

Brunstane Primary School



Head Teacher: Chris McMillan

Friday 1 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move towards the October holidays, we have a number of important updates for families. Please see below for more information

Continuation of existing safety measures

Following the Scottish Government's recent instruction to continue all existing Covid safety measures in schools, we would like to ask for the patience of all of our families as we extend existing measures until after the October break.

We ask parents/carers to continue to observe social distancing at all times and wear masks at the school gates.

We also remind parents and carers not to enter the school playground to drop children off. If you are having difficulty dropping children at different gates, please call the school office on 0131-669-4498 and we can make a plan to help.

We are very much looking forward to when these measures will not be necessary and we can welcome parents and carers back onto school grounds.

Parent and Carer Consultations

Due to the Scottish government's instruction to continue all existing Covid-19 mitigations, our Parent/Carer consultations in October will be by telephone. Whilst we are disappointed not to have the opportunity to meet parents/carers in person, we are very much looking forward to discussing how your child has settled in to the new term and discussing their learning with you.

You should already have received your time slot for your consultation. Please contact the office if the form has not made it back to you.

School Lunches

City of Edinburgh Council Catering Team has issued the following statement in regard to school lunches:

Due to current national supply chain issues, we may need to change our menus at short notice as we adapt to the changing situation. As you may be aware from the national media there is currently a shortage of HGV drivers, this in some cases may result in product substitutions. We are working closely with our catering suppliers to mitigate disruption and

our catering teams are working to adapt menus at a local level based on product availability. Pupils with special diets will continue to be catered for, however menus may differ from that on ParentPay. In addition, COVID is having an impact within our catering team resources, in some isolated cases we are having to deliver a packed lunch service offering, our teams are working incredibly hard to provide the best service possible during unprecedented times, we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause

ParentPay

We are aware a small number of parents and carers have still not signed up to ParentPay. If you need help to log on or do not yet have a username/password please contact the admin team on 0131 669 4498 or admin@brunstane.edin.sch.uk

School Camp

We have been picked by Forth One Cash4Kids to be part of their Big Schools Challenge where we need to try and fundraise as much money as we can in three weeks! This is an incredible opportunity as we can win further amounts of money for our creativity and teamwork. We have until the 15th of October to fundraise before being told our total!

We are hoping to raise money for the following:

1. Raise money to support the whole of our P7 to get to Benmore.
#getBrunstanetoBenmore
2. Raise money to finish our brand-new school library which we cannot wait to launch in the next couple of weeks with the kids and hopefully with the rest of our school community very soon.
3. Raise money to develop our big plans for our 'Nurturing Playground' Project – more coming on this soon!

We are having several fundraising events over the next few weeks which we would love you to support either financially, by joining in with the challenges, retweeting all that you see on twitter or all three! Please see the separate letter for more details.

Brunstane Brain Boosts

We hope you have all enjoyed the maths Brunstane Brain Boosts this week. Our Brunstane Brain boosts are designed to support and consolidate the learning taking place in class and will hopefully increase our young people's confidence and skills within these areas. They will focus on numeracy, reading, handwriting and spelling with there being a different focus each week. The tasks are designed to be done four times a week for 10 minutes each time. If you have any questions regarding Brunstane Brain Boosts please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are hoping to have a parents open evening to explain these further when restrictions ease.

Additional Holiday Date

City of Edinburgh Council has announced an additional day holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please see attached letter for more details.

Communities that Care

We are very excited to announce that Who Cares? Scotland, a national voluntary organisation, will be working with the school to deliver their Communities that Care project, improving school experiences for care experienced pupils whilst creating an empathic and inclusive environment where care experienced people have a sense of belonging within their community.

Our P5-7 classes will participate in an interactive session that will discuss:

- The meaning of care experience and issues faced by care experienced pupils.
- What support is available to care experienced people.
- How to create a more inclusive environment for all pupils.
- How the wider community can support care experienced people.

Who Cares will also be offering:

- Drop-in sessions for all pupils who wish to find out more about care experience and support available.
- Awareness raising sessions to the wider community.

To find out more about Who Cares? Scotland visit: www.whocaresscotland.org

Community Playpark

We would like to highlight to parents and carers that the community playground outside the school reception remains closed. The locks will be removed and a safety inspection carried out by the Parks Team prior to it's reopening. We would advise families not to allow their children to play in it until the locks have been removed from the gates.

Parking

We continue to receive reports about cars parked in a dangerous manner at drop off times. We would like to politely request that parents do not park on pavements or block driveways. Please obey all road markings in order to ensure pupil safety.

Dogs

Please remember that dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school campus.

Nuts

Please remember that we are a nut free school and no food products containing nuts should be brought into school. We have a number of pupils across the school who have allergies and they could become extremely unwell if this rule is not observed.

On behalf of all of our Brunstane staff, I would like to wish all of our families a happy and healthy October break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back on Tuesday 26th October.

Yours sincerely



Chris McMillan
Head Teacher

Date 27 September 2021

Your ref

Our ref S&LL/LF

Dear Parents and Carers

With only a few weeks until the October holiday, it does seem as though our many combined efforts are having a positive effect - thank you. COVID cases are beginning to decline and education in its many forms continues to flourish. It has not been easy and as we prepare for winter, there will be more to be done to keep infection levels as low as possible.

However, I do have some news which you may have been expecting, and which you will hopefully find welcome. The plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee have been officially approved by the City of Edinburgh Council and for schools, this means that the Victoria Day (previously 23rd May) will now be celebrated on Thursday 2nd June and the Platinum Jubilee on Friday 3rd June, meaning schools will be closed. This does mean another change to the annual calendar and I do apologise if it means some reshuffling for those of you who had already made plans for the long weekend in May.

The revised dates are now available on the Council website (<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schools/term-dates>) and although it is a long way off, it's definitely something to look forward to.

Meanwhile, I wish you a good week.



Lorna French

Acting Chief Education Officer