



# Udston Primary School

## May Newsletter



Learn Together ~ Laugh Together ~ Achieve Together

Trust ~ Teamwork ~ Respect ~ Effort ~ Kindness

Dear Families,

We can't quite believe it is May already and eight weeks since our school closed. We are really missing the 'buzz' of our fantastic school: seeing the children's happy faces; hearing their funny news and stories; watching them play and laugh together in the playground; witnessing acts of kindness in and around the school; seeing them engaged in their learning, challenging themselves and achieving their goals. We can't wait until the time comes when we can safely welcome them back into the building to continue with their learning and reunite with their friends and teachers.

This week we have been speaking to teachers about how they feel the weekly email communication is going with families and the overwhelming response was that they are loving receiving updates from pupils and their families as it allows them to feel connected to you all whilst we are apart. They are enjoying hearing your news, seeing photographs and responding personally to each individual family. We hope you are enjoying hearing from them too!

South Lanarkshire Council's guidelines highlight the importance of families making weekly contact with class teachers to let them know your child is safe and well. We are conscious that we want to make this communication as easy as possible for families. From next week, you will receive an email from your child's class teacher on Monday morning (some may receive it prior to this depending on the teacher's work pattern) with a question in the subject box. We are asking your child (with your help, if needed) to reply to this question by the Thursday of each week - your reply will allow teachers to take a 'virtual register'. Teachers will forward on their 'registers' to the Senior Leadership Team who will then make contact with any families we haven't heard from. We are continually reviewing our communication channels to ensure they are as effective and manageable as possible for staff and families. We will continue to keep you updated.

We would still really encourage children and families to continue to send class teachers their news, home learning updates and photographs via email too – they love seeing what you have been up to at home and it allows us to gauge participation in our Home Learning Project. If you are happy for the class teacher to share your child's updates and photographs on our Twitter page, please let them know or you can tag us yourself on Twitter @udston\_primary.

### Pre-Entrants

Last week would have been our first Pre-Entrant Welcome Session. We always look forward to welcoming our new starts into the building, getting to know them and meeting their families and we are disappointed that this has not been the case this year. However, we have not forgotten about these very important pupils and families who will soon be joining our Udston community. We are working behind the scenes to create some exciting new transition materials which will help families prepare their child for the special move from Nursery to Primary and these will be shared with you all this month. In the meantime, please follow our Udston New Starts Twitter page @UdstonS where we will be posting important news and information. If you have not already done so, please provide the school with your email address to allow us to keep in touch with you, email Mrs Turnbull on [gw11turnbullrebecca@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw11turnbullrebecca@glow.sch.uk).

### Buddy Photographs

If you are a current Primary Five, please remember to send your photograph to Mrs Drennan on [gw07drennansusan01@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw07drennansusan01@glow.sch.uk), ASAP – these are being included in our new P1 Handbook. We know our new starts will be desperate to find out who their Buddy is. Thank you to everyone who has already done this!

## Pupil Reports

Last week, a School App message was sent out to families asking you to email your child's class teacher with an up-to-date email address. This will allow the class teacher to email a copy of your child's School Report directly to you in June. These reports were written by teachers between January-March and were due to be sent home just prior to our Parent/Carer Visits in March, which owing to school closures, didn't go ahead. If you haven't already done so, please send your child/children's teacher(s) an email as soon as you can to ensure you receive a copy of your child's Report.

### 'Our Planet' Project

It has been fantastic hearing how families have enjoyed participating in the 'Our Planet' Project so far. Thank you to those who have shared photographs, updates and tagged us on Twitter - please continue to do this as we would love to hear from more of you! Next week is Week 4 (the final week) of this project and the theme is 'People/Culture'. Please visit the school website or Twitter to access the planners for your child's stage.

### 'Sports Day' Whole-School Project

This term, we should be getting ready for our annual Sports Day – the highlight of the school calendar for many pupils - and staff! Pupils would be practising their different events and finding out who else was in their heat, teachers would be rushing to be first to get the 'Egg & Spoon' Box out the cupboard, Mrs Drennan would be hunting for the sacks that go missing every year, and parents/carers would be trying to leave quickly before the adults' race is announced! We know that everyone will be missing this event so we thought it would be an excellent theme for our next Home Learning Project. Our 'Sports Day' Project for Early, First & Second Level, will provide a range of learning activities for different curricular areas and will run from 26 May - 5 June. We will also be including a daily Twitter Sports Day Challenge for children and their families to try at home – please check Twitter every day to join in. If you don't have a Twitter page, you can still access our Tweets at the bottom of our school website. We would love you to share your sporting challenges on Twitter by tagging us @udston\_primary, and if you add a coloured heart to show what House you are in, we can see which House is the most active over the two weeks! Will it be... Fleming ~ Belhaven ~ Kelvin ~ Wellcroft



### 'All About Me' Project ~ 8-24 June

Following our 'Sports Day' focus, our final Home Learning Project of the session will be based on the theme of 'All About Me' for Early, First & Second Level. From 8– 24 June, children will be asked to complete a range of cross-curricular learning activities based on this topic - we would urge all children to join in with this project, in a way that suits your current home and family circumstances. It is an excellent opportunity for children to share important facts and information about themselves, consider their likes and dislikes, reflect on their talents and strengths, and get them thinking about their next steps. The plans for both the 'Sports Day' and 'All About Me' Projects will be uploaded to our school website and Twitter feed each week.

### 'Udston's Got Talent' ~ 15-24 June

You didn't think we would let a school year go by without having our annual, ever so popular, 'Udston's Got Talent' - did you? To link in with our 'All About Me' Project, we will be running a 'virtual' UGT from 15-24 June. We are inviting children to record a 1-minute video of themselves performing their talent and either post it to Twitter tagging @udston\_primary, OR email it to Mrs Turnbull (Rooms 1-6) or Mrs Drennan (Rooms 7-12) and we will post it for you. You should email or Tweet your video between 15-24 June – please tell us which House your child is in when you do this. We can't WAIT to see the talent on offer this year!

Ever wondered if our staff have talent too? Keep your eyes peeled to find out...

Remember, participating in our Projects is an engaging way for children to develop their skills in Literacy & Numeracy in a different context, and to deepen their learning across the curriculum. We want learning at home to be FUN!

### Mental Health Awareness Week 18 – 24 May 2020

Mental Health Awareness Week, hosted by The Mental Health Foundation, will take place from 18-24 May. The theme this year is Kindness, one of our school values - so we know our children will be experts in this! Throughout the week, we will be sharing tips and ideas from The Mental Health Foundation on our Twitter page as well as asking our pupils to participate in some 'random acts of kindness' challenges. Follow @udston\_primary for more information.