

Glengowan Primary School

Newsletter - August 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

New session

Welcome back to a new school year at Glengowan. A very warm welcome to all the new pupils and families who have now joined our school community.



Recovery Planning

As a school, our focus will be on Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing for just now. As the weeks and months progress, we will increase the curricular opportunities for the children, but I hope you understand that the identified areas have an impact on the wider curriculum.

Reinforcement of previous learning will feature strongly in the first term. Please do not be alarmed by this. Those of you who have attended any of my presentations in school will be aware of the importance of a strong foundation and making sure that we are addressing 'the basics'. If we help the children with their core knowledge and understanding, more complex ideas will be easier to understand. Our approach to the teaching of reading and our mental maths programme reflect this.

Uniform

Your support of our school uniform has been amazing. Unfortunately, I will be unable to take a whole-school photograph at the moment to share with you. Please make sure that you label your child's clothing. A ballpoint pen used on the inside label seems to work very well.

Water Bottles

Please continue to ensure your child comes to school with a filled water bottle. The children are not allowed to use the fountains at the moment. However, the adults in the canteen at lunchtime will fill bottles when needed. All children, whether having a canteen or packed lunch, can also have a cup of water at lunchtime.

Morning playground

Staff will be present in the playground from 8.45am. Parents/Carers should not enter the playground gates in the morning. The children have been designated a specific area of the playground and have been told to go straight there on arrival.



End of the day

Our staggered exit has reduced congestion within the school grounds at the end of the day. Parents/carers of children in Rooms 3 and 4 are reminded that a waiting area has been created for you just inside the gates.

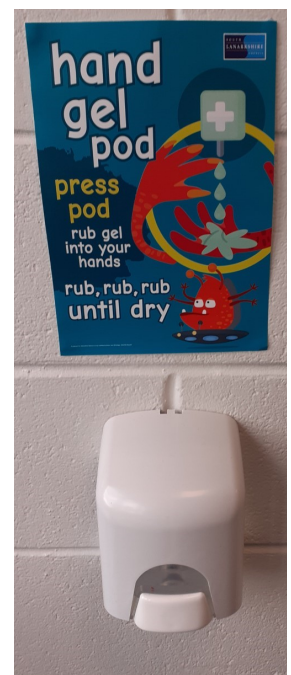
As a reminder, the parking bay at the front of the building is for school transport. Please do not park there at the end of the day.

Homework

For the time being, the class teacher will prepare a sheet of tasks that will be posted on the school app and website. Your support with the completion of tasks is appreciated. As promised on the P1 induction days, information about pronouncing phonemes will be posted on the school app.

New Routines

The children have adapted to new routines at the school very well. Children are reminding each other to keep left in the corridors and hand sanitisers are used consistently. We have expanded the areas used at lunchtime and these are well ventilated. An additional entry point to the building has been introduced. This structured approach has created a calm atmosphere within the school. Staff at Glengowan have gone above and beyond their duties to contribute to the smooth reopening of the school and keeping the children at ease with changes.



Nursery



I am aware there has been much disappointment with the various delays in the opening of our nursery class. Hopefully, the meeting I have later this week will provide information that I can share with potential families. Mrs Inglis, who has taught many of the children at Glengowan, will be our Nursery Teacher. She and Miss Adnan (support staff) have both been working hard to set up the rooms in anticipation of an imminent opening. Here are some photographs of the renovation work and the new furniture.



Staffing

We welcome 4 new members of staff to Glengowan this term. Mr Graham will now be our janitor at the end of the week. Miss Majid will teach Room 5, Mr Morrell will teach Room 11 and Miss Black will teach various classes on a Monday and Friday.

Mr Urquhart is now the Acting Depute Head Teacher. The first point of contact with concerns about your child should be the class teacher. However, Mrs Field will have responsibility for P1-3 and Mr Urquhart for P4-7.

Clothes Recycling

Thank you for your support with this collection and to the Parent Group for organising yet another successful event. £341.90 was raised.



School Resources

Please have a look for any reading books that may still be at home since the school closure. These can be brought back to school by your child and given to the current class teacher. Don't be embarrassed if you find a pile of these, they are being returned all the time.

Any other items borrowed during the school closure should also be returned as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have returned these already.

Our Reopening

The return to school life has been fairly smooth at Glengowan. However, I do not underestimate the disruption caused to the children and their families since March. As much as the children have settled into routines, they are still very tired at times. I predict that this will be the case for the next number of weeks which is why we are taking a very measured approach to the introduction of the wider curriculum.

Please contact me if there is anything that you feel is having a negative impact on your child that could be affecting learning at school. Many families are dealing with challenging situations at the moment. Unfortunately, meetings are very limited within the building, but please pick up the phone.

Yours faithfully,

G Murray

Head Teacher