



Dirleton Primary School

Dream it, Live it, Achieve it



# School Newsletter

The priorities for session 20/21 are:

- Review pupil Health & wellbeing & re-establish relationships across the school & wider community
- Recover a consistent whole school approach to learning, teaching and assessment of learning
  - Re-connect with parents/carers to re-establish family learning and partnerships
  - Re-Imagine & develop approaches to support high quality play

November 2020

Dear Parents

*A reminder for all children to wear warm jackets and coats to enjoy playtimes at this time of year. It's cold outside!*

As we approach the last month of this unusual year we use this November newsletter to provide a few updates and some



### Scottish Government - Revised Guidance

The most recently revised guidance on reducing the risks of Covid 19 in schools can be found at the following link.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/>

Updated guidance for local protection levels can be found here

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/>

I have also attached a link to 'Parent Club' which will clarify the guidance in a more concise manner.

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus>

### Moving Forward

As we approach the last month of this first term I would like to thank you for your continued support and patience over the last while. We are reviewing on a weekly basis the needs of our school community during these unprecedented times and are slowly trying to amend our approach to suit the needs of all. As has been communicated previously, the health & wellbeing of the children, staff and families have been prioritised since our return to the school building and that has meant a staggered 'drop off' and 'pick up' has been necessary to avoid congestion at our one entrance/exit point, this has worked well and supported a very settled start to a very different year. Since the introduction of a hot food option

we have now amended the start and finish times and encourage all families to present their children at the correct time for their particular class where possible; we are happy for those families to continue dropping/collecting siblings together if it suits the needs of the family.

### Playtimes

Re-imagining and developing play is one of our school improvement priorities this session. Class groups continue to work and play together, as we adhere to Scottish Government guidelines individual classes are not currently mixing with other classes across the school. This has worked well during this first term as teachers have used this as an opportunity to develop their class teams and encourage team bonding across the group. Each class is playing together in an identified area of the playground for 1 week before rotating around all 4 different play areas over the course of a month. All classes have been timetabled for the playpod and are enjoying this approach to play. Our senior class are currently working with Mr Whitfield to develop our whole school approach as a 'rights respecting school' and will share an updated playground charter across the school. Miss Nicholson(PE), the playground supervisors and class teachers have all supported the children's understanding and approach to play during this first term.

### Ventilation in Schools

Schools are required to ventilate their building appropriately during this period of Coronavirus. Ventilation is managed in school with doors and windows being partially open to support sufficient airflow throughout the school. ELC have recently provided guidance to schools to support appropriate ventilation whilst maintaining an appropriate temperature in school during the winter months. We have recently worked with ELC colleagues to amend the temperature in school so that the school is much warmer but the advice to children and staff to wear additional layers, such as vests and the like will remain good advice over the colder months.

### Belongings from home

The most recent update from Scottish Government continues to highlight the need for reducing what is brought

into school from home. Our school community have supported this request really well and whilst we will continue to limit what can be brought to and from school, you will be aware that your children will now be bringing library books home from school, completed art work may also be sent home on occasion. We have a wonderful library here in school from which all children can choose an appropriate and enjoyable reading book to read in class and to take home. If your child is reading a particular favourite at home that we do not have in school they are welcome to bring it to school if they so wish.

Scottish Government guidance continues to recommend that all books that are shared at school continue to be quarantined in school for 72 hours before they are passed on, when children return library books this is the process followed in school before books are placed back on the shelf. Hand washing and hand sanitising continues to be frequent and essential in school and with jotters now being used more frequently teachers are required to wash and sanitise their hands before and after working with each individual child's jotter in school. All these measures continue to be advised from Scottish Government and continue to support the health & wellbeing of all in school.

### Home Learning

The digital knowledge of children continues to improve, this knowledge is proving necessary and supportive of their learning during this time. We would encourage all families to try and familiarise themselves with how their children access their 'google drive' from school as a means of supporting their children's learning at home.

### Remembrance Sunday

Our P6/7 class provided a very relevant, locally inspired display for Dirleton Kirk on Remembrance Sunday. Whilst this year's service was lower key due to the current restrictions in place Rev Graham was very impressed with what the school presented and thanked the children for their efforts. Well done to all involved☺

### House Captains

Our annual House Captain elections took place recently with all children in school voting for their House Captain. The votes have been counted and verified and we congratulate the newly elected House Captains and their Vice Captains

<b>De Vaux</b> House Captain	-	John
Vice Captain	-	Tomas

<b>Halyburton</b> House Captain	-	Hamish
Vice Captain	-	Hannah

<b>Ruthven</b> House Captain	-	Campbell
Vice Captain	-	Ava

### School Lunches

Now that East Lothian Council have amended the school lunches on offer to include hot food we have reinstated a longer lunch break. Lunches are still eaten within individual classrooms to ensure classes are not mixing unnecessarily

when in school. Lunches should be ordered and paid online through schoolpay.

**Please note that the price for a P4-7 school lunch is now £2.10**

***As always, please remember that we have nut allergies in school and no snacks or packed lunch should contain traces of nuts.***

### School Partnerships

#### **'Many hands make light work'**

The last DSP meeting, scheduled for Wed 14<sup>th</sup> October, did not go ahead as planned. The DSP took the decision to reschedule this meeting as there was a very limited number of families wishing to attend the meeting. I am aware that many families may have many things going on at the minute and the appetite to engage with our DSP may not be a priority for families at this time. The roles of chair, vice-chair, treasurer and clerk were all to be reviewed at the AGM that has not yet been able to go ahead. In the meantime and in the absence of any further meetings, I will now endeavour to provide a monthly short video providing a HT update that will be accessed through a link sent to parents. I know it may be difficult to read all the relevant updates or literature that is currently available about Covid and reducing risks in school so the short video will offer an opportunity to also hear about information and updates pertaining to school.

**It is hoped that a new date for the next DSP meeting will be early in January 2021. More info to follow.**

### Gullane Athletic Football Club

As children and families consider ways to keep healthy and active during this time, we have been asked by a local football team to make you aware that they are welcoming of new players. Gullane Athletic Football Club are looking for new recruits for their ever expanding successful boys and girls teams. All primary school ages are welcome. Contact [gullaneathleticafc@gmail.com](mailto:gullaneathleticafc@gmail.com) or for more information visit [www.gullaneathletic.org](http://www.gullaneathletic.org)

At the end of the October newsletter I asked families to make us aware of the wider achievements of their children and what they had been doing out with school during the period of lockdown and since returning to the school building; this knowledge is contributing to some of our ongoing development work in school. Thanks to those who have contributed thus far and thanks in advance of any further contributions.

**Please send information about achievements or any achievements you have captured on camera over these last few months to our school email account so we can celebrate your success, please add a comment to a photo that explains your picture☺**  
[Dirleton.ps@dirleton.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:Dirleton.ps@dirleton.elcschool.org.uk)

*B Moody*  
*Head Teacher*

*I have a few other matters to make you aware of also*

### Countdown to Christmas

We are now approaching December and all that December brings to school, even during times of Covid! Here are some key points to note and dates to be aware of as we countdown to Christmas.

Scottish Government guidance continues to recommend that all items that are shared at school continue to be quarantined in school for 72 hours before they are passed on. This would include any Christmas cards that children would pass on to each other, children's cards would be posted in our school post box before being passed on after 72 hours; whilst the sharing of cards is a traditional feature of Christmas, I feel this year it may be more sensible to avoid this activity in school and to do this personally out with school.

We normally participate at this time of year with the 'switching on' of the Dirleton Christmas lights on the village green but this, like many things this year, was rearranged to avoid groups of people gathering together. The Christmas lights are now on and bring a beacon of light to the end of this year. The village are currently organising an event to shine further light on this month, so keep your eyes and ears peeled for information on 'Shine Bright Dirleton!' which will be shared via the 'Dirleton Good Neighbours'.



A Dirleton Village pop up Christmas market will be taking place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December between 11am – 3pm down at the village green. Lots of goodies will be there to tempt you to give to someone special this Christmas.

The week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December will be the week when our children will experience the Brunton Pantomime from the comfort of their own school. Rapunzel is the story that has been dramatized this year and each class looks forward to a festive day of fun and partying. Children are welcome to come into school in party clothes on the day their class will be watching the panto. As usual, this promises to

be an exciting time that will raise the Christmas temperature! **Oh yes it will...**

Each class will watch the panto and have a day of dedicated festive fun on

Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	-	P6/7
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	-	P5
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	-	P1/2
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>	-	P3/4

For their viewing pleasure, each child will be provided with a party bag of snacks & sweets courtesy of the school. There is no need for children to bring additional sweeties into school on this day.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December will be the day of our Christmas lunch in school – all children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper or something festive on this day. The official Christmas jumper day is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December when those festive jumpers can make a reappearance, we are not looking for a monetary donation to wear a Christmas jumper, it's just for fun. If you have not ordered a school Christmas lunch, a packed lunch from home should be brought to school as normal. Christmas lunch will be served in classrooms this year.

Our P1/2s are working hard to learn their lines as they participate with the retelling of the Christmas story and our wonderful stage is being erected to give their performance that special importance. Whilst our children cannot welcome an audience to school to watch their performance, we will do our best to share what we are doing in school at this special time with our school community.

And finally, we will bid farewell to this school year on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. School will finish as normal at the end of the day and children should be collected as they are currently.

*B. Moody*  
*Head Teacher*

**Dates for your diary**

**December:**

Each class will watch the Christmas Panto and have a day of dedicated festive fun on

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	P6/7
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	P5
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	P1/2
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	P3/4

Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas lunch in school
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas jumper day

Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Winter Solstice (shortest day)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School Holidays begin

**January:**

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pupils return to School
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