



Parent Information Sheet  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Thank you to all the parents who are supporting us so diligently in our efforts to keep school as infection free as we can. I am aware that there are quite a number of schools across the province who already have had to close bubbles or indeed the whole school. I am really keen to work together as a school community to try and NOT be in that position. Your support is vital in this so on behalf of all the staff thank you!

This week it was brilliant to have everyone back in school. In order to keep it that way I am urging parents **NOT to send their children to school if they are displaying any of the symptoms related to COVID-19 and to seek a test.**

- 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 as a POSSIBLE common symptom in children is vomiting & diarrhoea

If your child is unwell for any **other** reason that does not specific COVID-19 symptoms for example a **heavy** cold, you also consider if they should be at school.



include  
must

- An unwell child is generally a miserable child who is unlikely to learn
- An unwell child is likely to pass their illness on to their classmates
- A minor illness can also compromise the sick’s child ability to fight more serious infections

All very good reasons to keep your child at home until they are better, ready to learn and not in a position to pass their illness on to pupils or staff.

As I say it is brilliant to be back but it will only stay that way if the people who are back in school are well!



**Our House Points are back up and running and we will be adding then to the Friday note from next week. We have been linking our expectations for behaviour with our House Points system. If any pupil gets through a week with no reminders, warnings or dojos lost they earn 10pts for their House. If a pupil gets through a whole month with no reminders, warnings or lost dojos the can earn a bonus 50 points for their House and if they can manage two consecutive months they earn a bonus 100 points for their House. This incentive certainly worked last year as there were classes in each Key Stage who didn't lose a single Dojo in a month and individual children who went for months with no loss of Dojo by simply meeting the expectation that they come to school and are ready to learn, respectful and safe.**



**Please continue to support us by talking regularly with your child about behaviour expectations and the constant need to be respectful, ready to learn and during the current climate, safe. Thank you!**

### Parent Curriculum Meetings

Hopefully you will all have had an opportunity to watch the first of what will be a number of short videos created by each of the teachers to, not only welcome you to each of the year groups, but hopefully keep you up to date with all the information you need. You can return to these videos at any time in the comfort of your own home if you need to double check any of the information. As the teachers said they will be providing follow up videos with new information as required – think of it as your very own box set!!

### Assembly

Our normal Curriculum Meetings aren't the only thing that we have had to adapt due to COVID-19. Our normal assembly time is looking very different as we can no longer all gather in the hall and we aren't allowed to sing either so it's all a bit different. However, we are still going to stick to our normal Thursday afternoon slot and join together via Collaborate which allows us to have live assemblies in each of the classrooms. This week it was Mrs McKirgan's turn to kick things off and after a few initial technical hitches (every day's a learning day folks!!) she was able to "broadcast" live to each of the classes. Thursday's theme was CHANGE and the key messages were:-

- Change is inevitable. It happens to everyone and everything and change can be great.
- The children have already in their short lives coped really well with change – leaving home to go to nursery; starting primary school; changing classes.
- Whilst a big change can take up a lot of your "head space" and maybe even make you feel a bit wobbly (children and grown-ups), over time we find ways to think about all the other good things going on and the big change takes up less of our thinking space and becomes less of a worry.
- There are lots of people to talk to here in school if the changes that have happened since March and especially coming back to school have made you feel a bit wobbly.
- Be kind. Someone around you maybe behaving a little strange. Maybe very quiet, maybe a bit nervous, maybe a bit louder or maybe even a bit cross or grumpy. Not their usual self. Well maybe they're feeling a bit wobbly. Maybe the big change is taking up a lot of thinking space for them and what that person needs is to be shown a bit of kindness and helped to see that the big change can become just part of their thinking not all of it.

### PTA

As most of you know and as any new parents will discover we have a brilliant PTA here in Glencraig. Over the years they have raised tens of thousands of pounds for our school and thanks to them we have a school library, a computer suite, iPads, new Smart Panels and endless other resources that we simply could not afford without their help. But more than just raising funds they have organised events that have brought our school community together to enjoy each other's company and get to know each other better. Obviously their work this year will be hit by COVID-19 but I know that not even a global pandemic will dampen their enthusiasm for supporting our school and they will be thinking out of and all around the box to come up with ideas for this year. If you would be interested in getting involved email [GlencraigIPSPTA@gmail.com](mailto:GlencraigIPSPTA@gmail.com) or phone Julie on 07815175101



### Dinners Update

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

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. Remember **dinners for any week must be ordered and paid for by midnight on the Sunday at the start of that week.**

Getting the canteen up and running again for hot dinners presents us with real challenges in terms of our staggered lunchtimes, maintaining class bubbles as much as we can, transitions in and out of the hall with cleaning in between each sitting and having a tight turn around for the two sittings. However, we know that many of you really value the opportunity for your child to get a hot dinner in the middle of the day and so we are aiming to **phase dinners in from the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September.** This way we can trial the procedures make adjustments if required before we offer to the whole school. The phasing will be as follows:-

Week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> Sept P7 & P6 ONLY  
 Week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> Sept P2 – P7  
 Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> October P1 – P7



### Information Packs

Hopefully you will all have received a pack of information home this week. Included are a number of forms/permissions that need completed and returned to school at the start of the year.

Once received suggested 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 that went home was 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 was sent on **today** 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

Well each week seems to bring yet another change and this time a change of date for the GL Assessment was announced meaning both tests will now take place in the month of January.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

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.

### 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.
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...

**Monday 5th Oct.**

SCHOOL CLOSED Staff Development Day

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

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

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

Half Term Holiday