

**Respectful
Ready
Safe**

September 2020 Newsletter

Our Lady of Peace



Dear Parents/Carers, families and friends,

September already and the school year is in full swing! Our core business of Teaching and Learning is back up and running and the children are showing the benefits of being back with their friends and peers. Everyone's safety remains our priority and I appreciate your support with this. As we move forward, I am introducing some further measures to reduce the risk of cross contamination/spreading the virus and have outlined these below.

Parent partnership

Unfortunately, we are unable to have our usual Meet the Teacher sessions whereby you could pop along and have a chat with your child's teacher, after school. Each teacher will send out a short introductory letter, to help compensate in some way and the Parent Update will follow over the next few weeks.

School Uniform

Please, please, please label everything as already, we have a little collection of costly school jumpers building up!

Footwear

All pupils must have a change of shoes for indoors. Our flooring and carpets are suffering as a result of children not having these. It is also another key area where cross contamination can be reduced. I will need to start monitoring this and advise parents by letter, if children continue without them.

Brightly coloured, fashion footwear such as expensive trainers with flashing lights are not allowed in school. Sensible, sturdy, dark coloured shoes are recommended.

Buddies!

A huge thank you to Mrs Hughes, Principal Teacher, for coordinating the Primary 1 Tea Party, ably assisted by our role model, Primary 7 pupils! The sun was out, the music on and everyone had a great time in our lovely playground.

Outdoor Learning

Primary 5b will be involved in workshops with Sowing Seeds next week to finish creating the Wildlife Habitats. Separate information to follow. Thank you to Miss Linning, acting Principal Teacher for organising Outdoor Learning challenges and materials for each stage. The children will be outdoors as much as possible so these materials and ideas will help lots!

Fun 31

These will be introduced as a development to Golden Time. The Fun 31 name comes from the UN convention of the Rights of the child as article 31 states that all children have the right to relax and play. This was part of our School Improvement Planning, last year. The box contains games which can be shared in the class bubble. Due to Covid regulations, there will be no swapping games with other classes. Other resources will be used to supplement the box, e.g. Lego and magnetics.

This will allow a focus on 3 main sets of skills, linked to the Health and wellbeing curriculum and skills for work and life. The idea is that before each Fun 31 session, a key skill is identified and discussed with the children. We will get the children's feedback, as the initiative progresses.

School lunches

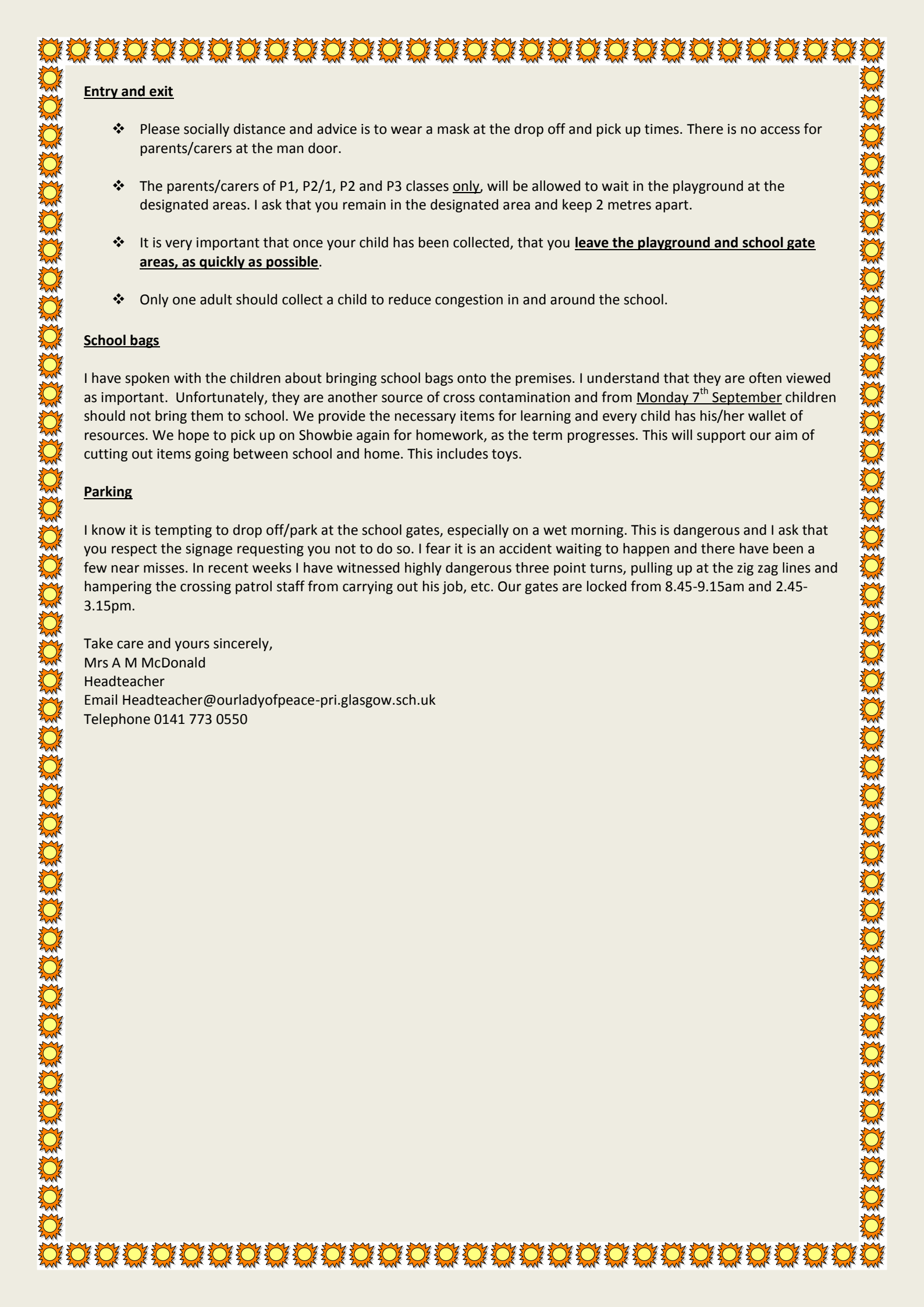
Please continue to wash down and empty packed lunch boxes daily, again to reduce risk of cross contamination between home and school. A reusable/disposable paper bag is the best thing to use. Plastic bags are not allowed.

Sacraments

Father Francis has kindly been in touch to discuss taking forward the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We will keep you updated of dates and arrangements as they become finalised. At the moment the children will be picking up on their preparations to receive these over the coming weeks and months.

Permissions and Groupcall

Please complete the attached updated permission form for photographs, filming, etc. and the Groupcall one too. This helps us get texts and messages to you efficiently.



Entry and exit

- ❖ Please socially distance and advice is to wear a mask at the drop off and pick up times. There is no access for parents/carers at the main door.
- ❖ The parents/carers of P1, P2/1, P2 and P3 classes only, will be allowed to wait in the playground at the designated areas. I ask that you remain in the designated area and keep 2 metres apart.
- ❖ It is very important that once your child has been collected, that you **leave the playground and school gate areas, as quickly as possible.**
- ❖ Only one adult should collect a child to reduce congestion in and around the school.

School bags

I have spoken with the children about bringing school bags onto the premises. I understand that they are often viewed as important. Unfortunately, they are another source of cross contamination and from Monday 7th September children should not bring them to school. We provide the necessary items for learning and every child has his/her wallet of resources. We hope to pick up on Showbie again for homework, as the term progresses. This will support our aim of cutting out items going between school and home. This includes toys.

Parking

I know it is tempting to drop off/park at the school gates, especially on a wet morning. This is dangerous and I ask that you respect the signage requesting you not to do so. I fear it is an accident waiting to happen and there have been a few near misses. In recent weeks I have witnessed highly dangerous three point turns, pulling up at the zig zag lines and hampering the crossing patrol staff from carrying out his job, etc. Our gates are locked from 8.45-9.15am and 2.45-3.15pm.

Take care and yours sincerely,
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