Headteacher's Newsletter Friday 23 April 2021

Dear Families

Our first week back at school has flown past and the children and young people have settled back quickly. The school sounds and feels happy and vibrant with our wee community back together. It was positive news on Tuesday from our First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, and we are looking forward to welcoming back our staff who have been shielding and I know that they are excited about getting back to face-to-face work with our pupils each day.

As of Monday 26 April, we move into Level 3 and we will implement the following changes as planned before Easter.

***Nursery** – continue as before, with a view to Nursery coming back together around mid-May.*

***Primary** – we will resume all classes starting at 9am and finishing at 3.30pm. Pupils will be able to mix in larger bubbles in the playground and in a planned manner for learning opportunities in school.*

***Secondary** - continue as before.*
Please note for **Secondary pupils only, we will have two further Inset days on Monday 17 May and Tuesday 1 June 2021. School will be closed to all secondary pupils on these dates. These have been arranged to support the Alternative Certification Model this year for SQA.*

I also have news from The Den below -

Exciting new from The Den at Heartland Kids' Club…
The Den reopens on Monday, 26th April, offering Breakfast Club and After School Club for children aged 5 to 14 years. Due to Covid-19 we still have restrictions in place. To allow us to reopen safely, we have had to operate with a further reduced capacity and with set bubbles.

We will have two separate bubbles for our children. One bubble will consist of children in the lower primary classes (p1-p3) and children in the upper primary will be in the second bubble (p4-p7). The children will be with one member of staff in their set bubble, and we will try to keep this consistent depending on our staff rota. With the new bubbles in place, we wish to inform parents/carers that on certain days/sessions, some children may be alone in their bubble, this may be due to child absences, or that no children in their bubble category are booked in.

In line with Scottish Government guidance, all adults must continue to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting children, and please do not enter the cloakroom area beside The Den. Staff will welcome your child at the door for Breakfast Club and we will bring your child to you when you arrive to collect from the After School sessions. Bookings are essential. Please email bookings@thedenatheartland.com. Check out our website for more details www.thedenatheartland.com.

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There are likely to be further positive changes over the next few weeks and I will make sure that you are kept informed of these through this newsletter. Rest assured that the safety of our whole school community remains our priority. Once again, thank you for your continued patience and understanding throughout this challenging time.

I would like to say congratulations to our S3 Historians who achieved their Silver Heritage Hero Award. Thank you to Sarah in P&K Archives for the excellent WW1 resources she provided for us. We were also delighted to receive five trees (two Hawthorn, one Cherry, one Silver birch and two Crab apple) from The Tree Council for our Tree Champions in Rural Skills.

Please remember to get in touch with us if you have any questions, queries or feedback for us. I will be needing your help to create the school plan for next session, so please let me know if you would be interested in being part of this planning event.

Date for your diary – the school will be closed for the May Day holiday on Monday 3 May 2021.

Have a lovely weekend.

Take care
Elaine Liney