



LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

August 2020 Newsletter

Welcome Back!



Dear Parent and Carers,

Welcome back to all of our families after an extended period of closure. It was lovely to see all the smiling faces entering the gates with enthusiasm over the first few days. Naturally, some children were a little apprehensive initially after such a long period at home, but it took very little time for the children to settle back in again and the building to fill with the buzz of enthusiastic little people. Myself and the staff have been so impressed by how well all the children have adapted back into the routines of school particularly as some things have changed a little as part of our risk assessment procedures. We have also been delighted at how well the p1's have settled into life at Lairdsland and are already learning and following the routines so well. Our first newsletter contains some important reminders of some school procedures which are necessary to comply with health & safety regulations and also to ensure the smooth running in the administration of the school. As you would expect, some of these have changed slightly in light of COVID risk assessment measures and I appreciate you taking the time to read over and become familiar with them. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in all these matters.

Finally, if you require any further information or if you have questions or concerns about any aspects of school life then please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will do our very best to help. I look forward to us all working as a team over the coming year to ensure our school community is safe and our young people are happy, thriving and learning together.

Kind regards

Fiona Donaghey
Head Teacher

Covid procedures as per EDC guidance:

We would stress that a child should not attend school or early years centre:

- if they have the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) - a new persistent cough, fever, or a loss of sense of smell and /or taste*
- they should stay at home and parents should arrange for coronavirus testing; you can do this online at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/test-and-protect> or by calling 0800 028 2816 if you cannot get online.*
- if they are living with someone who has coronavirus symptoms, they should stay at home and follow the relevant advice:*
- If they have returned (or come) to Scotland from a country which is not exempt from the UK quarantine rules, they should stay at home following the relevant guidance.*

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell; there will be times when children get a cold or a virus, they should stay at home until they are well and not attend school.

Attendance/Latecoming

We know that children perform better at school with their learning if they arrive regularly and on time.

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason please phone the school office **before 9.30am** to report your child's absence. You will be asked to give an indication of how long the absence may last. If we are not informed of an absence we will contact yourself or an emergency contact number to confirm your child is at home. Please keep the school updated with any new phone numbers. We take the safety of our children very seriously.

Holiday absences are usually recorded as an unauthorised absence. If you are required to take your child out of school during term time for a holiday, please send this information to myself in writing. If your child is leaving class during school hours for an appointment, please call the school office or send a note to the class teacher. An adult is required to collect them from the school entrance. Please advise the school if your child is expected to return that day.

Staffing August 2020

The current teaching staff for this session are as follows:		The current non-teaching staff for this session are as follows:	
Head Teacher	Mrs Donaghey	Administration Assistant	Mrs Atkinson
Depute Head Teacher (Mon-Wednesday Work Pattern) Acting Depute Head Teacher (Mon-Friday Work Pattern)	Mrs Bradford Mrs Kerr	Clerical Assistant	Mrs Furie Mrs McGhee (Wed only)
Principal Teacher	Miss Swart	Classroom Assistants	Mrs McDonald
Primary 1a	Mrs Greer/Mrs Nichol		Mrs Thomson
Primary 1b	Miss Fleming		Mrs Watson
Primary 2a	Miss McCracken*	Support for Learning Assistants	Mrs Moffat
Primary 2/3	Miss Fraser		Mrs Taylor
Primary 3a	Miss Timoney		Ms Anderson
Primary 4a	Mrs Barber/Mrs McLoone	Kitchen Manager	Mr D Harris
Primary 4/5	Miss Hill	Facilities Assistants	Mrs Sharp
Primary 5	Miss Gray*		Mrs McMillan
Primary 5/6	Miss Moir		Miss Young
Primary 6	Mrs Gourlay		Miss Paterson
Primary 6/7	Miss Fay		Mrs Murray
Primary 7	Miss McBain		
Other teaching staff eg RCCT cover, Support and Wellbeing	Mrs Atkinson Mrs Martin Ms De Souza Mrs G Inglis		
Education Support Teacher	Mrs D Inglis	Janitor	Mr Armitage
*Miss McCracken and Miss Gray are Newly Qualified Teachers entitled to one day a week of professional development time. This will be covered by Miss Swart and Mrs Martin respectively.			

Data Check

You should have received your annual data check forms, sent home in children's schoolbags. Please complete and **sign** and return to school as soon as possible. It is essential that we keep our school records up to date so that we can contact you in the case of illness or an emergency. Up to date data also ensures we can communicate all news and helpful information with you. If you believe you are not receiving school communication, please notify the school office immediately so we can double check your contact details. This is more important than ever in the current climate.

School Uniform

We ask for continued consistent support of our school uniform policy. Pupils are looking very smart as they start off a new school year and we would like this to be maintained. School uniform contributes greatly to pupils sense of belonging and the overall school ethos. The exception to this are the days that your child has PE as this will take place outdoors for the present time. If you think you may be eligible for a school clothing grant to help with the cost of uniform, please see the following link on EDC website.

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/grants/school-clothing-grant>

Uniform : Sky Blue Blouse, Polo shirt or Shirt. Navy blue or grey smart trousers, shorts or skirt. Navy blue cardigan, sweatshirt or pullover. Dark coloured shoes for both indoor and outdoor school shoes.

Please remember we are now registered with Tesco Uniform Embroidery Services at www.tesco.com/ues .

Parking

I respectfully request that parents only use appropriate marked bays to park regardless of the length of time parked in order to ensure the safety of all our pupils. Parking on the double yellow lines or zig zags, double parking and parking on the pavement is **unsafe and endangers our children**. We encourage all pupils to walk, cycle or scoot to school if possible or make use of the Sainsburys car park to 'park and stride' keeping congestion around the school to a minimum. As per recent correspondence, please adhere to social distancing if waiting at the school gate area. Only one adult per family for p1-3 pupil's permitted in the playground and drop and go is encouraged.

Dogs

E.D.C has very clear guidelines in relation to dogs on school property. The only dogs permitted to be in the school playground at any time are guide/assistance dogs. Please note any dogs (regardless of size) being carried in to the school playground are in breach of policy also and will be asked by school staff to **leave the school grounds and remain outside the gate**. We ask everyone in the school community to be aware of and respectful of any parents with assistance dogs.

P1-3 and Free Meals/Tuck Shop

All p1-3 pupils are entitled to a free lunch as per Scottish Government policy. At present this will consist of Grab Bag Packed Lunch as hot meals are not being provided under current risk assessment measures. If your child is in p4-7 and you believe you may be entitled to free school meals then the application is available on the East Dunbartonshire Council website. A new combined online application form for free school meals, free nursery meals and school clothing grants was launched in July 2020. You can apply for all eligible children in your household on the same combined form. If your child forgets their lunch box, they will be provided with a school lunch. As per our procedures to reduce visitors to the school/office, we will not be calling parents and requesting lunches are dropped off.

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/grants/school-clothing-grant>

Medication

If your child requires medication during school hours, please advise the school office and complete a consent form. Please check the expiration date of all medicine as it cannot be administered when out of date.



Mobile Phones

We understand that some pupils may require their mobile phones at school. In accordance to East Dunbartonshire Council's policy mobile phones will be switched off during the school day. As per previous correspondence, any mobile phones that are brought into school must remain off and in a child's bag. Neither the school or East Dunbartonshire Council will accept liability for the loss or damage of mobile phones which are brought into school or the school grounds.

PE Timetable

Changing rooms are not currently in use. Children can come to school wearing appropriate sports clothing on their P.E. days as shown on the timetable below:

	9:30-10:30	10:45-12:00	1:00-2:00	2:00-3:00
Monday			Primary 1a	Primary 7
Tuesday		Primary 4/5	Primary 2	Primary 6
Wednesday		Primary 4	Primary 2/3	Primary 6/7
Thursday	Primary 5/6		Primary 1b	Primary 5
Friday		Primary 3		

This may include:

- Shorts or leggings or jogging trousers
- A plain t-shirt or polo shirt (football tops are not permitted)
- A hooded jumper or pullover
- Trainers or sandshoes/plimsolls
- A light waterproof jacket
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Please note that in the event of **heavy** rain or extreme weather conditions, outdoor P.E. will be cancelled. Class teachers will try to accommodate P.E. at another time in the day where possible. In line with government guidance, indoor P.E. is currently not taking place.

If your child forgets their PE kit, they will be permitted to join in. As per our procedures to reduce visitors to the school/office, we will not be calling parents and requesting PE kits are dropped off.

Allergy Information

Due to several pupils with potentially life threatening allergies, we are strictly a **nut free school**. It is important that pupils do not bring nuts or nut products to school as a snack or in their packed lunches. This includes any products which may contain nuts such as hazelnut chocolate spread (Nutella). We encourage pupils not to share or swap snacks in case they contain any hidden traces of nuts. We also ask that children do not bring birthday cake to school to share with their class due to a number of allergies across the school. We very much appreciate your continued support with this matter.



Could you please keep the school office up to date with any information regarding your child's allergies.

Twitter

To keep up to date on current events and aspects of school life 'follow' us on Twitter @LairdslandPS. This is a protected and locked site for parents and carers and not available to the general public. If you have requested join our account but not been accepted yet, please email the school office with your twitter handle so we can add you to our account.



Water Bottles

Pupils are encouraged to bring water bottles to have in the classroom to drink from. **Only water** can be taken into the classroom. Please ensure your child comes each day with a full bottle to minimise any need for use of the water fountain. Please put your child's name on their bottle.

Upcoming Dates for your Diary:

August 2020

Tuesday 25th August @ 6pm - Parent Council Meeting (Virtual Teams Meeting)

September 2020

Friday 25th September - School holiday

Monday 28th September - School holiday