



Bulletin 7.9.20

We have been back in school for almost 4 weeks now and in many respects, feels like we have never been away. However, there are many changes to pupil routine and the children have been dealing with these really well. All staff have commented on calm classrooms and quieter playground times. I know the pupils are missing their friends in other year groups and across the school but for the foreseeable future class bubbles are likely to remain. This is particularly hard felt by our P7's who have worked very closely as a year group for a number of years now with friendships across both classes but to maintain bubbles we have opened up Treverlen Park at lunchtime (with supervision.) Each P7 class will have 2 lunchtimes on the astro alternated with two in the park. We are looking to purchase some equipment to facilitate age appropriate play but P7A were quite inventive today in creating a variety of tig type games – they are a really creative bunch, our P7's so I'm sure they will make the most of the current situation.

Reminder of Current NHS Lothian Guidance

NHS Lothian advises anyone experiencing *one or more* COVID-19 symptoms to stay at home, self-isolate with their households, and arrange testing for COVID-19 via the NHS Inform website.

These symptoms are:

- A new, continuous cough and/or
- A fever and/or
- A loss or change in smell/taste

If a child develops other types of symptoms, but DOES NOT have any of the above COVID-19 symptoms, the standard school illness policy should be followed.

This would also apply to anyone who has one of the symptoms of COVID-19 but tested negative.

What this means is:

- Children who have mild symptoms, such as a blocked/runny nose or a mild sore throat, but not presenting with any of the above COVID-19 symptoms, can still go to school if they are well enough to do so. However, they should stay at home if they are too ill to be at school.
- If a child tests negative for COVID-19 they can return to school if they are well enough (as per standard school illness policy) and have not had a fever for 48 hours.

If you have Covid-19 symptoms or a member of your household is symptomatic, you can request a Coronavirus test at the UK Government Citizens' Portal (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>). Or by calling 0800 028 2816.

Should anyone, staff or pupil receive a positive test result, the school, in strict accordance with Health Protection Scotland will inform the wider school community of the result and the associated protocols.

I have been attending weekly Health and Safety meetings with headteacher colleagues across the city and schools who have received positive cases have joined these meetings to share procedures and protocols. This has been very helpful for all of us.

Playground DROP and GO!

- We continue to receive concerns re adults waiting/gathering at pupil entrances. If you need to wait, please continue to adhere to 2m distancing.

A few parents have questioned whether we could introduce a one way system, with entry through the nursery and exit via Treverlen Park. This was a consideration but the volume of pupils and the traditions of the school playground as a gathering zone have meant that we feel the staggered entrances are the safest measures in place to reduce the possible transmission of Covid-19.

The staggered times are working well for almost everyone; huge thanks to our parents and carers for being prompt, punctual and helping maintain the guidance in place to ensure everyone's safety. Please consider our guidance and measures as current until further notice

PE/Art/Outdoor Learning

I received a few queries re the issuing of the PE timetable to P3-7 classes only. This is because class teachers are contracted to teach pupils for 22.5 hrs each week, with pupils attending 25hrs weekly. The 2.5hrs are addressed by having 'specialist staff' deliver other curricular areas, to pupils in P3-7. This is known as 'Remaining Class Contract Time: RCCT.' P1&2 pupils shorter days ensures the teacher non class contact time is met without the addition of specialist staff. Teachers in P1&2 teach their own pupils PE, art and outdoor learning.

It was also queried why some classes appear to receive more PE than others. This is balanced by more art or more outdoor learning. Pupil entitlement of 2hrs of PE per week is met by all classes. Teachers who job share/part time receive a proportion of RCCT which also affects our timetabling and with specialists' teachers restricted to only working with two classes per day is the main reason why it looks so different this session.

I hope you have managed to follow this, it can be very confusing to those who do not work in a school.

Outdoor Learning Timetable to follow in a separate communication.

Diary Dates

Tues 8th September: Parent Council Meeting – 7-8pm via Teams

Fri 18th September New Beginnings Mass this will be recorded and link issued to families to watch at home, pupils will watch in class across the morning.

Mon, 21st September Autumn Holiday – school closed to all.

Meet the Teacher

Our Meet the Teacher session will feel very different this year. Teachers are currently creating presentations to issue on **18th September**. There will be one per stage with input from our class teachers, specialist staff, SfL and the Senior Leadership Team. These will be sent across via Learning Journals and will offer an insight into the curriculum for each stage of the school and will cover homelearning expectations and info pertinent to each stage.

We know that valuable opportunities to chat to teachers are limited so a form will be issued in advance for parental questions and FAQ's will be answered within the presentation.

Parental Consultations

These will be held via Microsoft Teams and families will receive an invitation and joining instructions. These will be held across two weeks, from week commencing **5th October**. Look out for more information.

Communicating with the School

Should you wish to make an appointment to speak with a class teacher please use the weekly form, call the office or email the admin account. Learning Journals can also be used, we are trying to keep as many avenues open as possible while face to

face meetings are restricted. Teachers will arrange to call you back at a mutually convenient time. Please be aware of the council policy for email responses – 5 days for a complaint and 10 days for a compliment or concern – we do endeavour to respond well within these timescales but it is not always possible and we request your patience and support.

To speak to a member of the leadership team – please email or call to make an appointment.

And Finally...and sadly. We were very sorry to receive the news of the passing of a great friend of St John's, Mike Knox, former Depute of Holy Rood High. Mike was an engaging and inspirational teacher who developed a long and inclusive link with our partner school in Legho village, Tanzania. Mike was instrumental in ensuring the links were meaningful to our pupils and developed a number of workshops with our senior pupils across the years – his photographs and videos were legendary – he always had the best of tech and could install a projector and hook up video links with a moment's notice. He was also a parishioner of St John's and good friend to many staff. May he rest in peace.

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