



LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

February 2020 Newsletter



Dear Parent and Carers,

I would like to say that I am delighted to be back at Lairdsland after my period of maternity leave and have been busy getting up to date with all the changes that have taken place over the last year! We have an exciting and busy term ahead with lots of events taking place including our fantastic open evening in March where you will be invited along to see all of the learning that has been taking place this term. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to and attended the Christmas Fayre, the PTA and helpers did a great job as usual in arranging the event which was a great success and raised a phenomenal £4300 for school funds. This money raised by these events is really valued by the school and used to enhance experiences at school for all pupils. Over this term and going forward we will continue to promote and grow #TeamLairdsland building our school community together. This term we are also looking at opportunities to give back to the community so watch this space for news of pupils out and about in the local area.

Kind regards

Fiona Donaghey
Head Teacher

Reporting to parents

- **Snapshot Jotters**

Last session we began a new format of sharing a 'snapshot' into your children's learning. We will continue to share aspects of your pupil's learning by sending these jotters home again on Friday 28th February. This will contain the learning over the course of the previous week, week beginning the 17th February. We are aware that some Snapshot jotters have not been returned after the last visit home and would ask that these kindly be returned to the class teacher so they can be used during that week.

- **Parent Interviews**

This term, you will also have the opportunity to come into school discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. Parent interviews will take place on Wednesday 1st April. If you have any concerns about your child's learning before this date then please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with the class teacher.

#TeamLairdsland

We appreciate all the ongoing parental engagement that is going on throughout the school. An update on some recent events:

Mrs Rooke and Mrs Gilmour have been busy working with the eco committee to undertake an audit on waste within the school. They supported the eco committee to present at a whole school assembly and are working on ways we can reduce waste within the dining hall. If you want to come on board to help then please contact the school office.

Mrs Uster has successfully applied for a grant which has secured over **£1000** funding to develop outdoor learning and sustainability activities in and around the school. We will shortly be sending out some more information and will be looking for more helpers to come on board to support this great work.

Thank you to all our parents who give up their free time to work in and around the school to develop and grow the activities and opportunities for our school community.

Staffing Update

Mrs Martin will be returning from maternity leave on Friday 7th February. Mrs Barber will be returning from maternity leave in March. We look forward to having them both back as part of Team Lairdsland.

Mrs Lang will be commencing her maternity leave at the end of February and Mrs Paterson will be commencing her maternity leave at the end of March. We wish both of them all the very best for the exciting and busy times ahead!

Specific changes to staffing in classes will be shared via a class letter. As always, we will work hard to ensure staffing changes are as smooth as possible for pupils learning.

PTA

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs N Forrest and Mrs L Johnson who after many years of hard work, have now stepped down from their PTA posts. They both contributed a great deal to the work and life of the school over the last few years and it was greatly appreciated. I would like to welcome all the new PTA members, it is great to have a number of new p1 parents on board. Thank you to Mrs Ruthven for taking on PTA chair going forward and Ms Abernethy for her work as vice-chair. The next PTA meeting is on the 10th March, new members always welcome so please get in touch if you can come along.

Class Topics

All classes across the school will be working hard on their class topics this term and will share all their progress at the upcoming open evening in March. This will be chance for parents/carers to come along and let the children share with you some of the tasks they have been working on. This is an informal evening where parents/carers can come and go anytime between 6.30-7.30pm. The list of topics that classes will be working on is stated below. We would welcome any parents/carers/members of the school community who feel they could contribute to any of the class topics in any way with skills, knowledge, etc. Please contact the school office if you think you can support any of the learning in these areas:

Primary 1: Toys	Primary 1/2 and 2: People Who Help Us	Primary 3: Romans
Primary 3/4: Skara Brae	Primary 4: Vikings	Primary 4/5: Scottish Wars of Independence
Primary 5: Journey Around Scotland	Primary 6, 6/7 and 7: World War 2	

Scripture Union - Primary 6 and 7

Our lunchtime Scripture Union Club will continue this session for Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils. It takes place every Friday lunchtime in the gym hall.

Ongoing Reminders

School Uniform

It is lovely to see so many children looking smart in their school uniform. I would respectfully ask that all children come to school wearing school uniform. In very rare circumstances a pupil may require to wear alternative clothing for medical reasons. This must always be agreed with school management staff in advance.

Uniform : Sky Blue Blouse, Polo shirt or Shirt. Navy blue or grey smart trousers, shorts or skirt. Navy blue cardigan, sweatshirt or pullover (not hoodies). Dark coloured shoes for both indoor and outdoor school shoes.

Not permitted: Jogging Bottoms, Hoodies, Branded Sweatshirts

We are also registered with www.myclothing.com who give a 5% donation to the school for items purchased.



Winter Weather

So far we have been very lucky to have experienced a relatively mild winter. However, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the procedures for school closure due to adverse weather -

Closure before 9am—parents should check the EDC or school website/twitter for closure details. Websites/Twitter will be updated as soon as the decision to close the school is made. All parents registered for Groupcall will also be notified by e-mail. School closures are also usually broadcast on local radio stations.

Closure after 9am—parents will be contacted by the school as a matter of urgency. In the first instance, a text message will be sent to all parents. Also, for those parents registered for Groupcall an email will be sent. If you have a smart phone, it would be useful to have these sent to an e-mail account on your phone as this will give you instant messaging. Please ensure that you keep your contact details up to date with the school office to prevent any delay in contacting you in an emergency.

EDC has a twitter service which may be useful to parents during adverse weather. Their account is called East Dun Council @edcouncil click follow to receive information that is posted. Tweets will cover schools, roads, leisure, campaigns etc.

School website—<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ed/lairdsland/>

Parking

Our school can become very busy during pick-up and drop-off times so I would respectfully ask that parents continue to use the appropriately marked bays to park 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 and ensuring a safer environment for our pupils.

Dogs

EDC 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 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.**

Attendance/Latecoming

Can I remind you that all parents are required to contact the school office before 9.30am if your child is going to be absent from school for any reason. 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. 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 office. Please advise the school if your child is expected to return that day.

Please be aware that as part of council policy, the attendance and time keeping of all pupils is monitored closely and correspondence will be sent out to parents/carers when this falls below a reasonable level.

Medication

If your child requires medication during school hours, please deliver it to 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. It is the responsibility of all parents to ensure that medication is not out of date.



Mobile Phones

We recognise that children may have mobile devices that they use on a daily basis and that they bring to school. In accordance with East Dunbartonshire Council's policy mobile phones will be switched off during the school day. Class teachers will collect-in mobile phones and send them to the school office for safe keeping during school hours. They will then be handed out at the end of the day. East Dunbartonshire Council will **not 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 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.



Upcoming Dates for your Diary:

February 2020

- 4th February - Parent Council Meeting at St Ninians - 6.30pm
- 4th February - PTA Meeting at St Ninians - 7pm
- 7th February - In- Service Day - CLOSED TO PUPILS
- 10th and 11th February - Mid Term Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED
- 12th February - In-Service Day - CLOSED TO PUPILS
- 19th February - PTA Disco
- 28th February - Snapshot Jotters go home (To be returned by Wed 5th March)
- 28th February - Community Clubs Session **1** @ 2-2.45pm

March 2020

- 3rd March - Parent Council Meeting at St Ninians - 6.30pm
- 6th March - Community Clubs Session **2** @ 2-2.45pm
- 13th March - Assembly ***Parents Welcome**
- 18th March - Open Evening Whole School 6.30pm-7.30pm

April 2020

- 1st April - Parent Reporting Evening - Session 1 - 3.30pm-5.30pm Session 2 - 6.15pm-8.30pm
- 3rd April - Whole School Spring Service at St Davids Church - 11am
- 3rd April - School closes for Spring Break at **2.30pm**