



# Saltersgate School Newsletter

October 2020



## *Purposeful - Sustainable - Enjoyable*

### **Head Teacher Message**

It has been wonderful to see all our pupils return to school this term following the long lockdown. The return to school has presented us all with many challenges and I want to thank all our families for the support they have given to the school during this term. I also wanted to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our staff and say a huge thank you for all their efforts this term. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that our pupils have been offered the best learning experience possible in these times. I am very proud to lead this fantastic school.

Our October holiday begins at the end of the school day on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October and pupils return on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Any local or national updates regarding COVID-19 during the school holidays will be communicated via e-mail, text and our school web-site.

### **Our School Dog!**

Jax joined our school this term and has been getting to know our school. He doesn't travel around the school at present or go into classrooms. He spends most of his time in the school office and some individual pupils / classes have taken Jax for a walk. He doesn't spend every day in school but the plan is for him to gradually build up more time.

There are plans for Jax to be part of school programmes and support but this is not possible under current COVID guidelines. Families will be contacted in advance regarding any planned engagement with Jax.

He has been a fantastic and positive new member of our school and brings a smile to everyone's face!!



### **Outdoor Clothing**

Can all families please ensure that your child arrives at school with appropriate waterproof clothing and footwear in Term 2.

It is planned that all pupils will be outside at different times of the day every day. Appropriate clothing for our Scottish autumn / winter is essential.

If families feel they need assistance in purchasing clothing then they should contact the school for support and advice.

### **School Meetings**

Current guidelines have restricted the access of parents and carers to the school. During this term we have conducted the majority of our meetings by telephone. We have now “mastered” the use of Microsoft Teams and therefore in term 2, we will carry out all our planned meetings (Annual reviews, Multiagency meetings etc.) with the option of video or telephone appointments.

### **Flu Vaccinations**

All our staff were offered the opportunity to receive the flu vaccination on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October. I am sure this will be a protective factor for us all in the months ahead.

Primary pupils flu vaccinations took place in school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. The parents of any primary pupils who did not receive their vaccination on this day, should request this from their GP.

There is no in-school service for secondary pupils to receive the flu vaccination. Any parents who wish their child to receive their flu vaccination should speak with their GP.

### **Parent Council**

The Parent Council is a **group of parents selected by members of the parent/carer community to represent all the parents of the children at our school.** Our Parent Council meet regularly throughout the year. All parents/carers will be notified of meetings and are welcome to attend.

Contact details are:

[geemag23@hotmail.com](mailto:geemag23@hotmail.com)

**Gemma Manson (Chair)**

### **PE**

Current national guidelines continue to prohibit indoor PE. All PE in term 2 will be planned to take place outdoors. Parents/Carers should ensure their child arrives in school each day with appropriate waterproofs / winter weather clothing.

### **Swimming**

Although public swimming has recently re-started, it is not possible to deliver school swimming. This is due to the higher levels of risk supporting our pupils in changing areas along with the increased face to face contact required to support pupils whilst in the water.

### **Halloween**

We will deliver a socially distant and COVID secure programme of Halloween activities for all our classes. Your class teacher will be in touch with details and any dressing up requests!!

### **Donations to school**

Our families and friends are always so generous in donating items to school. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any donations of equipment and clothing to the school at this time.

### **FOSS**

The AGM for FOSS will be held on ZOOM on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm. Anyone who wants to join the AGM and be part of FOSS should provide the school office with their e-mail address to be sent invite to (ZOOM) AGM.



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## Term Dates

### Autumn 2020

- Term starts: Wednesday 12 August
- Autumn holiday: Friday 18, Monday 21 September
- Midterm: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct – Pupils return on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct
- Term ends: Tuesday 22 December
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### Spring 2021

- Term starts: Wednesday 6 January
- Midterm: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Pupils return on Tuesday 16 Feb
- Term ends: Thursday 1 April

### Summer 2021

- Term starts: Tuesday 20 April
- May Day: Monday 3 May
- Victoria day: Monday 24 May
- Term ends: Friday 25 June

