

Glengowan Primary School

Newsletter - November 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

First of all, thank you for your patience and understanding during a very challenging time for us all.



When dropping off and collecting your children from school, please maintain appropriate distancing from others. Adults should be wearing a face covering.



All children should now be able to access Reading Planet. As expected, with every new initiative, there have been a few problems. After contacting the supplier, a help sheet was posted on the school app as some children were having problems accessing the quizzes. We will do all we can to address this problem in school. The feedback we receive will inform our decision whether or not to continue using this resource in the future. Apart from providing some variety, one of the main reasons for introducing online reading is to make sure texts are available to children who are absent from school.

At the moment, access to the books is a higher priority than completing the quizzes.

IT Access

Current restrictions mean that we have had to reduce the flow of paper between home and school. This means that more learning has had to move online and books/paper tasks need to be quarantined upon return. If you need assistance with devices to access online learning, such as a Chromebook, or don't have internet access, please contact me on 01698 882208.

Gifts

Every year many parents and children send a gift to a member of staff just before the Christmas holiday. We are very grateful for this kind and thoughtful gesture, but it is not expected. With so many families experiencing financial pressure this year, I would request that you do not make the giving of a gift to staff a priority.

For those of you who celebrate Christmas, I realise that this may conflict with the idea of a 'season of giving'. As an alternative, please consider making a donation to a children's charity. In normal times, our nativity ticket money would go to www.glasgowchildrenshospitalcharity.org



**Glasgow
Children's
Hospital
Charity**

Christmas Cards

It's still November, but some children have been asking if it will be OK to give cards to each other this year. A quarantine procedure may have to be put in place because, as you are aware, we have to reduce contact between class groupings as much as possible. This may take the form of a post box for each classroom. I will make an announcement via the app once we have a workable plan in place.

Home Learning Packs

If your child has to self-isolate, the class teacher is informed by the office and a suitable home learning pack is created. This cannot be done between 9am and 3pm because the teacher is in front of a class and we have tried to avoid issuing packs with general content, instead providing learning specific to each child's working group. We aim to have these packs to you within 2 days. However, with staffing pressures and supervision of classes being paramount, it is taking longer than expected. If awaiting a pack and a few days have passed, please phone the office. We had an increase in the number of children requiring to self-isolate last week and this meant deliveries took longer.

Homework Update

Next week (w/b 30th November) will be the final week where a full homework sheet will be issued until January. To bridge the gap, books will still be made available on Reading Planet and your child can still access SUMDOG.

Christmas Party Day—Thursday 17th December

Following the announcement of the move to tier 4, I have made the decision that Glengowan's Christmas celebration will be different this year. Tier 4 restrictions do not permit indoor PE, so practising dances in the hall will no longer be possible.

However, with the agreement (and enthusiasm) of the teaching staff, we will be having a special event on **Thursday 17th December**. This will be **Glengowan's Christmas Party Day**. The children may come to school wearing uniform, casual clothes, Christmas jumpers or whatever they wish. The choice is yours.

10am - Pantomime. This will be broadcast live to all classrooms.

11.45 onwards - Christmas Lunch. Please phone the office if you haven't placed an order via the online form.

The rest of the day will comprise of games and Christmas-themed activities planned by the class teacher. Every class was given a budget to purchase Christmas crafts for this special day.

The above may change when further guidance is issued.

I am keen that this time of year is marked appropriately as well as giving the children an event to look forward to during this uncertain time.

Remembrance

Thank you to all the children and staff who contributed to our display of poppies at the playground entrances.



South Lanarkshire Maths Contest - 13 Nov to 19 Nov



Position	Class name	Score
1st	Primary 7B Room 14 (2020/21), Glengowan Primary School	707
2nd	Primary 6 Room 12 (2020/21), Glengowan Primary School	704
3rd	Primary 7A Room 13 (2020/21), Glengowan Primary School	599
4th	Room 2, Kirkfieldbank Primary School	570
5th	Room 9, Udston Primary	569
6th	Primary 5/6 Room 11 (2020/21), Glengowan Primary School	527
7th	Primary 7 2020-21, James Aiton Primary School	490
8th	Primary 4A Room 8 (2020-2021), Glengowan Primary School	483
9th	Primary 4B Room 9 (2020-21), Glengowan Primary School	442
10th	Primary 7a - 2020/21 - Mrs Donnelly, St Charles Primary	440
11th	Primary 3 Room 6 (2020-2021), Glengowan Primary School	408

SUMDOG Success

Hopefully, my messages during and after this competition expressed how proud I was of the children.

Thank you to all the parents/ carers who encouraged this high level of participation.



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programme

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WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

Speak out. Stay safe.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has made online assemblies available to all schools in South Lanarkshire. We will be participating week beginning 30th November.

More information can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk

Tuesday 22nd December

The school will close earlier in the day on the last day of term. Please note the alternative leaving times.

2.05pm	Nursery Class
2.15pm	Room 3 (Mrs Duff) and Room 4 (Miss Addison)
2.20pm	Room 5 (Miss Majid/Miss Majid), Room 6 (Mrs Kyle), Room 10 (Miss Gilbert) and Room 11 (Mrs Carr/Mr Morrell)
2.25pm	Room 8 (Mrs Warwick), Room 9 (Mrs O'Donoghue), Room 13 (Mrs McMillan) and Room 14 (Mrs Gardiner)
2.30pm	Room 12 (Miss McConaghy)

Yours faithfully,

G Murray

Head Teacher