



Newsletter

August 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are so happy to be back in school again after what has been a very challenging time for everyone. School is simply not the same without our children, their laughter and funny stories. Thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support and understanding over the past 5 months. We feel blessed to have such supportive parents in our community.

Nursery & Primary 1

A very special mention to all our amazing new pupils who have started in Nursery and Primary 1. They have been outstanding at settling into their new routine so well and have taken everything in their stride. We know it hasn't been easy with all the restrictions in place. It never ceases to amaze us just how resilient our young people are. A huge well done to all the mums and dads too 😊.

Current Restrictions

Whilst we are delighted to be back in school there are still many restrictions in place which affect us on a daily basis. It is still an ever changing picture and guidance is constantly being adapted and updated as we go. The children have been amazing so far at settling into new routines and following protocols. There are still many school events which require clarification from Highland Council and Scottish Government, eg. Parents Evening/Meetings/Visitors to School. We will continue to communicate and keep you informed as this changes.

End of school day

Teaching staff currently need to vacate the building at 4.15pm each day to allow cleaners to follow their new regime, to ensure the school is clean for everyone the following day. This is not coming easy to our very committed and hardworking staff, especially since they are not permitted to take any pupils work home with them but is necessary for the time being to keep everyone safe.

Homework/Google Classrooms

Until restrictions are eased further we will not be sending homework out in paper or book form, to avoid the transfer of any unnecessary germs. Class teachers are currently setting up google classrooms (some already have) where any homework activities will be posted in the coming weeks. These google classrooms will also be a means of teachers communicating class information to pupils and parents. Please ensure your child logs in to their classroom when teachers advise them to do so.

Birthdays

Unfortunately, we are not currently permitted to sing in school which sadly means that we cannot sing happy birthday in classes. Boo hoo!! We are not allowed to have birthday cakes unless it is individual cakes, which have been individually wrapped as well as having an outer packaging. This is to ensure that no germs are passed on.

Social Distancing

As you will know our pupils do not need to socially distance from each other. The adults in school are trying very hard to get into the routine of socially distancing with each other and the children as much as possible. This is not easy and certainly doesn't come naturally to any of us. Could we please remind all parents to drop off and pick up their children as promptly as possible at the beginning and end of the day. Could we also ask the adults set a good example to our pupils by ensuring they maintain a 2 metre distance from others.

Getting in Touch

Due to the current COVID situation we are discouraging as many people as possible from entering the school building and grounds. This totally goes against our open door policy but is necessary for the time being. However please do not hesitate to get in touch with us through phone call or email at any time if you have any concerns or questions. We are really missing the contact we have with you all.

School Grounds

Many thanks to everyone who turned up on Saturday to help clear our playing field. This was greatly appreciated and now means we have safe environment for our children to play on. Great teamwork!! Also a big thank you to Vicky Macdonald and family for helping out in the school garden.

Braeview Park - PE

Beaully Shinty Club have very kindly agreed to us using an area in Braeview Park for PE lessons. This is a lovely even surface to work on compared to our playing field. All PE lessons currently need to be outside so please ensure your children wear a suitable kit on PE days. If possible PE kits should be worn under school uniform. Class Teachers will inform pupils of their PE days.

School Uniform

A wee reminder that all items of school uniform - t-shirt, jumper, trousers, skirts, leggings, shoes, pencil cases and water bottles should be labelled with their child's name. This will help to return lost property items to their owner. All pupils from Nursery to P7, should have a **jacket in school each day**. Children should be wearing fresh clothes each day in line with current guidelines.

Sun cream

If the sun decides to make a reappearance (fingers crossed), please could we ask that parents apply sun cream to their children before they come to school or nursery. We hope to be out as much as possible in the coming weeks.

Family Update Forms

Family update forms will be issued in due course. Please keep the school informed of any change in contact details as and when they happen. It is vital that the school holds up to date contacts for your child in case of an emergency.

Nut Allergy

We have a small number of children in the school and nursery who have a nut allergy. Could all parents please ensure their **children do not bring any items to school that contain nuts**, either for their snack or in their packed lunch. Many thanks for your support with this.

Provision of Devices

Highland Council currently have an initiative where schools can apply for digital devices if pupils do not have access to a device or broadband/wifi at home. One of the qualifying criteria is that the pupil must be in receipt of free school meals. It must be confirmed that the pupil does not have access to a home broadband connection or are already using a mobile data plan for internet access. The devices are available per household and shared, not one per child.

The device remains council property and must be returned at the end of the contract or when a child leaves Highland Council education. If you require further information regarding this, please get in touch with Mrs. Fraser-Lee.

School Meals

At the moment the canteen is offering a packed lunch. This consists of a sandwich with 2 choices each day, fruit, vegetable snack, home baking and water. Soup is also offered on some days. Please remember all pupils are entitled to a school lunch each day. If your child has specific dietary requirements which the canteen are currently unaware of please complete a special diet request which can be collected from the school office or online: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/65/special_diet_request_form Catering will then contact you when the canteen staff are ready to provide the correct diet for your child.

Payment of School Meals- P4-7

- School lunch payment envelopes will be sent home as normal with the advice that parents quarantine the envelope for 72 hours.
- Payments should then be submitted in the payment envelope. These are collected by the catering staff from the collection boxes in the classrooms. **(Primary Pupil meals cost £2.30)**
- The envelopes are available for collection from the catering staff and there will also be a supply in each classroom and at the school office.
- The envelopes should be filled in with the **full name** of the pupil, their class and the amount to be credited to their account. **If you have more than one child in the school please fill in the name of each child and how much is to be credited to each child's account.**
- You can pay by **cash or cheque**. Cheques should be made payable to The Highland Council and the pupil's name and class written on the back.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE GIVEN OUT BY THE CATERING STAFF FOR SCHOOL MEALS - ANY CHANGE WILL BE CARRIED FORWARD TO THE NEXT WEEK

Instead the amount paid by each child, their balance and whether they have had a school meal will be recorded daily by the catering staff. Any balance will be carried over to the following week i.e. if you have paid for your child to have 5 meals but your child has been absent for 2 days the balance of those 2 days meals will carry forward to the following week.

When do I pay?

- We would prefer to receive the payment envelopes on **Monday mornings to cover the upcoming week**. Payments can be made throughout the week but we would appreciate payments on Monday mornings.
- These amounts are added to the pupil's account by the catering staff.
- Cash will NOT be accepted for school meals except in a labelled envelope in advance as described above.

If required forms for free school meals and clothing grants are now accessed via the Highland Council website at

https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11124/financial_assistance_with_the_cost_of_school_clothing_increased_to_140_for_highland_pupils

SUPPORTING OUR FUNDRAISING

Rag Bag

All the following items are accepted;

Clothing, All Fashions, All Ages, Paired Shoes, Handbags & Belts. All items should be wearable, dry and clean and wrapped in a plastic bag as the bin is not totally watertight and any wet clothing cannot be collected.

To date this has raised a massive £4,211.10

Easyfundraising

As the title suggests it is easy to sign up and raise money for Beauly Primary School. Simply log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk select support a good cause, search BPS, select and support us now, follow the online instructions and happy shopping. There is also a link to this on the school website.

To date this has raised £1,558.49

Your valued and continued support with all our fundraising initiatives really does make a difference to every child in the school. Thank you!

Reminder to All Parents/Carers

Pupil Absences

Please contact the school office before 9.30am if your child will not be attending school for any reason, unless prior contact has been made.

Parent Contact Details

Please keep us updated with any changes of address, telephone numbers (home and work), mobile numbers and emergency contact details.

Pupil Medicines

Please ensure that you inform us of any medication your child is taking or any conditions affecting your child's wellbeing, providing medication where applicable. Please help us to be prepared for any eventuality; all information will be treated confidentially.

Head Lice Advice

Head lice are often a problem within schools and the wider community. Regularly practicing 'wet combing' with a suitable comb is advisable for parents of children throughout their school years. If head lice are detected, Pharmacists are able to advise on the management of a head louse infection. We would also be grateful if you would contact the school if you find your child has head lice. Children should be returned to school once they have been treated. Head Lice 'alert letters' are against Highland Council policy as most schools will have a few pupils with head lice at any one time. Also, in the past these letters have led to parents attempting preventative treatment which does not work and over-use of treatment may also lead to resistance.

School Calendar 2020/21

School Closes after School on:	School opens for pupils on:
Thursday 2 nd July 2020	Wednesday 12 th August 2020
Friday 9 th October 2020	Monday 26 th October 2019
Tuesday 22 nd December 2020	Wednesday 6 th January 2021
Thursday 1 st April 2021	Monday 19 th April 2021
Friday 25 th June 2021	Tuesday 17 th August 2021
Friday 8 th October 2021	Monday 25 th October 2021
Wednesday 22 nd December 2021	Thursday 6 th January 2022

Extra Closure Days

Monday 14 th September 2020	Inset Day - staff only
Tuesday 15 th September 2020	Inset Day - staff only
Monday 15 th February 2021	Weekend Break
Tuesday 16 th February 2021	Weekend Break
Wednesday 17 th February 2021	Inset Day - staff only
Monday 3 rd May 2021	May Day Holiday
Thursday 6 th May 2021	Inset Day - staff only
Monday 16 th August 2021	Inset Day - staff only
Monday 13 th September 2021	Inset Day - staff only
Tuesday 14 th September 2021	Inset Day - staff only