some things we think about when we hear the word 'healthy':

Physical health - looking after our bodies by attending hospital appointments and dental appointments. Seeking medical help if required.

Mental health - feeling good about ourselves and being open about feelings. Also connecting with others and sharing our experiences.

Exercise and a good diet – eating a variety of foods in moderate amounts and keeping our bodies active.

Having a healthy environment – a safe place which is smoke free and clean.

Healthy emotional environment – being able to talk openly in a supportive environment and to seek advice and help if needed.

Good relationships with people – having supportive people around us who will boost our self-esteem and reassure us.

Having freedom – the element of choice about what we want to do.

Having rights to opinions – being able to share our feelings and to know that these are respected.

It is clear to see that many of these ideas overlap as well as often merging with the other Wellbeing indicators. As adults we have the responsibility to ensure we are enjoying all of these elements of being 'healthy' as well as helping others around us to feel healthy. Parents have the important job of providing and supporting these opportunities and to model good practice. In school we have a responsibility to educate about healthy choices for body and mind, as well as discussing daily about the importance of relationships and supporting others.

Working as a team in our school community and in partnership with our health agencies, we desire for our children to be healthy adults of the future.

## School Matters...

### Staffing

We are pleased to welcome Miss Tracy Clark to our Support Staff Team. Tracy will be with us until June 2021 and will work alongside our teachers and existing team to provide support to children as they return to school.

### Ground Works

As already indicated, ground works in the nursery outdoor spaces have commenced – take a look!



## Family Matters...

Please remember that we have a large selection of school uniform garments in our uniform bank. Whilst we recognise that there is not such a great need for school uniform items at present, please do not hesitate to contact us if you need something in particular and we will try to find a match. Please remember to quarantine any items once they are sent home.

If there are any other matters that we can support you with, or if you just need a listening ear, then please call and ask to speak to Mrs Gillespie or Mrs Cushnahan. We have access to various avenues of support, from very practical items such as food, clothing and toiletries, to more cognitive and emotional supports such as advice helplines and family support.

Remember that unlike last time, there is a presence in the school every day and we are here to help in whatever way we can. No problem is too small and we can usually find some way to help, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

## Nursery Matters...

Mrs Milligan

### Hello!

We hope you are all well and we are looking forward to seeing our children back at nursery soon.

The work on the outdoor area started on Tuesday 9th (see photographs above) and should be finished by the end of the week. We are waiting for our outdoor shelter and various other resources which will complete the area. We also have the use of the garden area within the school grounds which will house our potting shed and become our growing and planting space for nursery and school children to enjoy. Exciting times!!!

### Information

As the number of children in our nursery has increased, we have been thinking about making small changes to how the children enter and leave from nursery. The changes that we propose to make are to ensure the safety of the children and to help us adhere to Covid guidelines.

We propose to have the children coming into nursery one at a time, with a member of staff at the pitch gate welcoming the children in rather than all the staff out waiting for groups of children. This will allow the children to have more space and time to get changed in the cloakroom area and more hands-on deck! When the children leave from nursery, we will take the children in their groups into the pitch, to an allocated area which will be colour coordinated with their nursery group. We would ask that whoever is picking up the children, be positioned in the coloured area of your child's group.

An email will go out next week with more details along with a video of instructions to give you a better understanding, and we will be making phone calls next week to check in and answer any questions you may have.

## Outgoing Correspondence

01.02.21	WBPS Remote Learning Plan (P1-7)	email
01.02.21	WBPS and NC Remote Learning Policy Jan 2021	email
01.02.21	Letter to families – Remote Learning - February 2021	email
05.02.21	Questionnaire for Nursery families	email

05.02.21	V2 Primary Menu Feb21-March 21	email
05.02.21	WB Nursery - Learning at Home - 11.01.21 (2)	email
11.02.21	Questionnaire for Nursery families - new link	email

Thank you to you all for your on-going support.