



# HT Newsletter



## September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you all well.

We have had a great start back to school. The children have settled in well and have quickly got into a school routine again. Thank you for all your continued support with the changes we have put in place. I am aware that you may have questions regarding school and how your child is getting on, I have therefore put together some information below that I hope you will find useful. I realise that this is quite a long Newsletter, however, I have tried to get in as much information as possible.

### Home Learning Packs

These will be sent home on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Every pupil within the school will receive a Home Learning Pack and this should stay at home at all times. These will be used to support Home Learning and will be supplemented by videos, teaching and further resources provided by your child's Class Teacher.



Home Learning will start from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September and further information will follow.

### Class Newsletters

Every Class Teacher will be creating a Class Newsletter and you will receive this shortly. These will be sent by email and will provide an update of what your child has been getting up to in class and what they will be covering in class over the upcoming weeks.

### Virtual School Assembly

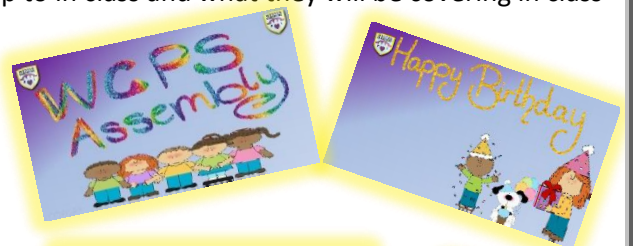
Every Friday, we hold our Virtual School Assembly via TEAMS.

This is a wonderful way to get our whole school together where we can see into each other's classrooms and say hello to all our friends throughout the school.

We have had 3 assemblies so far, and these have all gone very well and the children (and staff!) have thoroughly enjoyed these.

At assembly we celebrate achievements, HT Certificates, share what classes have been getting up to and focus on our school values.

I have included some photos of the work from different classes, shared during assembly.



## Reports and Communication with Parents

Reports from last session will be sent home next week. Please note, these are not current as we have had a period of school closure since these were completed. We are currently assessing where pupils are in their learning to ensure that we are providing the best possible learning and teaching for each pupil and where appropriate we are planning to provide additional, targeted support.

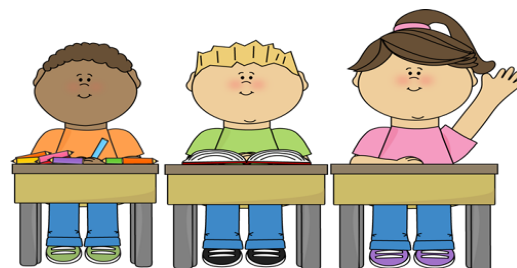
We are aware that we have not had our typical Parents' Evening in May and Parents will be keen to know how their child has settled and where they are in their learning. We are currently looking at how we can develop feedback and updates for Parents on an individual basis, given current restrictions that are currently in place. This will be discussed further at the upcoming Parent Council Meeting.

If you have not already completed our short survey of Digital Learning and Parent Communication, you can complete this by clicking on the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQQtawUZKfpTXxtpy1dJgUkKIPUhHelUNUVCRINCQkkOUkpDMUJMSDBTVEZJT0RBOC4u>

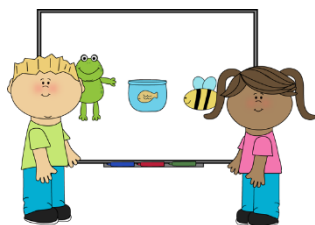
## Assessment within School

Assessment is a broad term used within education and takes many forms within the school. Assessment can include observations, discussions, show me boards, written work, verbal activities, fun quizzes, and careful questioning from the Class Teacher as well as more formal written assessments.



Within school, we are currently assessing your child's progress in maths, writing, reading, and spelling, as well as ensuring we are carefully monitoring their health and wellbeing on return to school, or for our P1s, starting school. Any assessments that take place, are done so in a supportive manner to ensure that your child feels confident to have a go at answering questions and does not cause them any anxiety.

Our assessment information will allow us to carefully plan and adapt our teaching to ensure we are addressing any gaps in learning and ensure we provide any further additional support or challenge if required.



## Additional Support Needs (ASN) and Additional Support for Learning

Mrs Kelly (Depute Head Teacher) is the ASN Co-ordinator for the whole school. If there is any child with any form of Additional Support Need (ASN), Mrs Kelly will work closely with the Class Teacher, Pupil and Parent/Carer to look at what support we can put in place to remove barriers to learning.

In addition to this, through assessment and observations Mrs Kelly and I work closely with the Class Teachers to identify children who may benefit from some additional learning in class or access to different/further resources. This may be for reading, spelling, writing, maths or cover health and wellbeing. If we identify that your child would benefit from some additional support, either short term or long term, Mrs Kelly will contact you to discuss this.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning as the year progresses or any concerns regarding their health and wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Our Education Support Teacher, Mrs Claasé also provides further support to pupils, families and staff and attends Wester Cleddens on a weekly basis to provide this invaluable support.

## Digital Learning

As stated within a previous email, this session we will be developing our Digital Learning strategy. This is happening across all schools within the Local Authority as part of our school recovery planning and improvement.

Within school, children will be developing their digital skills, and use of TEAMS. Mrs Dickson (P1 Class Teacher) is our Digital Leader within the school and will continue to provide support and training as we move forward with our school recovery planning. Miss Edwards (P4/5 Class Teacher) will also be supporting Mrs Dickson in the development of our digital learning across the school.

## Microsoft Teams



All children will be issued with a new password for Teams next week.

Mrs Dickson is currently updating videos and guides for Teams that were initially emailed and shared on our Wester Cleddens Primary You Tube channel. We have adapted how Teams will look for pupils, following on from feedback from parental and staff surveys and there have also been updates made for Glow users of Teams, which is fantastic news. Updated videos and guides will start to be shared with Parents from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

## Seesaw

This session, we are going to be introducing Seesaw within the school, with our Primary 1 – Primary 3 classes using this initially. Seesaw is a fantastic learning resource that enables children to easily capture their learning within school, complete school based activities independently via a digital device (e.g. iPad) and share this with their Class Teacher and family at home.

Seesaw



Further information regarding SeeSaw will be shared in due course, once we have this up and running. If you wish to have a look at this resource in the interim period, you can find further information by clicking on the following link <https://web.seesaw.me/parents>



## Sumdog

We have now purchased the full version of Sumdog, giving wider access to games focussing on Maths, Spelling and Grammar. Sumdog will be used within school and as part of Home Learning to further enhance your child's knowledge and skills, through a fun, games-based approach. With the version we have now purchased, we can carefully track the progress your child makes with games completed and highlight where further practice may be required. New passwords and usernames will be issued shortly, along with further information. To view more information on Sumdog, please click on the following link <https://pages.sumdog.com/parent/how-sumdog-engages-your-kids-while-helping-them-learn/>

## Bug Club

This session we will continue to use Bug Club to provide further opportunities for reading at home and within school. New Bug Club passwords will be issued once we have this set up for all pupils and further information will follow. Further guides and videos will also be issued. Where possible, we will try to send home reading books, keeping in line with current health and safety requirements.



## Buddy System

Our Buddy System will be up and running in from next week. Our Primary 6 buddies will be meeting up with their P1 Buddies via Teams, followed by activities planned for P7 and P2 buddies also via Teams. All the buddies are excited about this!

Further information on how our Buddy system will work at this time and ideas we are planning for, will be shared with our P1, P2, P6 and P7 Parents in due course.



## Parent Council

Our first Parent Council meeting of this session will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm and will continue to discuss our school recovery/improvement planning. All meetings at this current stage will take place through TEAMS. Further information regarding Parent Council will be shared by the Parent Council chairs. You can contact the Parent Council directly via email on [parentcouncilwcps@gmail.com](mailto:parentcouncilwcps@gmail.com)

## PTA

Within the school we have a highly active PTA who organise a variety of fundraising events to help support a variety of things for our children within the school. This includes organising Discos and Fayres to raise money for Pantomime visits for the school, providing support for C-Pens, iPads, library development and much more! This year, the PTA fundraising may be slightly different due to restrictions in place. However, the PTA are always keen to have new members and helpers join. Further information will follow.

## Staff Achievements

Within school we celebrate pupil achievements within class, on Twitter and through our Virtual Assemblies. However, I also have some staff achievements that I would like to share with our school community.



Mrs Dickson has recently been awarded the Microsoft Innovative Expert Educator (MIEE) award for all her development, support and work with TEAMS and effective use of Microsoft software. Mrs Dickson will not only be supporting our school with digital learning but will also be involved in providing further training across the authority. We are immensely proud of Mrs Dickson and feel extremely fortunate to have her skills and knowledge as we move forward with our digital learning within the school.

Miss Sawers has also recently been awarded her certificate for the successful completion of the Education Scotland Teacher Leadership Course, where Miss Sawers focussed on the development and impact of Home Learning. We are enormously proud of Miss Sawers as well, and we have been utilising her skills to help develop our Home Learning packs and strategy throughout the school.



## East Dunbartonshire School Holiday Dates

September 2020	September Weekend	Friday 25th September to Monday 28th September (Inclusive)
	Pupils Return	Tuesday 29th September
October 2020	In-Service Day	Friday 9th October
	October Break	Monday 12th October to Friday 16th October (Inclusive)
	Pupils Return	Monday 19th October
December 2020 and January 2021	Christmas and New Year (end of term)	Tuesday 22nd December to Tuesday 5th January (Inclusive)
	Pupils Return	Wednesday 6th January
February 2021	February Break	Monday 8th February to Tuesday 9th February (Inclusive)
	In-Service Day	Wednesday 10th February
	Pupils Return	Thursday 11th February
April 2021	Easter Break	Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April (Inclusive)
	Pupils Return	Monday 19th April
May 2021	May Day (Closed)	Monday 3rd May
	In-service Day	Thursday 6th May
	May Weekend	Friday 28th May to Monday 31st May (Inclusive)
	Pupils Return	Tuesday 1st June
June 2021	Last Day of School	Thursday 24th June

If you have any questions on any of the above, or anything you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact the school via the school office by email [office@westercladdens.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:office@westercladdens.e-dunbarton.sch.uk).

Kind regards

Mrs Kynigos  
Head Teacher