



Harestanes Primary Newsletter

AUGUST 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the 'new faces' to Harestanes Primary – an exciting new year of learning lies ahead for us all! School may still look and feel a little different this year but we are an enthusiastic and committed team who will strive to ensure that this is a secure and nurturing place for your child to learn. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new staff and parents.

Teaching : Miss Kerr (P2)

Support : Miss Booth (Family Learning Assistant)

Mr MacDonald (P5/6)

A newsletter will usually be emailed to the main carer/parent of each child near to the last **day of every month** to keep you informed of school news and events but if you'd like to speak to us about any matter in person then please contact the school and we will be delighted to phone you back. Alternatively you could checkout our school website at www.harestanes.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Parental Contact We recognise and strive to support a positive partnership between home and school. At this point I am unable to confirm what form reporting to parents will take this year as we await further guidance, but we will be sending the children's work home once per term for you to review and discuss with your child. This term jotter will be sent home over the weekend beginning 17th September to be returned on Monday 20th September.



Twitter Many parents particularly enjoy keeping up to date with the very latest news via Twitter and tell us that they **like** the regular updates and photos in our **Tweets**. Please do come and join us by asking to 'follow' us **@HarestanesPS** (*This is a protected and locked site and not available to the general public*)

Attendance Children perform better if they come to school regularly and on time. If your child is going to be **absent for any reason** please contact the school office **before 9.30am** so that we can account for their whereabouts. I am obligated by EDC to **closely monitor attendance** and may contact you if your **child's attendance or late coming has fallen to an unacceptable level**. I would remind you that EDC discourage holidays being taken during term time as this can be disruptive to your child's learning and overall progress.

P1, P2, P3, P3/4 – 8.50am to 2.50pm

P4/5, P5/6, P6, P7 – 9.00am to 3.00pm

ELR – 9.00m- to 3.00pm

School Car Park

We take the **safety** of our pupils very seriously and try to ensure that we make the areas around the school as **safe as possible**. To this end I must ask parents **to ensure that they do not come into the school car park at all** in the morning to drop children off during the current



situation. Parents are not encouraged to come into the school grounds due to our COVID-19 restrictions so please encourage your child to come into the school playground unaccompanied. There are Harestanes staff on duty from 8.45am. **(You may see ELR parents and/or taxis arriving in the morning and at dismissal)**

Bikes to School It has been great to see so many children **arriving at school by bike**. We know of the **enormous health benefits** of children being active so if you deem your child responsible to travel by bike (or scooter!) to school please encourage them to do so. Please remind them to **wear a helmet** and bring a chain to lock the bike up in our school bike shed.



After School Arrangements Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child knows **where to go at the end of** each day. Many of our children attend Out of School Care and are picked up by these services at the main office daily. We no longer have an Aftercare service based in Harestanes – but you can get information of local providers from the school office. Please ensure **your child knows their individual arrangements** and phone school to inform us of any changes. I would ask that you phone school to inform of your delay/change as soon as you can. **We will always hold onto your child if you are delayed** and have phoned to inform us **beforehand**. We take the safety of our pupils very seriously.

Mobile Phones It is a fact that many of our pupils now own mobile phones. We would urge children to **leave their phones at home** to ensure they are not lost or damaged. However if you deem your child responsible enough to bring their phone to school they must follow these simple rules in line with EDC Policy



- phones (and tablets) must be switched OFF in class
- no calls to be made at anytime during the school day whilst in the school building
- no photographs/videos to be taken of any other child on school grounds

Jewellery (Currently PE will be taken outside when dry and children should come dressed for activity) It is often helpful to be clear about the **wearing of jewellery** during P.E. at the start of a new term. In order to maximise the safety for our children **no jewellery at all** should be worn during a P.E. lesson. We cannot 'tape' earrings and so children who cannot remove them must sit the lesson out. This is particularly unfortunate as **the recommended Government input for P.E. is 2hrs per week** and they will miss this.



School Meals Our school meals service is up and running and providing a great selection of hot and cold foods. Children in P1-4 can receive a free school meal which they pre order each morning **The most recent menu has already been sent out by email to parents/carers and is also available on our school website**. This will be extended to P5 from January 2022 with P6 and 7 from August 2022. All children P5-7 are currently required to bring their own packed lunch or purchase lunch via the Cashless Catering



Harestanes Primary Newsletter

AUGUST 2021



System if they are not a Free School Meal Entitlement. If you have lost the details of your unique information to access the system please contact the school office. **There is no facility to purchase lunch with cash payment.**

We are a 'NUT FREE' school. We have children who are severely allergic to nut products and so please help us protect these children by ensuring you never send your child to school with a nut snack or nut spread sandwich.

First Aid We have two members of staff (Mrs Laurie and Mr. McLellan) who are trained in **Emergency First Aid and Emergency Paediatric First Aid** and are our **First Aid Responders**. Minor injuries such as cuts and grazes will be cleaned with an antiseptic wipe and a plaster covering applied where required. **Head bumps will always be treated with an ice pack and the parent informed.** Children who have received a head bump will now wear a sticker alerting all staff that the child has had a bump and should be monitored if they remain in school.



With regard to any potential suspected case of **Covid-19 in school** we have clear procedures in place and a designated Isolation Area should a child show symptoms. We will contact you directly to come and collect your child from school. You will have also received NHS Guidelines regarding new regulations on isolation.

Signs to be alert to..

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

Finally, as always, please do not hesitate to speak with us about any aspect of your child's experience at school by making an appointment through the school office.

Best Regards,

Ms. Jackie Gillespie

Head Teacher

