

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well. We are very much looking forward to Covid safe Christmas celebrations in school over the next few weeks. Unfortunately, due to circumstances, we are not in a position to revise current Covid mitigations and our current procedures from August will remain in place into the New Year. We hope to be able to update you in January. We will be maintaining and continually reinforcing our safety protocols in classrooms and around the school. Thank you to everyone for wearing face coverings on entry to our school grounds. This is very much appreciated by all our school community. Please be assured that we are doing our very best to keep our school community as safe as possible while offering a high quality learning experience.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Gillian Smith to our nursery Senior Leadership Team as Principal ECE. We would also like to welcome Mrs Judy Livingstone who is the new Nursery Admin Assistant.

Covid - Update

COVID 19 Self- Isolation

Please note that this is the most recent and up to date guidance around reducing the risks of COVID-19 in schools. Schools and families are being asked to continue to follow this guidance:

Self-isolation for people with symptoms or testing positive

Any adult or child who develops symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) must self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Guidance. **NB:** People living in the same household, for example any siblings, must also isolate while awaiting the outcome of the test result.

Any adult or child who tests positive using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test within 48 hours to confirm the result. As above, people living in the same household, for example any siblings, must also isolate while awaiting the outcome of the test result.

Any adult or child who tests positive using PCR tests must isolate for 10 days in line with NHS Guidance.

There will now be a letter issued which is targeted to low level contacts identified to the positive index case.
Please continue to check your e-mail regularly and update us with any changes to your e-mail address. Thank you.

Seasonal Information

This year again, due to COVID mitigations, we cannot go ahead with our concert in its usual format, with parents as a live audience. However, we really do not want the children, especially the Primary 3s to miss out on this experience entirely so we are going to go ahead with the Christmas show with each of the P3 classes performing. This will take a different format due to the high percentage of absences currently within the P3 year group. Primary 1 and 2 children would normally have the opportunity to sing some songs for their parents, but this year they will perform some Christmas songs as a year group. This will also be filmed and added to the Primary 3's performance for you to view online.

Just before the Christmas break P1-3 parents will be given a link to view the Christmas performance on their child's digital platform.

Christmas Cards

We are operating the Christmas post system this year, should your child wish to take part.

Christmas Parties

Children will have a Christmas party in their classroom in the afternoon between Friday 10 December - Friday 17 December. Your child's class teacher will advise you of which day your child's Christmas party will be held. On this day your child may come to school wearing something festive eg a santa hat, a bit of tinsel, Christmas top. The Parent Council have very kindly donated a small snack and a drink for these events.

Community Advent Window

Again this year we will be participating in the Riverside Community Advent Window displays. Please look out for our windows on Friday 10 December and Wednesday 15 December.

School Christmas Lunch

The School Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday 15 December.

Jingle Jump Event

On Wednesday 15 December we will be hosting a whole school Health & Wellbeing event in support of Strathcarron Hospice. More detailed information will follow shortly.

School Christmas Service

This year our Christmas Service will be a virtual event on Monday 20 December. Parents will receive a link to access this virtually from their child's class teacher.

Charities

This session the charities we will be supporting are Start Up Stirling and Strathcarron. P3s are leading a reverse advent calendar for Start-Up Stirling, please donate if you can through your child's class. We will also be supporting Strathcarron Hospice through our whole school Jingle Jump event.

Healthy Snack

Please can we remind all parents and carers to send your child to school with a suitable, healthy snack for break times. On the occasion that your child may forget a healthy snack, school will continue to provide one.

Health Matters

Please can I remind all parents to regularly check children's heads for headlice. We would also like to remind parents and children of the importance of good hygiene, in particular handwashing. We follow NHS guidelines, if your child has had vomiting and/or diarrhoea please do not send them back to school until 48 hours has elapsed following their last bout. We appreciate your support with this and hope this helps to prevent the spread of germs.

Playground

Please can we remind all parents/carers not to bring dogs into the playground and please ensure if they are at the gate that they are kept on a leash. Can we also ask our school community that, out of school hours, if you are exercising your pet in the school grounds that you please ensure you clean up after them. We have been experiencing a high volume of dog mess left in our school grounds. As you can understand this is not ideal for our children and staff.

PE Kit Reminder

A reminder that children should wear suitable clothing and footwear on PE days for them to be ready to learn safely and appropriately. Jewellery should be removed or covered, and long hair tied back.

1 + 2 Language Learning

At Riverside, in addition to English, all children from P1 - P7 learn French each term within our current curriculum, as our second additional language. We are delighted that from January until April, all P5 - P7 classes within mainstream will be learning Gaelic language as our third additional language.

Update from Parent Council

Thank you to everyone who came to the recent Parent Council AGM. It was a great opportunity to reflect on all the incredible things we have achieved as a school community this year, despite COVID!

Thanks to your support, our fundraising activities have helped raised vital money towards giving the nature playground a major face lift. Did you see it featured in this week's Stirling Observer? With your help, we have also funded the new school on-line subscription for Heinemann Active Maths and festive snacks for the children's Christmas parties.

Next year, we will be raising funds towards additional bike racks in the playground - helping to promote active travel at Riverside! Watch out for the return of FitFeb! As always, if you have any fundraising ideas or contacts, please let us know. All ideas are welcome, you can get in touch on RAPPStirling@gmail.com

Your elected members for this year are Josephine Amos - Chair; Kathryn Anderson - Vice Chair; Dionysia Dionysiou - Treasurer; Laura Livesey and Sarah McMaster - Members; Mrs Gemmell - Secretary. We also said goodbye and huge thanks to Kirsty Watson and Jenny Robertson who have stepped down.

We are always looking for more parents and carers to get involved - after all, many hands make light work! In the New Year, we are considering introducing a Class Rep system to boost Parent Council numbers and to ensure longevity of the committee. If you are interested, please let us know!

School App

We strongly encourage parents to download the School App. This is our main form of communication with you. Please contact the school office by phone or e-mail for details.

Tips for using the School App - We can send short messages, ie reminders, as a message and this will appear in the *Messages Tab*. Longer communications and attachments will appear in the *News Tab*. Please check both. Our Riverside Tweets also feed in to our News Tab, so if you do not use Twitter you are still able to keep up-to-date with school activities by regularly visiting the News Tab.

Weather Conditions and School Closures

Just a reminder of our procedure for school closures here at Riverside.

Unless there is a Stirling Council decision to close all schools, we strive to keep the school open.

Please be aware that if we have to close the school, information will be available from

- Stirling Council website at www.stirling.gov.uk
- Central FM Radio (103.1)
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At a school level we try to keep you up to date through

- School website at www.riversideprimaryschool.co.uk
- Apps Central School App
- Twitter @rpsinstirling.

If the closure is Council wide text messages may be used, however there is a possibility due to the high volume of texts being sent across the council that there may be a delay in parents receiving the message. Therefore please do check the other communication sources mentioned above.

P1 Enrolment for session 2022-23

As you may know, it is now time to enrol your child for Primary One. Due to Coronavirus restrictions it has been necessary to review arrangements for enrolling pupils in to Stirling Council schools. There will be no face to face enrolment process for pupils beginning Primary 1 in August 2022. Parents/carers should complete and submit an online enrolment form available on the Stirling Council website (www.stirling.gov.uk).

The online enrolment form should be completed **no later than Friday 14 January 2022**.

Tuesday 21 December - Lunch Arrangements for last day of term.

Term ends on Tuesday 21 December at 1.30pm. If your child is a home lunch they can leave at 12.30 pm and do not have to return to school in the afternoon. Children who require a school lunch will have lunch as normal at 12.30 pm in school, and can be collected by 1.30pm at the latest when school closes.

If your child is unable to attend on the last day of school please ensure that you phone the school to let us know. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 21 December School closes 1.30 pm for Christmas break

Wednesday 5 January 2022 School re-opens 9.00 am for Spring term

Thank you once again for your continued understanding and support during this time.

Mrs Michelle MacPhee
Headteacher