

**Head Teacher Update**

**5th March 2021**

Dear Parent / Carer,

As ever, it has been a very busy week in school. Here is the news for the week of 1-5 March 2021.

**First Minister Announcement on Tuesday 2nd March**

You will no doubt be aware that FM Nicola Sturgeon announced on Tuesday that schools were to welcome back S1-6 pupils from the 15th March until the end of this term which finishes at 3.40pm on Thursday 1st April.

Director of Children’s Services Steven Quinn wrote to all parents today to update you on the approach being taken within Renfrewshire. The key points were that all secondary pupils S1-6 will be receiving some in-school teaching and that the approach will be broadly consistent across all Renfrewshire secondary schools, however each school will decide how to safely balance remote and in-school learning based on local circumstances. Mr Quinn also pointed out that the FM made it clear that senior phase students in S4 to S6 taking national qualifications will have priority for face-to-face lessons in school.

In addition, the government has been clear that during these 14 days from 15 March to 1 April pupils MUST be 2m socially distanced in school. This impacts the numbers of pupils that we can bring into the building as classrooms cannot accommodate the typical class size of 30 pupils because of the 2m distancing.

**We are currently working hard to put in place a part time ‘blended’ timetable for S1-6 for** **15 March – 1 April that takes account of these expectations.**

**We will contact you middle/end of next week with full details and the timetable. It will be text / shared on social media / placed on the website, and we will also post it home, so you have a paper copy.**

**Update on the return of S4-6 for practical**

The return of seniors S4-6 for practical lessons has gone very well and I am delighted at how the seniors responded to the block practical timetable and associated health and safety measures.

Due to the FM announcement, above, next week will be the final week of the block practical timetable.

**Parental Workshops**

Thank you to the parents and carers that responded to the recent survey and signed up for parental workshops. Feedback from the workshops that took place this week was positive and my thanks also to the staff who delivered these sessions.

These are the workshops taking place week beginning 8th March:

Strategies to support pupils with dyslexia Tuesday 9th March at 7pm

Senior phase study skills Thursday 11th March at 7pm

**(**If you would like to sign up, but haven’t, please contact the office for details.)

**Parent Council Meeting Monday 1 March 2021**

Our third parent council meeting of the year took place on Monday evening over Zoom. We began with inserts from Ms Cole on SQA, Mr Menzies on options and Mr Munro on the parent workshops. Our discussion on SQA was detailed, however comments made from parents was that Ms Cole certainly offered a great deal of clarity and reassurance about where the school is, and how our senior pupils are doing. Finally, the feedback from parents on the JHS remote learning offer January-March was overwhelmingly positive, and subsequent emails of thanks/ acknowledgement from parent council members have been forwarded on to the staff team.

**S2 Reports**

Even though we have been in a second period of lockdown, we felt it was very important to try to keep up to date with our reporting/tracking calendar. This is so we continue to communicate with parents and give you the essential feedback you need to support your child’s learning and progress. During lockdown, so far, we have issued S4, S5 and S6 reports as these referred to prelims/assessment gathering periods in December.

S2 reports were packaged up and posted this week and should be with parents at time of writing. Please get in touch if there are any issues.

Staff are currently working on S1 reports.

**World Book Day 4th March 2021**

On 4th March, Miss Gribben, Acting PT English, and the English department delivered a World Book Day virtual event with around 150 P7s from our 7 associated primary schools. Mrs O’Malley and I dropped in to say hello, and we were very impressed with the lovely manners and passion for learning that was so clear to see from the P7s.

**Keeping in touch**

Please remember that we are here to help.

PT Pastoral (see above) will be your first point of contact; however, the office staff will always endeavor to get you through to the most appropriate person:

0300 300 1331. There is also the school enquiries email:

johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

With best wishes to you and your family,



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher