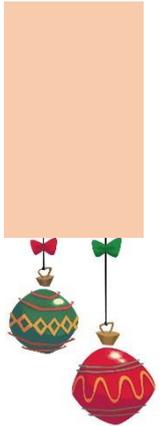


DECEMBER 2020

# Bellshill Academy Parent & Carer Bulletin



## This Month...

### Parent Council

There are still places available on our very friendly Parent Council. Meetings are on line and provide an invaluable way to share ideas between the school and parent group. At the moment the group are considering the **Curriculum Review for NLC**. Please get in touch with Mrs McGraw HT or Mr Palmer, Parent Council Chair, for more information (Contact Mrs McGraw for Mr Palmer's details).

### Family Learning

We continue to offer a range of family engagement activities. Simply join us on twitter to find out about our **latest challenge**.



### Christmas Activities



#### Christmas Eve Box

Every year, many of you kindly donate to events and initiatives, like the Christmas Market. Unfortunately, this year we are not able to host these events so we thought this may be a good way for us to still make a difference in the lives of our young people. This year, we are looking to create a Christmas Eve gift box for identified pupils. We will be organizing some fundraising but if anyone would like to make a donation towards the costs, this would be great. Please contact the school if you would like to donate money (in an envelope please) or an item for a box.

#### Foodbank Cluster Initiative

During this term we will be collecting food for a local food bank. This will run like a reverse advent calendar, so instead of receiving something we will be giving something.

#### Christmas Door Challenge

The Art and Design Department Christmas challenge

#### Design a Christmas Bauble

We will be installing some paper wreaths in the school foyer area and decorating them with some paper baubles. We invite everyone (staff, parents and pupils) to design a Christmas bauble to feature in this display.

#### Decorate the Chemistree

Science competition to design a science themed bauble. Amazon vouchers to be won.

#### Christmas Card Competition winners

1<sup>st</sup> Natalia Gajewska in S1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Megan Blades in S2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Leah Fisher in S2.



#### Bellshill Community Reverse Advent Calendar

For each day in November donate a Food or household item on the calendar suggested below. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December we collect all the donations and give them to the local Food bank and those in need. Can you help? Bring items to school (they will be handled in a Covid Secure way)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
2 Tinned Vegetables	3 Tinned Fruit	4 Drinking Juice	5 Soap	6 Chocolate	7 Tinned Meat or Fish	8 Coffee
9 Sweets	10 Rice	11 Biscuits	12 Tea Bags	13 Dried Pasta	14 Tinned Soup	15 Cereal
16 Toothpaste	17 Pasta Sauce	18 Tinned Pasta /Beans	19 Toilettes	20 Soap Powder/Washing Up Liquid	21 Tinned Meat or Fish	22 Dried Noodles/Pasta
23 Tinned beans/Veg	24 Sugar	25 Sauce	26 Tinned Items	27 Packet Items	28 Rice/Pasta	29 Toilettes
30 Free Choice						



## The Covid processes...

### Symptoms of Covid:



#### Pupil (at home)

If your child displays any of these symptoms, they and *any siblings* should not attend school.

**Inform school by phone** and you will be advised to book a test as soon as possible or online via NHS Lanarkshire. In all suspected cases, the pupil concerned and anyone they live with must stay at home and **self-isolate** until results of the test are known. These results must be shared with the school.

#### Pupil (in school)

We will request that an adult collects the pupil *and siblings* as soon as possible. You will be advised to book a test. We will isolate and supervise (wearing PPE) the pupil until parent/carer arrives and we will bring the pupil outside to be collected. In all suspected cases, the person concerned and anyone they live with must stay at home and **self-isolate** until results of the test are known. These results must be shared with the school.

## How to contact us...



Phone: 01698 274940



Email: [HT@bellshill.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:HT@bellshill.n-lanark.sch.uk)

#### If there is a positive case in the school community

If any pupil or staff member has to self-isolate as a result of a positive case, the school community will be informed via a standard email from **public health**. This will be followed by a strict risk assessment process carried out by the school and public health. Any person identified as a 'close contact' through this process will be told personally by email from public health and phone call by **school senior management**.

**After school and weekends parents should email the HT as soon as a positive result is known even if your child has not been in school.**



#### How we can we keep our school safe

**Pupils:** Sanitise your hands    Clean your desks    Wear your mask    Social Distance as much as you can

**Parents/public:** Have meetings on the phone    wear a mask    sanitize hands    sign our register

**Staff:** Sanitise hands    Clean desks and work stations    Wear a mask    Social Distance from Pupils

#### How pupils can keep our community safe

Wear your mask    sanitise your hands    social distance    behave in a kind manner

# The impact of Covid-19 Restrictions...

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, practical activities for pupils have been limited this year. We are regularly receiving updates on procedures from North Lanarkshire Council and Education Scotland. When carrying out practical activities, we have adapted our practice accordingly. As we continue to operate under Covid 19 safety advice, we hope that in the near future, we can start reintroducing more practical activities in PE, Science, Technical and Home Economics. Teachers are working very hard to ensure that all pupils get the very best experience of their subjects as possible while ensuring the right health and safety precautions are followed. The Principal Teachers are planning curriculum content in line with the most current SQA advice.

**PE:** To date, the subject most affected by Covid has been PE and I am sure your young people have been telling you that we are currently only allowed to participate in non-contact sports outside. Changing facilities are not available and as the winter sets in, the opportunity for outside PE becomes more challenging but staff are busy planning alternatives. Pupils undertaking PE qualifications may continue to wear PE kit to school.

**HE/ Technical:** HE and Technical teachers have developed ways to ensure pupils see demonstrations of practical work in the safest way. We have invested in a number of visualizers so that pupils may see close up the practical skills required at a safe distance. Sometimes pupils must alternate between observing practical work, taking part in practical activities and doing written lessons. While this is less appealing than doing practical lessons every day, their understanding of this has been commendable.

**Study Skills/ Skills for Work:** We understand the real importance in helping young people in S3 make the transition from the junior phase to senior phase. Mr McGuire the Head of Year for S3 identified that for this particular session, giving S3 additional support for preparing for senior phase is vital. To this end, we have developed a rotation between Core French and Developing the Young Workforce lessons so that S3 pupils get an additional focused period of time to look at study skills and preparedness for senior phase. To encourage all of S3 to continue to have an interest in French during this time, we are providing an online resource for all S3 pupils to access. This resource will be available through Teams and will focus on Modern Languages for Life and Work.

**Timetable:** Pupils continue to follow a timetable made up of blocks of learning. We currently run two different weeks of blocked learning. Pupils and staff response to this has been overwhelmingly positive. This will continue into the New Year.

**Tracking & Reporting:** Mrs Heffernan sent our information earlier this month. Unfortunately, we are still unable to hold parents' meetings at this time. We have adapted our tracking reports so that teachers give more information more often. We have also built in cause for concern periods so that teachers can alert senior managers to occasions when they have concern for individual pupils. Parents will be contacted for a phone meeting as a result. If you have any concerns or questions about a tracking report please contact the school and a phone appointment can be made.

Our school is still bustling with activity. We post all our news and showcase our pupils' work daily on **Twitter**.

@bellshilla



### Safety measures:

- Desk cleaning
- Hand sanitizing
- Wearing of masks
- Seniors have separate lunch areas to junior school and at altered times
- All classes have seating plans
- S1/S2 seating plans are alphabetical and are in House Groups including maths and English
- Deep clean of rooms after a positive case
- Additional cleaning arranged intermittently
- Pupils enter the school in year groups and have their own designated entrances

**Bubble learning:** at times when there is scope to do so, pupils' timetables have been altered to accommodate 'bubble' learning. During these periods, if pupil numbers are manageable enough, year groups are divided into equal classes and taught in bubbles in one location for the day. This is a positive health and safety measure to follow as it affords us an opportunity to reduce pupil movement and pupil contact during a school day while maintaining teaching and learning. During these periods, pupils are given their own sets of resources and a full timetable of their usual curriculum is followed. Break times are sometimes altered but lunch times are as normal. The school will always text parents if their child's year group is managed in this way.

**Uniform:** Pupils are encouraged to wear full school uniform. Only senior pupils taking PE qualifications should be in PE kit on the day they do PE. As the weather gets colder, however, and while we need to keep rooms ventilated, pupils should wear warm jumpers and jackets. On cold days they will be permitted to wear these in class. Their teachers will do likewise. Unfortunately, we will not be in a position for pupils to access their lockers. Pupils may want to bring an additional bag to store their coats.

**Attendance:** If your child is going to be absent from school **for any reason**, please make sure to let us know via email or phone call.

[HT@bellshill.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:HT@bellshill.n-lanark.sch.uk)



**Digital Learning:** every year group has access to digital resources. Pupils who need to self-isolate will be emailed an overview of resources available. A number of laptops are being given out to pupils from across the school. These laptops have been provided by North Lanarkshire Council and will help pupils without ICT at home, or who are expected to work remotely for college courses.

All pupils should know their Glow passwords and also how to access Teams from home. Further training for both pupils and staff is happening regularly throughout the year. Videos to take pupils through the process of accessing Glow are available on both our Facebook page and on our Twitter account.

To keep up to date on all of our information, get help videos and engage with pupil challenges please visit us at:

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/pages/category/School/Bellshill-Academy-2157786937594764/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BellshillA>

### How to help:

Pupils should not come to school earlier than necessary.

Though we have disposable masks, pupils should bring their own reusable if they can.

Pupils should be mindful of their proximity to other pupils at break and lunch and after school. Please wear your mask when you can and try to keep 2M from your pals, even in the shops and the playground.

## Pupils Learning from Home...

Pupils may need to work from home for various reasons. Some pupils are asked to self-isolate by the school as they are identified as a close contact of a person in the school community. Others inform us they have to self-isolate as they are a close contact of a person in the wider community. Though being asked to self-isolate can be disruptive, it is a vital part of Trace and Protect and really does help to keep overall numbers across the whole of Bellshill community down. Please be assured that the system is working and the numbers overall of positive cases communicated from Bellshill Academy since we opened back up in August are really very low. Your continued support and the positive behaviours of your children have been vital to this so a big **thank you**.

If your child does have to learn from home for any reason, there are digital resources on **Teams**. Your child has a **Glow** password which allows them access to this. All pupils have been shown how to access Teams and where the work is stored. If for any reason, your child cannot access their work please do not hesitate to contact the Head of Year or email the school email address and your query will be passed on.

### Heads of Year

Mr Hamilton S1/Pupil Support

Mr McGuire S2/S3

Mrs Heffernan S4/S5/S6

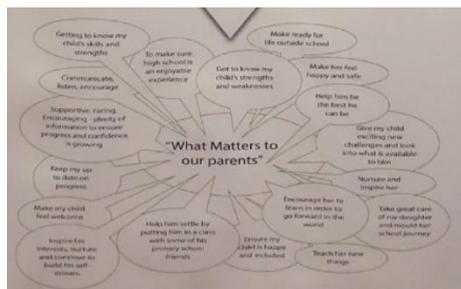
## Wellbeing...

These are challenging times for everyone and our pupils' wellbeing is important to us. We offer a range of wellbeing resources from Breakfast Club to school counselling twice a week to CAHMS referrals. There are paper resources being issued and there are also resources for wellbeing on Teams. However, pupils must be aware they can speak to **any adult** if they have any worries, questions or concerns. The Pupil Voice group and Pupil Support staff are seeking views of pupils, particularly around the pressures of assessment and self-isolation. **Please encourage your child to speak with them.**

**Pupil Support Team** Harris: Mr Nicolson Arran: Mr Alexander Iona: Mrs McRoberts Lewis: Mrs Higgins

## Senior Phase Assessments...

At this time it is important that pupils are supported as much as possible to gather evidence of attainment. Mrs Heffernan has been in communication with parents and has issued senior pupils with a note of all upcoming class assessments on Teams. Timetables for the 'gathering evidence assessment' blocks in December and January have been passed to relevant pupils. **It is completely understood that there is some pupil and parent anxiety around assessments this year.** Please rest assured we have the very best intentions for your child. We are on their side and want to make sure they have every opportunity to showcase and record all that they are capable of. Their wellbeing at this time is vital too so please do contact the school if you have any concerns. Mrs Heffernan and Principal Teachers are reviewing assessment practices to seek balance. Your views on this are most welcome. **Please contact Mrs Heffernan if you would like to discuss any aspect of this.**



Parents, please do continue to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. A member of staff will always call you back. We genuinely appreciate all your support during this time and value your input.