

Dear Meadowers,

What a beautiful couple of days it has been for our first week back and lovely to see our children back and ready for the final term of this session.

Symptoms of Covid

As restrictions start to ease and we start to hope for more normality it is still important that you follow the correct procedures if you or anyone in your family starts to show any symptoms of Covid.

Remember to immediately get a test and make sure all the family self-isolates until you have the results. If the result is negative, then you are more than welcome to bring your children back to school immediately. Please also keep in touch with us so we know exactly what is happening as we continue to collect the data on this and will provide work for any child who will be self-isolating for the ten days.

Your feedback

It is the time of year where we start to plan for next year and we ask you to give us some feedback through a questionnaire. We do really appreciate you taking the time to do this and also appreciate that some of the questions may feel a little random. The questionnaire is very similar to what HMIE uses therefore it gives us a good idea on things we need to improve upon in terms of our interaction with you. Covid has made this very hard for all of us but we still are striving to be the best we can be. When we receive the feedback we then gather together similar themes that emerge and then see what is possible at this time. Sometimes we can't action things due to other factors but we would like to be able to report back to you on what is possible. Two years ago we managed to get 190 returns. Please help us get 200 this year! Here is the link. You should be able to click on it and it will take you to the questionnaire.

<https://forms.office.com/r/UCdEr5YviH>

Sports Day

We are going to attempt to do a Covid Friendly Sports Day this term! Mrs Gordon and Mrs Donald are working on how they can use our current model and adapt it to be mindful of bubbles and keeping everyone safe. Due to the increase of breaks etc we have decided to hold them over two weeks with the P5-7 happening on 27th May and the P1-4 planned for the 3rd June. We are really sorry that we can't have spectators, but we will try and take lots of pictures for the Teams and social media sites so that you can see the children in action.

Transition

Transition will be happening this term for our new P1s and also our P7s. More details will be sent to those involved. We are also mixing up the classes at P4 and P5. Normally this is just the P4s but due to Covid it wasn't possible. We have sent Forms for all the children in these classes so they can let us know three people they would like to be in a class with. As you can imagine - it is a logistical exercise which takes a while to manage.

We are still waiting for our final numbers for our P1 classes. Once they are confirmed then we can begin to think about staffing for next session.

Reporting

We have currently begun the process of writing end of term reports. As discussed with the Parent Council we have been unable to do face to face meetings this year due to Covid and we are sorry that this has been the case because we also value this time of getting to know you. We are working with the children on identifying the skills they have developed, and we are working on making sure our reports tell you exactly what your child can do at this point in their time at school. This will not come out to you until the second last week of the term as we want to cover as much of the curriculum as we can. We have encouraged our staff to talk to you either over the phone or face to face at the gate if there are issues that you should be aware about so that the report isn't anything that you don't know already. Many of you are now very aware of how your children are doing because you have been so involved in their learning over lockdown and we can see the positive impact this has had on your children. What we are finding more than anything is that children are missing clubs and playing with their friends. They are missing going swimming and going to places like the cinema or bowling and things they haven't been able to do for a long time. For many of the children school didn't stop at all - it's just been in a different place.

Reading

This last term we planning on focusing a lot of our support and time on ensuring our children's reading skills are on track. As you are all aware reading is important in every other area of the curriculum and in society and we are working on making sure children can talk about the texts they are reading and can answer questions about this. In school we are using actual books but at home we are asking that you engage with Bug Club as our online reading resource. This means that during the week children are being exposed to at least two different set texts. One in school and one online. The more we get children reading the better. Reading increases vocabulary, reading helps children make sense of the world as well as giving children knowledge. The more texts (eg books, poems, articles) they are exposed to the more impact it will have. One of the key things across the school we have found children struggle with this is retelling what they have read. A simple thing to do at home is to get them to read aloud a passage and then ask them to close the book and then ask them who, what, where, how and why questions about what they have read. For example - who was the main character? Where was the story set? What was happening? etc etc . Also can you deepen their thinking by extending it and asking the follow up question 'what else?'

P7 adventure!

Now that we have guidance about trips from the Scottish Government Mrs Donnelly has been organising a two-day adventure for the P7s with West End Adventures. A letter will be sent to all P7 parents about this. They will stay within their bubbles but will be taken to Loch Lomond for a selection of activities over two days. We are so delighted that we have been able to organise this. A big thank you to Mrs Donnelly who was quick of the mark and got us a space!

Sun screen and hats

Hopefully, the beautiful weather will stay with us now for the rest of term. Can I remind you about making sure children have got cream on when they come to school? They can have cream in their bags but they must be able to apply this themselves and they must not share with anyone else. Please make sure that they come to school every day with a fresh water bottle with water in it and also a cap/hat to protect them against the sun. Sadly, can I also remind you that our weather is changeable so keep an eye on the forecast and make sure your child has a waterproof jacket for those inevitable wet days.

PTA and Parent Council

We are so grateful to our parents who support us through the PTA and Parent Council. They represent you well and help us understand how the parent body are feeling. Thank you

Have a great weekend everyone. Enjoy the sunshine.

Sheona