



Colgrain Primary School & Nursery

'Inspiring all to Flourish'

Redgauntlet Road, Helensburgh, G84 7TZ

School Enquiries: enquiries-colgrain@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Headteacher: pauline.walsh@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the January edition of our Newsletter!

We have had quite a start to the term and the year 2021 so far. In this this Newsletter you will find updates on our Home Learning provision, plans for our parents evening discussions later in the term and some news on celebrating success for our children.

The whole Colgrain Primary community has really stepped up as a true partnership in the start to this term. I have more than ever, been proud to be here in what I would describe as my Colgrain Family. Thank you seems like too small a phrase to share my appreciation of the effort put in from every single member of this community, but I feel thankful every day and in every moment.

We launched our new online learning provision on the 11th January this month not yet knowing how it would work for families at home and how our young people would respond. I think it is safe to say that the young members of the community have shown us their determination and motivation to take part in their learning to the best of their ability, in any way they are able, which is exceptional. Of course this could not happen easily without the support and dedication of all the parents and carers out there learning how to work Google Classroom, Google Meet and Seesaw using a range of devices to do so. While we did have some technical issues to sort for some families (and a thank you here for parents who helped each other in the community too!) we have now settled into a rhythm in the online learning school.

We have received many emails to the school and notes on Seesaw from our parents and carers thanking the staff for their hard work and all they are doing for the children. These messages of support are always shared with staff as they lift spirits and give staff the boost they need at this time while they learn new ways of working, manage wellbeing of their class, who they are always worried over and manage their own family life. The team here have been truly outstanding in the wide range of ways they work each day to support our community.

We hope to return to face-to-face learning as soon as we are able but in the meantime, stay safe and look after yourselves,

Mrs P Walsh

Head Teacher



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Online Learning Updates

Most of you will now be in a routine with the way online learning is timetabled for your own class. Staff continue to use Google Classroom as the main 'registration' area and Google Meet link.

Seesaw is where children will find posts for timetables, activities, recorded videos on lessons and feedback from teachers on tasks sent in by children.

Children are able to post activities to their teacher at any time, please remember there will be a turnaround time for feedback where posts come out of school hours, however staff will work through these when able.

Live Sessions are very popular with our young people with the majority of pupils reporting that they most enjoy this part of the day. It is not the best platform for all our young people and at times some will opt out of live sessions. The posts in the Seesaw app will provide timetables and activities with recorded messages to allow learning to take place at any time and families are able to organise their week in ways that suit home life.

Wellbeing



We are keen to ensure the wellbeing of all members of our community during this lockdown and have noticed that while our online learning provision has been well received, there are demands on everyone where the lockdown has extended and continues to put strain on all our lives. Maintaining high engagement is important for all our young people and we must be careful to avoid 'burn-out' phases for children.

For this reason we will be joining many schools in creating a Wellbeing Wednesday where the focus will be everyone's wellbeing within the Colgrain Family.

Starting next week, staff will continue to offer a literacy live session and a numeracy live session on each day of the week with a change to Wednesday.

Staff will use the live sessions on Wednesday to give pupils a chance to catch up on new learning and contact teachers to check for understanding of learning from other sessions that week. Pupils can contact the teacher via Google Classroom or Seesaw to ask to come along, or just pop into the live session at the usual time for a chat about the learning. Teachers may also contact pupils and ask them to come along to help work through any tasks they have posted to ensure pupils are confident in their learning.

Pupils are able to catch up on other tasks they have still to complete and are not required to join the live session if they are able to work without going over the learning.

In the afternoon, we will encourage learning that does not involve devices to balance screen time and give the community a chance to find some breathing space in busy week.



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Parents Evening

We hope that children will be in school in the month of March, however we are sure that we will not yet be able to carry out face-to-face appointments with our parents. To this end, we are scheduling phone call appointments for parents again this term.

Dates: Tuesday 16th March 4-7pm & Thursday 18th March 4-7pm.

We will set up an opportunity for parents to send in some questions they want to ask teachers to make the best use of the time together. In many ways, parents will have a good insight into learning this term and the conversation will be a great chance for parents and teachers to talk through how things have gone at both ends.

Starting next week...

Teachers will be looking carefully each day for children to give certificates to for the weeks work!

Next week we will be looking for children who have handed in good quality activities for the teacher to see!

The diary dates ...

Monday 8th - Friday 12th February – School closed for February Week Holiday

Monday 15th February – School and Nursery In-Service Day – children should not attend

Tuesday 16th February – School Open (Further information on full school return TBC by Scottish Government)

Tuesday 16th March & Thursday 18th March – Parents Evening Phone Call appointments – information will be provided nearer the time.