



LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2020 Newsletter



Dear Parent and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. I am writing with some updates and reminders.

Staffing

Following interviews held last week, Mrs Maria Kerr was appointed to the permanent post of job share Depute Head Teacher. Mrs Kerr has undertaken this role on an acting basis for some time now and I am sure you will join me in congratulating her on securing this permanent post.

Our management team currently looks like this;

Head Teacher: Fiona Donaghey
Depute Head Teacher: Mrs Bradford/Mrs Kerr
Principal Teachers: Miss Swart
Mrs Kerr/Mrs Greer (Acting)

Another staff development I would like to share with you is the appointment of a part time Family Learning Assistant to Lairdsland Primary School. Miss Kelly Quail has undertaken this role and is excited to work with and support some of the children and families at Lairdsland. I am delighted to have Kelly join the team and think she will be a great asset to our school community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to her with any questions. I have copied an introduction from Kelly below.

My name is Kelly Quail and I am delighted to be taking on the role of Family Assistant here at Lairdsland Primary School. I look forward to meeting all of you and making a positive impact on your families lives. My aim is to work in partnership with you to further enhance your child's learning at home. I have many fun ideas but I am also looking forward to hearing your opinions and what you would like from me. We will be running our Read, Write, Count programme in the next few weeks which will be a good opportunity for me to meet your children and give you any advice on how to get the best out of the packs provided.

Another important part of my job is to provide the appropriate advice and support that you and your family require, particularly as this very difficult time. I can help with many areas such as parenting, finance, adult learning, mental health or even just be there for a chat when you need it. I am keen to set up a parent group where you can be supported, talk with fellow parents and be further involved and engaged in the learning and the school. However, if you would prefer support on a one to one basis I am here for that also. My days at the school will be Monday, Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays when you can phone the school office and you can also contact me five days a week on my email address which you will find below. Thank you.

kquail@lairdsland.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

School lunches

At present we have been directed to only provide hot lunches for p1-3 children and those who are registered for free school meals. I do not yet have a date for hot lunches being made available to all other children but will update you as soon as I have further information.

Playground

Miss Swart previously wrote to parents with a reminder about appropriate outdoor clothing as we enter the winter. I would like to reiterate that some areas of the playground are quite muddy however, as we must ensure children stay in their own bubble zones, it would be a shame to restrict space further by not making full use of the grounds. We are happy to support anyone

with sourcing appropriate clothing/footwear and would deal with any requests for support discreetly and with confidence. Please contact any member of the team, including our new member Kelly, and we will be happy to help.

Christmas

As you will expect, we will be unable to offer some of the traditional experiences we have done in previous years, however we are also keen to ensure that we provide some enjoyable festive activities for everyone.

- We will still hold **Christmas parties** for all classes in classes instead of year groups and with some activities tailored to the current guidelines. We will do our best to make this a fun and enjoyable time. We hope Santa will be able to attend virtually for some of our younger children and he may even drop some presents off (socially distanced of course). We will send out further information nearer the time.
- Our Primary 1 children will take part in a **Nativity** adapted to the current climate. This will be within their class groupings and shared with parents online. We will provide further information in due course
- We have arranged Fizzgig Theatre's online **Pantomime** Beauty and the Beast to be available to all classes in place of the traditional visiting pantomime performance.
- **Christmas jumper day** will take place in December and instead of hosting this as a fundraising activity, we would like to collect donations for the local foodbank.

We are also trying to think of alternative ways to involve parents in Christmas activities and will keep you updated over the coming weeks!

Regular reminders:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Parent Council Minutes

Our Parent Council meet a minimum of 5 times a year. Parent representatives who have children across a variety of stges attend the meetings to represent Parent Voice. The minutes of the September Meeting can be found on the school website.

Kind regards

Fiona Donaghey
Head Teacher

Upcoming Dates for your Diary:

2nd December - Flu immunisation for pupils
21st December - School closes @ 2.30pm
TBC - Parent Council Meeting