

# Burnbrae Early Update

24.2.20



Last week I visited Burnbrae Early with members of the Parent Council, Clare McCallum and the Nursery team. The building is progressing very well and I continue to have weekly contact with the appointed contractors McLaughlin and Harvey. We are also regularly supported by staff from Midlothian Early Years team.

Following consultation with the Nursery team we have agreed the rooms children will move to at the new building. The children from the Cabin will all move together to the Oak room. The children in the main room will be split across the Rowan and Chestnut rooms. We have identified new group names to avoid confusion with current group and new rooms names. Staff will begin to introduce the new group names from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February. I have attached a plan detailing the children and staff in each room. I have also attached a map of the building. Seniors in the main room are discussing plans to allow full time children in the Rowan and Chestnut rooms to continue to have lunch together until the summer break. Between Easter and summer, Pre-school children from all three rooms will spend planned time together exploring the new Primary One classrooms. All children will have opportunities to play together in the outside areas.

I continue to meet every Tuesday with the Senior Nursery staff and on a Wednesday with staff from the main room and cabin. Together we are planning for the transition to the new building and this includes planning for the children to plant or create items to take with us to the new building.

Nursery times will remain the same until June. I am consulting with Burnbrae Parent Council to ensure the proposed times for Primary One and Nursery from August allows families enough time to drop off and pick up on both sites. I will share this information as soon as possible.

Please remember to check the school app and social media feeds for regular updates. If you have any questions about the new build please add them to the comments boxes in the Nursery or main office, I will post responses online.

Kind Regards  
Kerry Knight  
Depute Head

## Questions from the comment boxes

### **Will children from all rooms and groups still interact outside?**

All children will have time to interact outside in the courtyard and the main outdoor Nursery spaces. Pre-school children will have planned time together visiting the new Primary One learning spaces. We are also looking at a plan to allow the children from the main room to continue to have lunch together until the summer break.

### **Dropping and picking up one child from new campus and another from current Burnbrae (and then getting to work on time)?**

We are consulting with the Parent Council to plan for opening hours for **Primary One and Nursery from August**. Current Nursery times will not change until August. We can offer flexibility for children who are currently full time to be dropped off from 8:30 – 9:15.

### **Will there be parking and drop off spaces at the new Nursery?**

More information will be available once the updated school travel plan is published.

### **Will there be more full time spaces available? Will a full time space become available before the summer?**

Full time spaces will be available to all children from August as part of the Scottish Government's commitment to increase funded early learning from 600 hours a year to 1,140 by 2020 for 3 and 4 year-olds. We have a waiting list for children looking to move to full time before the summer.

### **What will the times be?**

Nursery times will remain the same until June. I am consulting with Burnbrae Parent Council to ensure the proposed times for Primary One and Nursery from August allows enough time to drop off and pick up on both sites. I will share this information as soon as possible.

### **Can I see the diggers?**

Some children have asked to see the diggers and we will ensure all children continue to be included in walks to the new building.

### **Are you still planning to do a walking bus between sites?**

The current Burnbrae walking bus programme funded by the Pupil Equity Fund aims to:

- Improve attendance.
- Improve readiness to learn.
- Provide a breakfast club.
- Support families in the short term to get their children to school – whilst supporting them to find alternative arrangements for the future.
- Empower and prepare children to be responsible for getting themselves to school.

- Support families experiencing difficulty getting their children to school on a temporary basis

We will consult families about the need for a walking bus for Burnbrae Early using the following guidance from Midlothian Council –

A 'Walking Bus' is a line of children, walking in pairs to school along a set route with an adult 'driver' at the front and 'conductor' at the back. There's nothing new about parents walking each other's children to school, but the walking bus creates a more formal system that allows volunteers to walk larger numbers of children to school. Like a bus there are scheduled bus stops where children are picked up at specific times. So, like a bus, you can miss it. But the similarities end there – unlike a bus it is free, healthy and totally non-polluting. Everybody gains with a walking bus. It is an excellent way of reducing congestion around our school gates, while enabling children to walk to school in safety and improve their road sense at the same time.

It would be our Walking Bus – we can decide routes, times etc. **Parents will run the walking bus** with advice and guidance given and resources supplied by Midlothian Council.

Plans for each room

