



January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year!

As we prepare for the start of a new term, and indeed a new year, I'd like to share a few short updates to help make sure that we start the year positively and safely, building on the many successes of last year.

School Carparking

This year, please help us to keep travelling to school a safe experience for all. When using the main carpark to drop off/pick up, please only use the clearly designated drop off zone. Last year, too many parents are dropping children off at the entrance to our carpark, or parking just within the carpark, and causing a significant safety risk. Whilst I understand it may be more convenient, parents who choose to do this are causing congestion at our school entrance and onto Harestone Road, putting our learners' safety at risk and risking the safety of other road users and our community - including the little ones at Sidlaw View Primary School and Jessie Porter Nursery. If parking on the street, please ensure you are well away from the pedestrian crossings, yellow zig-zag hazard lines and traffic calming measures.

This year, we will be increasing the disabled parking zones in our school carpark to meet the growing needs of our school community. This will include adding a disabled drop off zone. Please only use these areas if you are permitted to do so. Please be assured I have reinforced this message with all staff too and will do so again as our staff return from holiday.

COVID-19 Reducing the risks in schools

One of our new normal is dealing with new variants. Reflecting on last year, I am concerned for the number of young people who were not taking responsibility to reduce COVID risks for themselves, their families and their learning community. Too many young people were arriving to school without their own face covering, and despite our relentless approach, failing to follow face covering rules. We were distributing in the region of 300 face coverings per day, then finding that throughout the day, many were being discarded on to the floor. Not only is this a health and safety concern for us all, but also a concern financially and environmentally and not in line with our school values of responsibility and respect. Please support us in preparing for a new school year by having regular conversations at home and continuing to promote COVID responsibility. This includes encouraging regular lateral flow testing; ensuring your child has their own face covering and can use it properly; reminding your child to regularly sanitise/wash their hands with soap and water.

Senior Leadership Team – changes and structure

Following a period of review and consultation with school staff, and in consideration of our ongoing navigation of the current pandemic, we have agreed to restructure the senior leadership team to enhance our pupil support structure. From this, we aim to improve communication and our speed of intervention. Therefore, from January 2022, we will assign a Deputy Headteacher, to work in collaboration with a Principal Teacher of Guidance, within each house group:

- Balgay House: Ms Flynn (Principal Teacher Guidance) & Ms Innes (Depute Headteacher)
- Craigowl House: Mr McArtney (Principal Teacher Guidance) & Mrs Lowe (Depute Headteacher)
- Kinpurney House: Miss Lindsay (Acting Principal Teacher Guidance) & Mrs Ross (Acting Depute Headteacher)
- Law House: Mrs Honeyman (Principal Teacher Guidance) & Mr Montgomery (Acting Depute Headteacher)

For general concerns, complaints and/or compliments, your first point of contact remains your child's guidance teacher. Details on how to contact them via our school office, or directly, can be found on our website: <https://tinyurl.com/ContactBA>.

I am looking forward to an outstanding 2022 at Baldragon Academy, and with your support, continuing to improve.

Mr H McAninch
Headteacher