Headteacher's newsletter Friday 30 April 2021

Dear Families

This was the first week of having all staff and pupils back to school. Staff and pupils were pleased to welcome everyone back into the building. We recommenced face-to-face Secondary specialist input in Primary with Mrs Leck, Mrs Dailly and Miss Lamont taking their classes as before.

The LRC are delighted to be able to announce the Primary bubble boxes are back! This week each Primary pupil has had the opportunity to not only borrow a book, many of which are brand new, but also to take it home. All books returned from home will still be quarantined for 72 hours before being cleaned and returned to circulation. Happy reading!

Many of our pupils have signed up for Lateral Flow Testing. While it is not in the guidance, it would be helpful, in the light of some incorrectly recorded test results, if pupils could take a **screenshot of their result** which they can keep until they have recorded their result. This way, Test and Protect would have evidence of a result and in the event they may change isolation instructions. It has been brought to our attention that some pupils in other schools have mistakenly recorded results as positive and have needed to follow up with a PCR to allow them to get back to school.

In Secondary, we moved into Stage 2 of the ACE – Alternative Certification Model – for S4. This means that departments are starting to gather further evidence of a pupil's ability in that area. It is a challenging time for our young people and families, so please get in touch with us at school if you have any questions or queries about this.

Given the timescales we are required to work to, we have been liaising with Breadalbane and I can now confirm that the change of timetable and S4 moving to Breadalbane will take place on Monday 14 June 2021. This will give everyone a couple of weeks in their new classes before the summer holidays.

Our green fingered staff and young people are growing a variety of vegetables, fruit and flowers from Nursery to S4. There are daffodils in the playground and potatoes planted. At the moment our Secondary Tutor Groups are involved in their latest Grow Challenge of sunflowers, sweet peppers and chilli peppers, while our S3 Historians are cultivating a wee plot to grow wheat as part of a project. Pity Miss R stood on the watering can and broke the rose!

It is time for our Ragbag collection, and we hope it will prove useful to you Please have any items into school by Wednesday 12 May at 3.30pm.

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Here is some news from The Den –

The Den at Heartland Kids' Club *reopened 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. 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.

It is the Parent Council AGM on Tuesday 6 May at 7.00pm on Teams. Please see further information on the Parent Council Facebook page and contact the school or the Parent Council if you would like to join us. It is a great way of being more involved in the wider life of the school and planning our next steps as a school community. Please come along and support this work.

Remember that the school is closed on Monday 3 May and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday.

Have a lovely long weekend.

Take care

Elaine Liney