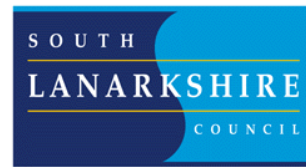




**Hard Work
Fairness
Inclusion
Respect
Faith**



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**
Our Lady and St. Anne's Primary School
Head Teacher: **Mrs Catherine S Currie**

Our Lady and St. Anne's Newsletter Term 3 (Jan - Mar) 2022

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all of our children and their families! We hope that you had a lovely Christmas and New Year and managed to find the time to relax and enjoy the season. Our children have returned to school and settled beautifully – it is so nice to have them back in school.



Health and Safety



As you will be aware, there have been changes (before and after Christmas) which impact on life in schools. We continue to follow the Scottish Government Guidance for Educational Establishments.

This means that children continue to remain in their classrooms with limited movement around the school. There will continue to be enhanced cleaning, hand washing and very limited sharing of resources in the classroom. We ask that children do not bring in toys from home, including fidget toys. Children in each class will continue to play in allocated zones in the playground.

Unfortunately, where we had been able to have some mixing of classes for paired reading, buddies and extra-curricular activities, we are now no longer able to do this. We hope that this will be a short term measure and that we will be able to resume these types of activities soon.

Adults who are dropping their children off are asked to **continue to wear masks at the school gate** and in the school yard (P1 parents only are allowed in the yard).

We have had an increased number of parents presenting at the school office, we respectfully ask that parents do not enter the school building, this is in line with the current Scottish Government Guidance for educational establishments. If you are collecting your child early for any reason, please press the buzzer but remain outside. As always, children should not leave school during the day unless absolutely essential. Thank you for your continued help to keep our school community safe.



Isolation Rules

Isolation rules changed recently which will allow many more children to attend school, even if there is a positive Covid case within the household. We appreciate fully that it can be hard to keep up with some of the changes – it is for us too!

Current self-isolation guidance is as follows

- Positive cases are advised to self-isolate for 10 days. However, if the individual returns two consecutive negative LFD tests taken at least 24 hours apart with the first test no earlier than day 6 they may end isolation before the end of the 10 day period if they have no fever.

- Close contacts who are fully vaccinated, having received 3 doses of the vaccination (plus 14 days) or are aged under 18 years and 4 months, can take daily LFD tests for 7 days instead of isolation - provided the tests are negative and they remain without symptoms. If someone has not received 3 doses of the vaccination, they will need to book a PCR test and even if this is a negative result, they will need to isolate for 10 days.
- Where people test positive on a lateral flow device (LFD) test they are now not advised to get a PCR test to confirm infection, but to follow isolation advice as it applies to them as a positive case (see point 1) – there is an exception for people who may be eligible for the Self-Isolation Support Grant who are advised to take a PCR test to ensure they can confirm their infection to be potentially eligible for financial support.



Please always refer to NHS guidelines (link below) and follow the advice given by Track and Trace.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-infection>

We strongly encourage the use of Lateral Flow tests, where possible, for staff and pupils.

If you are unsure about whether your child should attend school or not and need further advice, please contact the school office and we will do our best to help.

Staffing

I am sure that you will be aware that there are difficulties in maintaining staffing levels in many areas and industries – education is no different and, in Our Lady and St. Anne's, we have already experienced very significant challenges this term. I would like to thank, personally, all of the staff, including our visiting temporary staff, for their continued efforts which have enabled us to keep the school fully open.

Whilst we always try to minimise the impact on the children, there are times where it is necessary to change staff members, timetables and move elements of the school day to manage staffing situations. We take all changes seriously and do our best to manage this as smoothly as possible, to reduce the potential disruption to the children. Our young people have been marvellous at adapting – well done boys and girls!

As before, we ask that children bring their PE kits into school on a Monday and take them home on a Friday. This means that they will always have access to a PE kit despite any last minute changes.

P1 Registration

South Lanarkshire Council's online registration is now open for pupils who are due to begin school in August 2022. Please pass on this information and share it with anyone who it applies to.

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/392/enrolling_your_child_for_school

Although registrations are online, we are always so excited to see them come through the system and soon will be making contact with all our new pupils to confirm details and start to get to know them.



Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club operates Mon – Fri 8.15 – 8.45am. Children should enter via the lane at the church. **Please ensure that your child does not arrive early** as they will be unable to enter the building before 8.15am. All are welcome and there is no need to book / reserve a space.

Attendance



Many children's attendance has been impacted by Covid and isolation. We hope that, with the change of rules, this will now reduce and all our children will be able to attend school regularly. To support this, over the next week, your child will receive an individual letter with their current attendance rate. With your support, we would expect to see an increase in attendance which will benefit children and their families.

For your information and understanding, when a child is absent due to self-isolation as advised by NHS guidance or Track and Trace, they are marked under a different absence code meaning that this does not affect their overall attendance score. This will mean, however, that your child's rate may seem higher than it actually is in terms of days attended at school. **All children should aim for 100% attendance or as close to this as possible. Anything under 85% is a significant concern.**

If your child is unwell, please ensure that you contact the school office and let us know. This means that their absence will be recorded appropriately.

Please note that all children's attendance is monitored regularly. If you have concerns about your child's attendance and wish to speak to a member of the Leadership Team, please contact the school office in the first instance.

Foodbank



With your amazing support, we have established our very own foodbank to support our school community. Thank you so much for your generous donations in the run up to Christmas.

We are very keen to continue to provide this service to our families and will be continuing to ask for donations at the school gates on Fridays.

We really want to reach as many people as possible to encourage the foodbank to be used regularly. To make this easier for parents / carers to come at a time that suits them, we have made a Google form. This will allow individuals to book a slot of time that works for them.

Please use the foodbank if it will help you in anyway – one off visits or regular visits are all welcomed.

If you know anyone who may need help but is unable to access the form or a bit unsure, please encourage them to call and speak to Mrs Currie, Mrs Carroll or Miss Parker. All calls will be treated confidentially.

We need to use our Foodbank to keep it!

Washing Machine

We have purchased and installed a washing machine in the school. Although this will be helpful for us in school, our real hope that our families will also use it regularly.

Perhaps your washing machine has broken down or is being a bit temperamental...

Perhaps you have a big load to do and need another machine quickly...
Perhaps you don't have access to washing powder or need to take care over electricity usage...



Please just give us a call, or pop into the school office and make use of our new machine! Washing powder is also available or you are welcome to bring your own.

We hope that this will be a really practical help to our families.

Homework

Now that we are all back and settled, homework has resumed. Please ensure that you are supporting your child to access Google Classroom and complete their daily tasks. Homework is given weekly from Mon – Thurs.

Homework should be submitted online to enable the teacher to assess progress and provide pupils with support and feedback. Homework is monitored regularly to ensure that all pupils are accessing and completing.



As always, if you require any assistance accessing Google Classroom, please contact the school office and Miss Parker or Mrs Carroll will do their best to support you.

School Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing full school uniform daily (shirt / tie etc.). We are very proud of our school uniform and how smart our children are. It helps to develop and maintain our school community, ethos and identity. It also ensures that all children are the same and no child is left out or made to feel different as a result of what they wear. Please continue to support us in this. If you require help with any aspect of uniform, PE kits or indoor shoes, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Currie, Mrs Carroll or Miss Parker and we will be able to help you discretely and confidentially.

Keeping in Touch

An important reminder that we update our school app and Twitter account regularly to help all our parents keep on top of everything that is going on at school. All children use Google Classroom daily for homework, therefore updates will also be shared on there.

Dates for the Term Ahead

Mon 14 th Feb	Holiday
Tues 15 th Feb	Holiday
Wed 16 th Feb	Staff Development Day – school closed to pupils
Thur 31 st Mar	Parents' Evening
Fri 1 st Apr	Schools close at 2.30pm
Tues 19 th Apr	School re-opens at 9am



Yours sincerely
Catherine S Currie
Head Teacher