



27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Welcome back to our school for the summer term. Since we closed a few weeks ago, the staff and I have been in contact with many of you through phone call, email and text. Through this contact, it is clear how this virus is impacting our families in many different ways.

On behalf of the whole school community, may I thank everyone who continues to adapt and do their utmost best during this challenging time. We have a number of families in our community providing key services and our sincere thanks go to you all!

I will try to provide reassurance on some issues you may have questions about.

### **New P1 Intake and Induction Process**

We have 15 Primary 1 children joining us. A sizeable proportion of our intake continues to be from placing requests and next session is no different. One third of our new P1 children are placing requests from outwith our catchment area.

Beginning P1 can be an anxious time and the current situation may understandably add to this. I want to reassure parents of new P1 children that we are doing everything we can to ensure transition information reaches you through digital channels such as our school website, text and email. The Senior Leadership Team participated in a conference call last week to discuss how we can help our new children and families prepare for P1. I will update you as soon as we have more information. Please try not to worry and be rest assured we are doing everything we possibly can.

### **Primary 7 Leavers and Transition to S1**

Our Primary 7s are at a very slight advantage as we are a 2-18 campus, however it is still unfortunate they are not experiencing the transition programme they normally would at school. Ms House is working very hard to ensure information about S1 reaches children and families. Again, I will update parents once information is available on the school website. Primary staff have already completed transition records and will be having virtual calls with secondary staff so that they can be updated on the needs of our children. I am hopeful we can still have a proper goodbye once we are back as our P7 children deserve it! I have no hesitation that our current P7s will cope remarkably well with their transition to S1, even in these difficult circumstances.

With 17 Primary 7 children leaving us, and 15 Primary 1 children starting, we expect our primary school roll to remain fairly stable next session at around 165 pupils. Our class structure may change next session and more information will follow in due course.

## Home Learning and Activities

Thank you to all who responded to our home learning survey. Staff were very keen to hear how you were finding the activities being sent out from the school. We had a 40% return rate and the feedback on the appropriateness and frequency of activities was positive. There were some IT issues raised, therefore I have shared the survey results with class teachers who are doing a fabulous job adjusting the activities sent out to their classes. Our staff are here to support you and your child as best they can. Staff will be continuing with home activities either through Google Classrooms or through email. I cannot stress enough that all activities are suggestions. There is no expectation to complete all work set from the school. You all have different situations to manage. Remember your physical and mental health is equally important so please make time for exercise and time to relax - on your own and together!

This is a very unique experience for us all and one we must try to look at positively. Please do not feel stressed about completing the work set. Focus on reassuring your child and connecting as a family. Give your child active opportunities such as playing games, cooking, building with Lego, making the bed and gardening. Cuddle up together and read! These are all very valuable and worthwhile experiences too!

May I thank all staff at Garnock Community Campus Primary and Early Years for their absolute dedication at this time. The current situation is not an easy task, but all staff members are doing a sterling job. My sincere thanks to all.

Remember we are here to help, so please continue to contact your child's teacher through email or use the Garnock address above. Please phone or text the mobile phone I am using and I will respond as quickly as I can. You are all in my thoughts. I know that if we continue being as positive and supportive of each other we will get through this and be an even stronger school community. You are doing a great job!

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Scott McMillan  
Depute Head Teacher