



**Parent Information Sheet**  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**From next week we will be awarding House Points and Dojos for our KEY THREE  
READY TO LEARN, RESPECTFUL and most of all SAFE**

**We're all back!!**

By the end of this week everyone had returned to school and from Monday all the P2 – P7 children will be back to their normal full time school hours Monday – Friday. A step closer to normality!

**Keeping everyone well and at school.**

It is brilliant to have everyone back in school and we very much want to keep it that way and so first and foremost we need to urge parents NOT to send their children to school if they are displaying any of the symptoms related to COVID-19.

- NEW continuous cough – coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24hrs
- High temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or above
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- And now identified in research by Queen's University a common symptom in children is vomiting & diarrhoea

Obviously any child with vomiting or diarrhoea should always be kept at home until they have had 48 hrs free from either. However, in the past a child with a temperature may well have been sent in to school having been given some Calpol in the morning to bring the temperature down. We urge you not to take any chance and please keep your child at home if they have a temperature. Better an extra day at home than worst case scenario they and their class bubble being sent home for 14 days!

**Punctuality**

A key part of keeping everyone safe and everyone at school is the staggered drop off and staggered pick up each day. **Especially with the whole school return from next week.** For this to work it is really important that everyone is as punctual as possible and **stick to your times** so that the two drop offs and pick-ups don't merge. Remember:-

Drop Off 1	<b>8.45am</b>	Pick Up 1	<b>2.00/3.00pm</b>	<b>(Yellow Owls &amp; Green Hawks)</b>
Drop Off 2	<b>9.00am</b>	Pick Up 2	<b>2.15/3.15pm</b>	<b>(Blue Eagles &amp; Red Falcons)</b>

**Drop offs and pick ups**

There will be no waiting on the school grounds before drop off or pick up times. Adults please do not gather together for longer than necessary and please keep your social distance. That way we stay well and school stays open.

**One-way system**

A one-way system is in place for P5 – P7 pick up. Please do not congregate on the footpath at the front as we simply can't see you and so don't know who to release. **At the pick-up time parents walk up the front path** (keeping your distance from other adults) **so that we can see you.** As soon as your child spots you they will be released: - P7 & P5 from their classroom doors and P6 from the front door. You then exit via the steps on to the pitch. Follow the yellow arrows.

**\*\*If you feel that your child is independent enough to walk home or part of the way to meet you by themselves, please contact the class teacher by Dojo to let them know that they will be leaving school unaccompanied. \*\***

**Friday Note**

Don't forget that the Friday note does not go home in paper copy. It and all the information within it are readily available on our school website and if you have signed up to receive it by email then you can read it on whatever digital device you use to retrieve your emails. If you would like the Friday Note emailed, simply log on to our website [www.glencraigips.co.uk](http://www.glencraigips.co.uk) and watch the little video that Mrs McChesney has posted with instructions of what to do. It is pretty straightforward and should only take a couple of minutes.

**Parent Curriculum Meetings**

Watch out next week for the first in a series of videos from your class teacher that this year will be replacing the September Curriculum Evenings that you would have been familiar with in previous years. The first video will be an introduction to each year group and key information to get you going. As the term progresses the staff will produce similar style videos to talk you through aspects of the curriculum particular to each year group so that you can support your child at home.

In many ways this may prove to be a much better way of delivering the information as you will be able to access it at a time that suits you rather than having to arrange a baby sitter on a particular evening and you can return to the video as many times as you like if you need to check the information again. Breaking the information up into "need to know" chunks will hopefully prevent information overload and won't be quite as intense as the traditional curriculum meeting would have been when staff were trying to tell you everything in one go. It would be good to get some feedback on how you think this has worked so that going forward we can keep improving.

**Dinners Update**

**P2 – P7 Dinners (P1s don't stay for dinners until October)**

Hot school dinners are still NOT AVAILABLE due to the difficulties accommodating different class bubbles in the hall at this time. However packed lunches are now available to order through the School Meals Service as an alternative for families that previously would have ordered dinners either paid or FSM. These are ordered in just the same way as you would have ordered dinners last year through School Money. Dinners can be ordered in advance and should be ordered and paid for online using the school Money website and the passwords issued today (4.9.20). Remember **dinners for any week must be ordered and paid for by midnight on the Sunday at the start of that week.**





### Information Packs

Next week each child will also be bringing home a pack of information. We are trying as best we can to minimise the amount of paper coming back and forth from school however at the start of the year there are a number of forms/permissions that need completed and to ensure maximum return we are sending these in hard copy at the start of the year.

The papers have been prepared last week by staff who have observed good hygiene practice. We would ask that you leave them for 48 hours before completing and then return to school where we can quarantine them before processing ourselves. (Just to be on the safe side!)

### School Fund

In the pack of information going home next week will be a letter regarding the School Fund voluntary contribution. As the letter explains this is a voluntary donation. In the past we have been very fortunate to have parents who have supported us financially by contributing to School Fund. Thank you so much. The funds that you have donated have helped reduce the impact of the decreasing budget that the school is managing and soften the impact of the cuts that we have had to make. I would therefore ask you to please consider contributing to the school fund this year.

As in previous years this can be paid in full in September or in instalments and the payment can be made through the online payment system. A text message will be sent on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September** to let you know that the system is live for School Fund donations and a similar text will be sent at the start of each term. You can check your online payment account at any time.

### P7 Parent Reminder and update

I am quite sure that if you are a parent of a P7 you will be aware that an announcement was made on Wednesday to confirm that the **AQE tests have been postponed until January 2021** and the children have been allocated **an additional ten minutes** to complete each of the three tests.

Whilst this gives the children a few more weeks to prepare it does mean that the intensity of the process for these ten/eleven year olds is prolonged up to and through the Christmas period, with the first AQE test paper the Saturday after they return to school. Our experience in school over many years would be that by Christmas the P7 children are exhausted. Extending the tests through January will have its challenges not least sustaining the children's motivation and energy. We will adjust our pacing accordingly and continue to support the children and parents through this process.

If your child is in P7 and is intending to sit one of the common entrance tests for our local grammar schools, the closing date for applications is now **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October** for both AQE CEA assessment and the Post Primary Transfer Consortium GL assessment. Application forms are available through the local grammar schools or from the AQE or PPTC websites. Applying for these tests is solely the responsibility of parents.

**At this moment** test dates are now :-

**AQE:- Saturdays 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021.**

**GL:- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December & the supplementary assessment if required on 19<sup>th</sup> December**

### Dates for your diary or phone!!

If you wish parents can now subscribe to our school calendar so that you will have all events on your phone calendar and at hand anytime. Below are the instructions for either and Apple or Android device.

#### Add GIPS calendar on an Apple device

1. Go to Settings > Passwords & Accounts > **Add Account** > Other.
2. Tap **Add Subscribed Calendar**.
3. Enter the URL of the .ics file to subscribe to and any other required server information.
4. You can then go to calendar and change colour of it.

#### Add GIPS Calendar to your Google Calendar on an Android device

1. Go to [calendar.google.com](http://calendar.google.com).
2. On the left side go to "Other Calendars" and click on the dropdown.
3. Choose "Add by URL".
4. Enter the URL of the calendar, which you want to **subscribe** to.
5. Click on "Add Calendar" and wait for Google to import your events.

URL below:

<http://glencraigips.calendar.schooljotter2.com/public/feed/4ee00a58de57adda4f432b44653149e8fb564bf8>

### Dates to put in your diary...

**Week Beginning 7<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

Watch out for Class Curriculum Videos on Dojo

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct.**

SCHOOL CLOSED Staff Development Day

**Week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> Oct**

P1-P6 Parent/Teacher Interviews (Format to be decided).

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri. 30<sup>th</sup> (incl )**

Half Term Holiday