



Calderwood Chronicle

Weekly News Update for Parents and Families

Welcome to our Calderwood Chronicle newsletter. This will be a weekly update which aims to keep all our Calderwood families informed about what is happening in our community, and beyond, whilst our school remains closed.

I hope that this finds you and your family well. We are now entering our sixth week of 'lockdown' and our second week back from what would have been Spring Break. Although most of us are now settling somewhat into a new normal, it remains a very unsettling time for all of us. It is very difficult to predict what will happen in the coming weeks and months, and that adds to the anxiety and uncertainty I am sure we are all feeling from time to time.

As I stated in my letter just before Spring Break, alongside continuing to provide learning opportunities for our pupils, we see our most important role at the moment as a pastoral one: providing some familiarity for pupils, maintaining our strong community links and helping our families in any way we can. With that in mind, if there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to get in touch in the usual way.

We want to fill this newsletter with positive stories, so please continue to send these into me. All of our staff are missing our Calderwoodies very, very much. This job isn't quite as much fun without all your daily stories, achievements, smiles, hugs and antics. We cannot wait to be back in Calderwood where we all belong. In the meantime, let's stay in touch as best we can and continue to share our stories, adventures and achievements.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Innes 

Thank You!



I would like to begin by saying an enormous 'thank you' to everyone in our school community for all the incredible things they are doing at the moment – big and small – to help those around them. From all our key worker parents and grandparents, to our staff who are manning the Hub, to those collecting food donations to distribute to those in need and those who are decorating their windows and clapping every Thursday – thank you very, very much!



Carsen (Primary 1) and his mum, Nikki, would like to say thank you to all the children in the community for all the lovely rainbow pictures brightening up windows. Carsen counted an incredible 55 rainbows on his walks. Wow. Keep up the hard work Calderwoodies!



Roddy (Primary 4) has been attending the Calderwood Hub with his wee brother Blake, who hasn't even started school yet, because his mum and dad both work for the NHS (hooray for key workers!).

Roddy's mum and dad would like to thank all the teachers in the Hub for their care and commitment. The boys are enjoying the Hub and Blake has had a very unexpected introduction to Calderwood!

Pupil Challenge

Design a Calderwood mascot!

Calling all Calderwoodies – I am challenging you all to design a mascot for Calderwood Primary School that will help to introduce our new Primary 1 pupils to our school. The mascot can be anything you choose and you should come up with a name for them, too.

Send your drawings (a photo of the drawing would be great) to Mrs Innes at gw14calderwoodht@glow.sch.uk or tweet your photo to @CalderwoodSLC.

News

Distance Learning

When the school closures were announced, we had a two-fold plan for distance learning – sending home a physical pack of activities and setting up a digital platform through Google Classroom for online learning.



I hope that your child is enjoying engaging in Google Classrooms. New activities are posted on a daily basis and teachers are available every day to engage with pupils. There is no expectation that all tasks should be completed, but it is a good point-of-contact for pupils to have with the school. Remember our whole-school Google Classroom, too, where fun activities and challenges are posted every day.

If you need any technical help with Google Classrooms, please contact Mrs Waddell. For any other issues that might be preventing access, please get in touch with Mrs Innes (contact information included below).

Supporting Families

This is a very tricky time for all families for a variety of different reasons. We want all of our Calderwood families to know that there are a huge number of supports available at the moment.

We are able to access food and household essentials, sanitary products, IT devices, broadband and packs of educational resources (pens, pencils, paint, etc.). There is no means-testing required for access to these – South Lanarkshire Council are supporting us to ensure that all our families have what they need for their wellbeing and to access distance learning. This also includes situations where multiple family members are sharing one IT device. All items are delivered to your home. (We are going through South Lanarkshire Council to order items, and so they will take a little bit of time to arrive.)

If there is anything we can do to support your family, please email Mrs Innes (contact information included below).



Pupil Reports

You will be pleased to know that teaching staff have been working hard over the past few weeks to complete our annual pupil reports. These will be reflective of the learning undertaken up to the date that our schools closed.

We were piloting a new, more succinct reporting format for South Lanarkshire Council this session (which will be rolled-out across the authority next session). This means that the reports were already looking a wee bit different to the ones received in previous years. However, we have also had to change the platform used to complete reports due to ICT limitations with distance working. That being said, we are confident that you will be happy with the format we have created.



As most of you will know, we usually aim to have the reports sent out to parents at the beginning of June. We are currently awaiting advice from South Lanarkshire Council around how reports should be distributed and when. There are some issues to consider around data protection, and they are also keen that there is a level of consistency across schools in the authority. We will keep you updated on this matter.

New Primary 1 for August 2020

At this time of year we would usually be welcoming our new Primary 1 pupils into our school for a huge range of transition activities.

We are really disappointed that we will not be able to do this this session, however, we are planning lots of other ways that we can introduce our new pupils to the school and staff.

We will be writing to our new Primary 1 families very soon to say hello and outline some of these activities.



Due to the current situation, the Scottish Government have extended the date for local authorities to provide the outcomes of placing requests which were made before the 15th March deadline. The date is now 31st May 2020, although South Lanarkshire Council are striving to get decisions out to families by 15th May this year.

Primary Seven Leavers

This is usually a very exciting term for our Primary 7s as they prepare to leave Calderwood for high school.



We are working very closely with Stonelaw High School, as we always do, to give them all the information that they need to ensure a smooth transition for all pupils. They are currently considering options to provide distance transition activities for pupils.

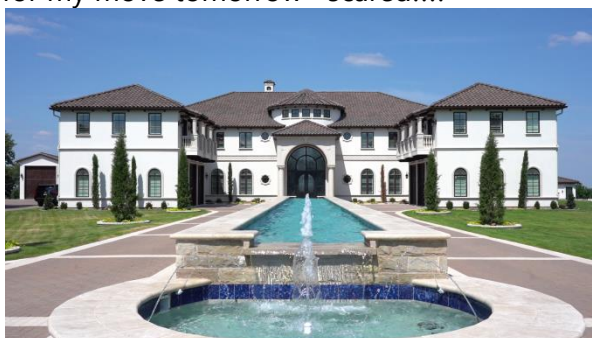
We know that our Primary 7s are missing out on lots of treats this term, including their Leavers' Dance. We are committed to putting this on for pupils when it is safe to do so, and we know that our Parent Council will support us to do this, whenever that might be. So don't worry, Primary 7, we are thinking about you and we will celebrate your time at Calderwood when we can.

500 Words

Our 500 Words Lunchtime Club worked very hard with Mrs Holtham to produce some fantastic pieces of writing, which they entered into BBC Radio 2's 500 Words competition. Every week we will share an extract from some of these wonderful pieces.

An extract from Niamh Martin's (Primary 5) story.....

We are moving tomorrow, and we are moving to a mansion! I am used to a normal house - the mansion has 3 floors and a pool! This is going to separate my friends and me, AND I am moving school. So, I am scared, but I am getting this off my mind, so I am going to the shops to get clothes because my clothes are terrible, and I need everything for my move tomorrow #scared!!!!



Achievements

Calderwoodies - I am really missing hearing all about your amazing achievements every week at our assembly. Please ask your grown up to let me know what you have been doing so we can celebrate your successes, whatever they might be!

Carsen (Primary 1) has been very busy and has learned to ride his bike with no stabilisers since we stopped school. That is a fantastic achievement. Well done, Carsen!



Archie (Primary 3) has loved taking part in Mrs Ring's tasks on the whole-school Google Classroom. He created this amazing Picasso face. What a fantastic job, Archie!

Thank you very much to Zoey for this update – it sounds like you are having a fantastic time on your walks!



Five facts about my daily walk
by Zoey Richmond room6.

1. Ever since the lockdown started we've walked 65 miles.
2. We go to fernbrae meadows, near my house.
3. When we go we see butterflies and dogs.
4. We hear woodpeckers and dogs barking
5. When I get home I play Roblox with my friends.

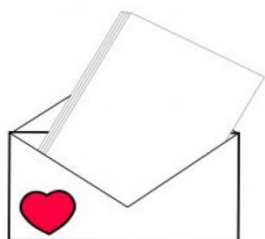


Emma won this incredible Easter Egg in a colouring competition. You can see her entry in the photograph. Well done, Emma! I wonder how long that egg lasted?



Achievements (continued...)

Molly in Primary 6 took part in a Highland dance routine with other children from her dance school during a Thursday night 8pm Clap for Our Carers to say thank you to NHS workers. What a fantastic tribute, Molly, well done to you all!



Georgia in Primary 2 has signed up to 'The Cheerful Little Letter Project' which aims to spread a little cheer to the elderly who are in care homes and who are experiencing loneliness and isolation during this difficult time. Georgia was matched with 92 year old Cherry who is in a home in Liverpool, and they have been sending letters to each other. Georgia has sent Cherry lovely pictures and made her a bracelet. Her family are incredibly proud of her, and so are we. What a lovely and kind thing to do!

Christopher in Primary 3 has been spending some of his time at home entertaining his little sister Lucy. I am sure that she is really enjoying getting to spend lots of quality time with such a good big brother!



Contacts

If you need to make contact with a member of staff from the school, please email:

Mrs Innes: gw14calderwoodht@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Ring: gw07ringjillian@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Combe: gw10combeashley@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Kirkland: gw10kirklandjulie2@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Waddell (ICT-related enquiries): gw07waddellmaureen01@glow.sch.uk

Please remember to send in your stories, shout-outs and thank-yous to Mrs Innes at gw14calderwoodht@glow.sch.uk

COVID-19

Community wellbeing telephone line

The Community Wellbeing Line will help you in the current COVID-19 Pandemic. It is not for emergencies such as when you might need Police or Ambulance services, or for enquiries about normal council services like bin collections. You should continue to make use of the usual telephone numbers for these.

It will link you to community volunteers in your area who can:

- Deliver food packs to you
- Deliver hearing aid batteries to you
- Help with other essentials such as baby milk or pet food
- Post letters for you
- Check you are okay in person or by telephone
- Possibly some other things, if you let us know what you need

Some of our volunteers may be able to help collect prescriptions for you.

Your volunteer will either have a council name badge or a letter from the Chief Executive to confirm who they are.

If you have an underlying health condition and have been advised to self-isolate for a period, then you should make us aware of this so we can assess what your needs are.

Guidance for people who are being helped by community volunteers

We need you to help make sure both you and the volunteers helping you remain safe by:

- Only asking your volunteer to do the tasks that have been agreed in advance with the helpline
- To help with infection control, making sure you don't ask them or let them come into your home
- Not giving money to your volunteer to carry out tasks
- Following any current advice about infection control that is coming from the government

You may find that someone comes to your house to check you are okay. This could be because a neighbour or family member has contacted the telephone line with a concern. Please let the volunteer know that you are all right, or if you need any assistance, and they can report this back. You do not need to open your door to do this; make sure you keep safe in the ways you usually would. Volunteers will be able to have a conversation with you from behind the door or through a window.

You can contact the Community Wellbeing Phone Line on

0303 123 1009

The lines are open from 9am–5pm Monday to Friday

**can Do
Community**

We hope everyone working together to help will make sure you stay safe and well.

If you need this information in a different format or language, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. **Phone:** 0303 123 1015 **Email:** equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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Education Resources
Psychological Service

Covid-19 advice and support

What for?

Advice/phone consultation for
additional support at this time

Who for?

School staff/other professionals,
parents/carers and young people

How to contact:

phone: 01698 455800, 10am-3pm,
Monday – Friday (leave message)

email: enquiries@slcpsych.org.uk

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1015 Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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