



**15<sup>th</sup> October  
2020**



Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we reflect upon the past eight weeks we are pleased that we have been able to enjoy having all the children back to school learning, playing and having fun with their friends. It certainly has been an unprecedented first half term.

We know that school life continues to be far from normal and we too are aware that this has led to tremendous stress and inconvenience for parents and staff alike. Despite all this, we are continuing to try our very best to provide a safe and secure environment for your child to continue to learn and develop. Thank you once again for your cooperation and thank you too for the many kind words of encouragement that you have given to me and individual staff members. That is truly appreciated.

In this letter we want to bring you up to date and provide you with the most recent information relating to our school.

#### **Covid-19 Update.**

You will be aware of yesterday's decision by our Executive to close all schools from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in order to combat the rise in transmission of Covid-19. It is therefore confirmed that all schools will extend their half term break by an extra week. School will finish tomorrow at 2pm and remain closed for pupils and staff until Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Please note that the guidance states that this is an extended holiday and there will be no home learning during these two weeks. If the lockdown was to extend beyond 2<sup>nd</sup> November provision for home learning will be made and you will be kept informed through Seesaw.

This extended break will impact upon our upcoming parent/teacher telephone calls for P1, P2, P3 and P6. We apologise about these changes in dates, however, we hope that the agreed times for the phone calls can remain. If you are unavailable, please contact your child's teacher by posting them a Seesaw message. These have now been rearranged as follows.

**P1** = Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November + Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> afternoon

**P2** = Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November + Monday 9<sup>th</sup> afternoon

**P6** = Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

**P3** = Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November

**P5** = Interview times and date will be confirmed on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Our Board of Governors have now thoroughly reviewed our current 'Restart' measures and have agreed that our current interim measures, including our straight class arrangement, will remain in place until at least Christmas. These measures will continue to be subject to review.

Unfortunately, Miss Hegarty will be unavailable to return to teach P5 on Thursday and Friday following half term. We want to thank her for her hard work and commitment to her class during her period with us. We are pleased, however, that Mrs Christie will continue to be available. We also continue to wish Mrs Montgomery a speedy recovery.

We thank God for everyday that our school community has been safe in the current situation. With the rise in confirmed cases, we know a lot of schools have been impacted and hopefully this two-week break will see a drop in numbers and allow us a safe return to school.

### **Macmillan cancer support**

We want to thank all of you for your very generous donations to Macmillan. We are delighted to announce that you have raised £1450. This is a tremendous amount for a school of our size. Thank you all so very much.

Thank you too for everyone who sent in photographs of your child's baking or enjoying a tea party. We do hope that your child had great fun as they learned about this wonderful charity.



### **School Improvements**

We are delighted at the number of improvements that have been made to school in recent weeks.

- Mrs Alexander's P1 classroom was repainted, a floor covering laid and new tables and chairs added.
- We are pleased that Mrs Campbell's husband was able to repaint our main school front door.
- Mrs Robinson and her husband repainted the mobile that Mrs Campbell is currently using. We are grateful to Mr William Robinson who did all of this work on a voluntary basis.
- We are grateful too for Mrs Montgomery's brother and Mrs McPhee's husband who built outdoor equipment for our nursery.

We wish you all a pleasant and restful break and hope that everyone in our school community stays healthy and safe.

If there is any change to the situation regarding the opening of school on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, information will be sent out using Seesaw. We continue to wish you and your families God's blessing and safety in the days to come.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr I Hutchinson

Principal