



Calderwood Chronicle

Weekly News Update for Parents and Families

Wednesday 27th May 2020

Welcome to the latest issue of our Calderwood Chronicle newsletter, the first one following the First Minister's announcement last Thursday outlining Scotland's plan to come out of lockdown - a plan that will come into action at the end of this week (if supported by scientific advice).

This plan has huge implications for our school and families. Please be reassured that, as always, the best interests of our pupils, families and staff are at the heart of everything we do and every decision we make at Calderwood. What is very clear is that now, more than ever, it is important that we work closely together as a school community to ensure a safe, well-managed return to school for pupils.

Please remember to keep in touch and send your child's achievements, stories and news to me at gw14calderwoodht@glow.sch.uk. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and I look forward to hearing from you.

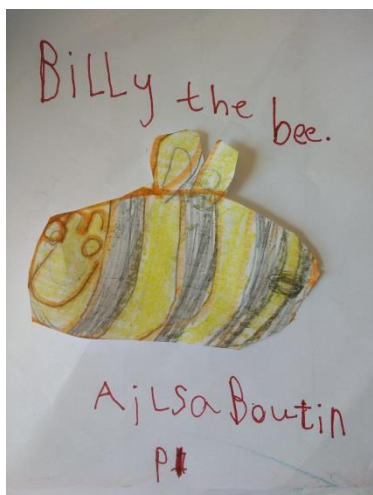
Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Innes 

Pupil Challenge

Design a Calderwood mascot!

Here are some more brilliant mascot designs. Well done to Ailsa and Angus Boutin (Primary 1 and Primary 4) and thank you for sending in your designs.



News

Reopening Our School

On Thursday we heard an announcement from Scotland's First Minister which outlined what a return to school in Scotland will look like (taking into account rates of infection and other medical advice). At the moment we are still in the very early stages of planning what this means for our pupils and families. Many decisions still need to be made at Scottish Government and local authority level to inform school planning. With this in mind, I have tried to answer some of the questions our families will have.

When will pupils return to school?

Staff will return to school in June to begin to make plans for pupils to return from 11th August.

What about transition opportunities for our new Primary 1 pupils and our Primary 7 leavers?

We are hoping to be able to welcome our new Primary 1 pupils into the school in June for a transition event. Once we have had advice from Scottish Government and South Lanarkshire Council, we will decide how best to do this. We will then inform parents.

There will also hopefully be transition activities for our Primary 7s to support them as they prepare for their move to secondary school. We will liaise with our associated secondary schools, and again let parents and carers know once plans have been put in place.

What will the return to school look like for pupils?

When schools reopen in August, not all pupils will return to school at the same time. In order to be able to maintain a level of social distancing, pupils will return in groups. The size of the groups and the pattern of days for pupils will depend on advice we receive from South Lanarkshire Council, and will depend on the size of our classrooms and the utilisation of additional spaces around the school (for example, the infant open area, hall, etc.). When pupils are not in school, they will continue to engage in distance learning. This is called blended learning.

What is blended learning?

Blended learning is the term being used for the combination of both in-school and at-home learning that will become the norm for the first part of next session whilst social distancing measures must stay in place in our schools. Children will receive new learning (being taught new concepts/skills/knowledge) in school with their teacher. These will then be consolidated with activities at home. At-home learning is likely to take the form of both written work (jotters/worksheets etc. being sent home) and digital learning through Google Classroom.



Who will make the decisions about class sizes and pupil groups? When will parents and carers be informed about these?

Some decisions will be made at local authority level to ensure consistency across schools. However, all schools are different – different layout, capacity, pupil numbers, etc. – and so some decisions will need to be made at a school level.

We will keep parents updated regularly. Please keep an eye on all of our usual communication channels – our App, Twitter, website and Parent Council Facebook page.

Our Parent Council have been meeting fortnightly during this period of school closure. The next meeting is tomorrow night (Thursday 28th May). If you have any questions or concerns, please remember that you can get in touch with me or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (contact information is below) or, alternatively, get in touch with a member of our Parent Council and your question will be discussed at our next meeting.

We know that this remains a very unsettling time, and at the moment we all have more questions than answers (and I include myself in that category). We will work hard to ensure the reopening of Calderwood Primary School is as smooth as possible, for the benefit of both our young learners and their families. We know that we can rely, as always, on your support and understanding.



Contacts

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

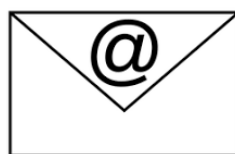
Mrs Innes: gw14calderwoodht@glow.sch.uk

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



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

Achievements

Remember Calderwoodies, we want to hear all about your adventures and achievements – everything we would normally celebrate at our weekly assembly.
Remind your grown-up to let me know what you have been up to so we can celebrate your successes, whatever they might be!



Mia Anderson (Primary 3) worked very hard over the holiday weekend to make bracelets, which she then sold to raise money for our local food bank. She raised a total of £40, which is absolutely fantastic.

Well done, Mia. We are very proud of you!

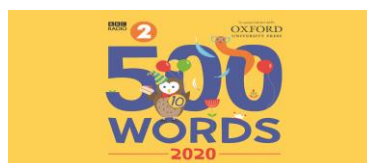


500 Words

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.

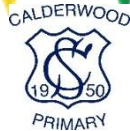
An extract from Angus Campbell's story (Primary 7)....

He went outside to feel the grass and breathe in the air, but when he looked around half of all the forest was gone! Then he looked down and turned around and he noticed flaming hot footprints -the footprints were literally on fire! So Gesepi followed the trail until he stopped at a strange looking well. He looked down and there was a tunnel, so he leapt down the oddly placed wishing well and he ran through the tunnel as if he was racing. It felt like Gesepi had been running for hours, so he looked down at his watch and it had only been five minutes! At the end of the disturbing tunnel was a suspicious looking oak door. When Gesepi opened the door, it squeaked like a mouse. Gesepi went through the creepy door, and, just as he did that, the old door closed by itself behind him....

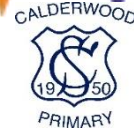


Welcome Wednesday

Mrs Kirkland, one of our Depute Head Teachers, has a very special message for all of our new Primary 1s this week....



Getting ready to be a Big Primary 1



Time has flown by, and soon you'll be at Calderwood and a big Primary 1,
We've created a little poem for you to get prepared, and have a little fun!

A little checklist if you like, of things to work on until your first day with us at school,
We know you'll try really hard to become more independent ... it's going to be so cool!

First things first, can you unfasten your coat and hang your jacket up?
Can you organise your lunch, eat with a knife and fork and tidy away your cup?

It's important when you're playing with your friends, that you take turns and share,
And when you're finished with the toys, can you tidy up with care?

Big girls and boys toilets are there for you to use when you need to go,
Can you use the toilet, flush it when you're finished, and wash your hands like a pro?

You'll be so excited to have a big school bag, can you open and close it all on your own?
Can you take off your shiny new school shoes, and put them back on?

Practise doodling and drawing with your favourite pencils and pens,
With a grown up, practise using scissors, and make pictures for your friends!

A final challenge for you all, can you remember your full name and address?
We hope you'll all try really hard ... and we're sure you're going to impress!



I can fasten buttons and zips



I can take off my jacket and hang it up



I can put on my own shoes



I can wait for my turn and share toys with my friends



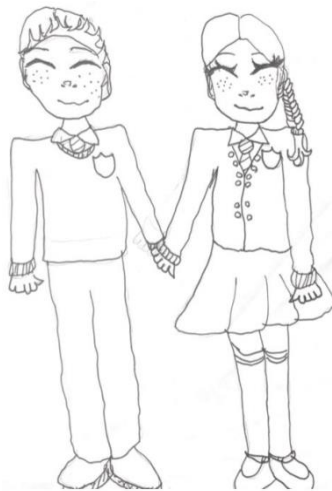
I know my name and address



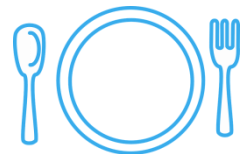
I can use the toilet, flush it after I use it, and then wash my hands



I can open and close my school bag



My Primary 1 Checklist



I can eat with a knife and fork



I can tidy away toys when I have finished playing



I can wash and dry my hands



I can use my pencils and pens to doodle



I can use scissors carefully



I can tidy way my plate and cup when I am finished my lunch



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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