

Welcome from the Headteacher

Who would have thought two years ago that we would still not be fully out of a Lockdown and that Covid would still be out there and impacting on our daily lives? I am so grateful that we find ourselves all back in school safe and sound and beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel for a return to normality. Please bear with us as we slowly but carefully follow the forthcoming changes to ensure that we continue to protect our pupils and staff, and in turn, yourselves. Pupil and staff absence has been on the increase and I am very grateful to the staff team across the partnership for helping the learning and teaching to continue as smoothly as possible. Covid has not gone and we ask that you keep looking out for symptoms and help reduce the risk of infection by continuing to follow the NHS guidance. At time of writing, we are identifying staff cover for the end of this week!

Easter is a special festival in the Christian calendar when we celebrate the end of Lent and the start of new life. Pupils will be learning about the traditions of Easter in school and can take part in an egg competition on the last day of term by bringing in a decorated egg they have made at home. Have a go and send in a photo or your egg ready to roll- adults welcome to participate too!



Have a safe and relaxing time together during Spring break and we look forward to a new term on April 19th. Happy holidays!

Mrs Alexander

Headteacher



Warm weather

As the warm weather continues please send in a labelled water bottle, a sun hat/cap and any sun lotion your child is able to apply themselves. School sweatshirts can become too hot at times but we continue to encourage wearing a school polo shirt and school colours where possible to keep our school identity clear. Shorts and dresses are a great way to stay cool but no jeans, please.

School Rolls

The Chairs of the three partnership schools met with the Headteacher earlier this month to discuss ways of raising school profiles and increasing rolls. A survey was sent out on

Microsoft Forms but sadly only 12 families from across the partnership completed this and we really do need your ideas and support with keeping our schools thriving. The link to the survey is included below again for anyone who missed the original link and will remain open until 1st May.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQctawUZKaqojfr7lu1JkSGnOh4Y3NRUMkRRNVAxUzdIQINXSTFUQIZHNIFTVENCNC4u>

School Improvement Planning Updates

Teaching staff are developing child-friendly success criteria for writing to help our pupils check they have included what makes a good piece of writing. Staff have also looked at what wellbeing looks like across our schools and will be visiting each other's classrooms with pupils over the coming weeks to identify good practice.

This is the time of year when the partnership formulates a Standards and Quality Report where we identify what we are doing well and where we should be improving. All the feedback received over the year from parents/carers, pupils and staff is summarised within the report and helps inform the next school year's School Improvement Plan.



Wellbeing Information Focus- Safe

The first indicator within the wellbeing wheel is Safe and encompasses all aspects of supporting our learners to stay and keep safe at home and school. We have just completed our NSPCC Speak out, Stay Safe online programme across the partnership schools which is all about safeguarding and who to ask for help. Keeping safe is also about online safety, watching and reading age-appropriate material, friendships, road safety and risk assessment. For more information from NSPCC go to:

- [Speak out Stay safe programme | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [Talk PANTS & Join Pantosaurus - The Underwear Rule | NSPCC](#)
- [Childline | Childline](#)

Child Protection is a key part of keeping our pupils safe. Mrs Alexander is the trained Child Protection Coordinator for the Partnership and our Principal teachers are Depute Coordinators. If you require help to keep your family safe at any time, please contact the school to speak to the Headteacher or PT.

Within our Health and Wellbeing topics, Sexual Health and Relationships will be a focus of our lessons next term and a letter will be emailed out soon informing you of the content.

Pupil Equity Funding

The School receives funding for every child entitled to and receiving free meals and the clothing grant available, due to low income. We really do need your help to access this vital funding for school so please check online to see if you are entitled to the grant and, if you are, apply to help us help you!

<https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-bridging-payments>

Reporting to Parents

- Full report cards will be issued in June which will include progress against targets set for Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing and Other Curricular Areas and possible next steps for the new school year.
- Sway online newsletter coming next term- once I learn how to do it!!
- Thankyou to everyone who attended our Family Conversations either be telephone or on Teams. Teachers enjoyed meeting with pupils and parents/carers to talk about learning successes and goals together and we hope to get you into school before the Summer holidays to look over your child's work and see our wonderful displays.
- We have enjoyed our Vikings topic and thank Kirkcudbright Galleries for funding the cost of transport to the Viking Hoard Exhibition in Kirkcudbright.   Teachers will share an overview of learning for the new term after Spring Break.
- Thankyou to our P1 & 2 parents who came along to school to meet the teacher and find out more about we have been learning in school. Lockdown has prevented us getting together up until this point so our younger pupils really enjoyed showing off their work. Don't worry, we will be inviting P3-7 parents in soon!

Dandelion- Cluster Project

Our three schools are participating in The Dandelion Schools' Growing Initiative (DSGI), Scotland's largest ever community growing initiative. Taking place from April to mid-September 2022 in schools across Scotland, we will be involved in Scotland's largest community-led growing experiment, as well as creative producers of our own Harvest Festivals. DSGI will send a specially designed Growing Cube to Dalbeattie Campus this Easter as part of the project and our primaries will be given 3 seed potatoes and soil each to grow at home and in the community and then bring their harvest together in a community festival, hopefully in our own villages on 9th September. £350 has been donated to help each school

create this harvest event. We really want to start village edible gardens so if you or someone you know is green fingered then please let us know- this truly is a great community opportunity to create a new growing space.

Over the course of the DSGI approximately 100,000 children and young people from 500 schools will be involved. The data gathered will contribute to Scotland's food future. It will also be collated and published by SRUC and used in their conversations with Scottish Government, growers, scientists and industry stakeholders to help build strategy around new technology for food growing and sustainable, fair food production. For more information go to [Keep Scotland Beautiful](#)

Colvend News

Together Time – Term 4

After the success of our first term of learning together, Palnackie and Colvend Together Time will continue into Term 4. An update of the Term 4 plan will come out to families this week.

Mrs Alexander's Nestlings pre-school group

Mrs Alexander is starting up a monthly pre-school group for any young families in the area. The aim is to have fun at play while meeting new people all our doorstep. The class will be free and is open to anyone with young children/babies in the local area. Please share with your friends to help others see how lovely it is to learn in a small school with great people! First class is on 29nd April, 1.45-2.45pm at Colvend Primary. 

Dates for the diary – Colvend

Mar

30 P5-7 Cross Country event; P1-3 Easter egg hunt

April

4- 18 (inclusive)- Spring break

19 School reopens

25 Parent Council 7pm

29 Nestlings group starts 1.45pm

May

2 School holiday

17 Partnership Sports Day at Kirkgunzeon

27 Nestlings group 1.45pm

31 Jubilee Open afternoon in school

June

2/3 School closed for Jubilee

10 Together Time trip to Science Museum TBC

14 Colvend Olympics

24 Nestlings group 1.45pm

27 End of term assembly

July

1 Last day of term