



**Carrick Knowe Primary School
Newsletter
January 2021**



Achieving Excellence Together
KINDNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY HONESTY

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this shorter than usual newsletter finds you all well. The beginning of 2021 has not been what we wanted or hoped it would be, and I am acutely aware of the challenges facing all families at the moment. Hopefully, on Tuesday, the First Minister will be able to give us some idea of when we can begin to bring at least some of our children back into the school building. Following her update, I will be in touch as soon as possible, to make you aware of any new arrangements. Again, a big thank you to all parents, carers and extended family members who continue to support our children during this period of Learning At Home.



Dates for your diary!

- 29th January** ~ Online Scots Assembly
- Week Beg 1st February** ~ Children's Mental Health Week 2021
- 4th February** ~ Parent Council Meeting at 7pm via Microsoft Teams
- 5th February** ~ No-Screen Day (please see below for further details)
- 5th February** ~ School closes for the February holiday
- 16th February** ~ School resumes. ****please note this date is TUESDAY 16th FEBRUARY.**

Staffing

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Steph Clark is expecting her second baby. Many congratulations to her and her family! Although Baby Clark is not expected to arrive until the end of April, in the current circumstances, Mrs Clark will continue to work from home from now until her maternity leave begins.

Mrs Clark currently shares teaching P3A with Mrs Henderson and we are very fortunate that Mrs Henderson has agreed to take over teaching P3A full time when we return to the school building.



Children's Mental Health Week - w.b. 1st February

You will have received a letter from Miss Doig our Home School Link Worker, regarding Children's Mental Health Week. As she points out, it is more important than ever at the moment to be aware of the mental wellbeing of our children. More information will be available on our school website from next week and there may be some related activities and tasks within the children's individual Learning Grids. Taking part in the website activities is completely optional, as is the 'Dress to Impress' day and any donation of money to Place2Be. If you do dress up however, we would love to see your photographs!



Within the theme of children's mental health, we are also planning a 'No-Screen Day'. This will take place

next Friday - 5th February. On that day, the learning tasks and activities provided for children will involve no access to any type of screen - iPads, laptops, videos etc. This is good for their mental wellbeing and also shows them that Learning At Home does not always require a screen! Again, we would love to see any photographs of children completing activities during 'No-Screen Day'.

**Please note that due to 'No-Screen Day' on Friday 5th February, our online Assembly and 'Magical Moments' will be posted on Thursday 4th February instead.



Scots Assembly



I always knew we had a very talented bunch here in CKPS and it was wonderful to be able to have an online Scots Assembly to showcase these talents. Thank you and a huge well done to everyone who learned a Scots poem, submitted a piece of writing for our competition on 'An Inspirational Scot', sent photos and videos of them either hosting a Burns Supper with their families or taking part in Mrs Clark's Cranachan Cook-Along! The standard of entries for the competitions was exceptionally high as always and the winners will be revealed in tomorrow's Scots Assembly. The real effort and positive attitude in learning something new and quite difficult really shone through in all of the submissions so a huge well done to you all!

Although I would usually 'host' the Scots Assembly in school, I was informed by our Assembly guru Miss Inglis that, in order to have all of our winners in the online Assembly, there was no space for me! I'll be back next year! 😊



Parent Consultations

Our Parent Consultations are due to take place at the end of March. I think we can safely say that we will not be in a position then to invite parents back into the school building. We are still at the planning stage, but it is looking likely that these will take place either via Microsoft Teams or a telephone call.

Parents and carers will be able to choose which method suits them best. Further information will be issued nearer the time.

Family Feedback

Last week we issued a link to families asking for feedback on what was going well during Learning At Home and what would make it better. We had over 100 responses and would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the form.

Although acknowledging that Learning At Home, is not the ideal situation for anyone, the overwhelming message from parents and carers was that it was a much more positive experience than during the last lockdown. Use of Microsoft Teams, class teacher check-ins and Learning Grids being issued for the week were just a few of the aspects of Learning At Home that were commented on favourably. However, as is always the case, things which were real positives for some people were not for others - for example, some people thought that the increased use of SWAYs, videos etc was a real improvement, whereas others commented that there were too many.

A few parents asked about 'live teaching'. This is not something promoted by the City of Edinburgh Council for several reasons. These include, but are not limited to, live sessions not being at a suitable time for all children and parents and so many may miss out; children missing parts of a session if the technology fails; children within one household sharing a device and not being able to 'attend' a live lesson at the same time.

There are suggestions for improvement from families that we can and will take on board and we aim to do that as soon as possible. Again, thank you to everyone who contributed.



Finally....

As I have said on many occasions before and continue to reiterate, the wellbeing of your whole family, including maintaining positive relationships, is the most important thing of all.

If there is anything further we can do to help or support, please do get in touch either at the email address at the top of this newsletter or by phoning school. Either Mrs Iley or I are in the school building each day.

As always, please let us know if you, or anyone you know, requires school information in a different language.

Gail Canning
Headteacher

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@CarrickKnowe

"I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow."

Maya Angelou