

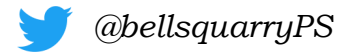


# Bellsquarry Primary School

“Have confidence...

Respect one another...

Reach your goals.”



Dear Parents/Carers,

**November 2021**

We hope you found the most recent virtual parent consultations informative. We do appreciate that this is not the same as having a face-face appointment and opportunity to see your child's learning in the school, rather than a brief snapshot. We know that there is a gap between the interactive seesaw experience our P1-3 parents experience and the Teams experience our P4-7 pupils have. Parents don't have the same overview of Teams as this is a pupil only platform. We are in discussions about how we find a way to enable a more user friendly option for P4-7 parental engagement and partnership and will let you know as soon as we have a solution!

We have however, appreciated receiving the responses on the final page of the Interim Report and the feedback we have received from the electronic comments. This enables us to celebrate success and improve links and communication about learning between home and school. If you haven't yet returned your comment sheet, you can still send these in and these will be added to your child's learning profile.

Our pupils have been incredibly busy this term; taking part in our whole school Learning for Sustainability project, looking at the impact of Climate Change and how we can make a difference for future generations.

The children were given the question, “How do we affect our planet?” this was then flipped to “How CAN we affect our planet?” to enable the children to consider changes we can make to look after our environment and live more sustainably.

If you missed it, you can view our whole school assembly where the classes each shared the direction they took their learning and exploration.

<https://sway.office.com/ZmLgNFICnyHMvxH9?ref=Link>



## Tempest Photography

**A reminder that Tempest Photography will be in Bellsquarry Primary School on Monday 29th November to take individual and sibling photographs.**

Please ensure your child is wearing school uniform. If your child's class has PE on Monday he/she should bring his/her PE kit instead of wearing this to school.

The photographer will not be in school for a full day, therefore ELC Afternoon and Full Day children (who do not attend on a Monday and wish to be photographed) have been asked to make an appointment for Monday morning. Unfortunately due to the current situation it is not possible to arrange for younger siblings (babies/toddlers) to be photographed.

If you are bringing your child along for his/her photograph, please use the entrance at the top of the ramp within the playground marked entrance B as the photographs will be taken in the GP room at the top of the school.



## Communication During Restrictions

To keep everyone safe we respectfully request that parents/carers do not enter the school building or come to the school office without a prior appointment/arrangement.

If you need to speak to a member of the team, please call the school office on 01506 410777. If you need to be seen in person e.g. to drop something off, a member of the team will come outside to meet you if you call when you arrive at the school.

A reminder to please wear a face covering when on school grounds.

We thank you for your continued understanding.



# Our Refreshed Vision, Values and Aims

We have worked through all of the responses from pupils, parents, carers, staff and partners and have now developed a draft of the refresh of our vision values and aims for Bellsquarry Primary School.

We have picked out the themes running through each and every one of them to work out what is important to our unique learning community. We would welcome any comments or feedback on these before the 3rd December 2021. We will then aim to finalise these following our next PTAG meeting in December.

A huge thank you for the time, thought and effort that everyone put in to their responses.



## Vision

Bellsquarry Learning Community work together to provide a nurturing environment where everyone is valued and included. We support our learners to have confidence in their skills, abilities and ideas, the resilience to persevere and the determination to succeed in their learning.

## Values

Respect & Kindness

Resilience

Achievement

Creativity

Collaboration



## Aims

At Bellsquarry Primary School, pupils, staff, parents/carers and partners work together to support our children to:

- Develop positive relationships with peers and adults across the school community to ensure everyone feels included and cared for.
- Have a voice within our school community through effective decision making, responding to the views of others appropriately.
- Develop confidence in and ability to apply skills across different contexts for learning.
- Develop creative solutions through collaboration and effective communication and have the courage to persevere in order to achieve their goals.
- Develop global citizenship by raising awareness of other cultures and celebrating diversity in our own learning community and the wider world.
- Be independent, critical thinkers who embrace challenges and adopt a resilient attitude in order to realise their full potential.
- Develop compassionate learners who respect others and adopt a passion for lifelong learning through their own natural curiosity of the world around them.
- Remember their experiences at Bellsquarry Primary School with fondness and a sense of belonging.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding our draft vision, values and aims, please contact us or the PTAG prior to our next meeting on the 6th December.

*Resilience Respect Achievement Creativity Collaboration*

## PTAG—Fundraising



The Outdoor Halloween Trail organised by the PTAG was a success and this was well attended by families. Thank you to everyone who supported them. Our fundraising committee members put a lot of time and effort into planning and organising events such as these and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts to raise money for the school.

Please see information from the PTAG regarding their next planned event.

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may have spotted our recent social media posts promoting our Santa Dash on 5th December. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel this event. Ultimately, we just don't feel it would be responsible to encourage a large gathering when Covid is still prevalent in our community and especially so close to Christmas. **This cancellation means we will no longer be collecting chocolate donations next week for our Tombola as was previously stated.**

This is disappointing for all of us but especially our very small team of fundraisers who have put in a huge amount of effort to organise it this far. Hopefully we can pick up the plans again next year, perhaps for an Easter Bunny Hop in the spring!

Happily, all is not lost for our fundraising prospects this year. We have secured some fabulous raffle prizes from several local businesses and we are going to do this online. We are still finalising the details but we'll let you know as soon as tickets are on sale. Keep an eye on our Facebook posts for prizes being announced but some highlights so far are a meal for two at Stones, a four ball at Pumpherton Golf Club and a voucher for the Greedy Gecko!

Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards

Gemma Gough

Chair

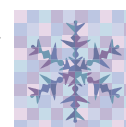
Bellsquarry Parent Teacher Action Group

If you think you would be able to help out at the Fundraising Committee in any way –either with the organisation of future fundraising events or attendance at organised events. If you'd like to hear more about this, please contact the fundraising committee to find out more at: [BellsquarryPrimaryFundraising@gmail.com](mailto:BellsquarryPrimaryFundraising@gmail.com)

## Winter Ready

It is getting to that time where the weather is turning much cooler.

Please ensure you send your child to school wearing a warm and waterproof jacket and hat, scarf, gloves etc. and suitable shoes for being outdoors in wintery weather.



It would also be beneficial for your child to bring in spare clothes, particularly trousers/tights, socks etc. as these are the things that tend to get wet in wintery weather more often than not! Children can leave a set of clothes/change of shoes in school rather than taking these to and from school, if families prefer.

Because of the requirements for adequate ventilation, the windows in school are kept open in winter which can create a draught and cooler temperatures in classrooms. This means, although we do have heating on, it is a good idea for children to come to school wearing an extra layer on particularly cold days. Thank you for your help with this.

# Health and Wellbeing Champion

## Health and Wellbeing Family Champion

We are delighted to introduce you to our new Health and Wellbeing family champion. Mrs Simpson is a P5 parent and has volunteered to represent Bellsquarry Primary School in this new role. Mrs Simpson will be learning more about the role at the first meeting of all of the HWB family champions and more information will be shared as it becomes available. Thank you to Mrs Simpson for putting herself forward for this role. It is very much appreciated and we look forward to working with you to ensure positive outcomes for our pupils.



# Police Scotland—Cyber Resilience Project

We have been liaising with Police Scotland who have now completed their draft of the programme of the Cyber Resilience and Cyber Crime primary school programme. It looks really interesting and I'm sure the children will be motivated and engaged in its content. The plan is for this to be delivered to our P7 cohort. It is likely this will take place in January 2022.



Thank you to the parents/carers who have noted interest in finding out what the programme involves. I am due to meet with colleagues from the school and council next week to look at the resources in more detail. We will also seek views from parents and I would like to invite anyone interested in viewing some of the materials and offering any feedback a chance to do so on the 6th December at 5:30pm via Skype for Business. If you are interested in coming along to this please [click here](#). This will enable us to provide feedback and for Police Scotland to make any changes before the programme goes ahead.

**Still to come...** Thank you also to our parents who have noted interest in a separate Police Scotland parent information session about how to keep our children safe online. I will discuss this with our Police Scotland colleagues and let you know once we have a confirmed date for this to take place.

# Homework

Our last 'Quick Question' was regarding parent views on homework across the school at Bellsquarry Primary School. We had a fairly large response to the survey with 85 out of 162 families responding. The results of the survey are very interesting and varied in opinions as you can see in the snapshot below. Therefore, the plan is that we will be breaking this down by stage and looking at the feedback as a staff team. Once we have an idea of what is working well and why and what can be improved, we will look to review our homework strategy with a view to making any required changes in January. I will also link in with the PTAG to let them know how this is progressing and seek their views on any potential amendments. Thank you all once again to those of you who submitted your views and preferences and we will be in touch as soon as possible.

2. Do you agree with children being issued with homework?

[More Details](#)

Yes	69
No	16



6. How do you find the current amount of homework?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

We like it, it fits well with our li...	43
We'd prefer less	31
We'd prefer more	11



3. Do you think homework should be mandatory?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Yes	43
No	42



7. How do you find the current frequency of homework?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

We like it, it fits well with our li...	46
We'd prefer the frequency was...	17
We'd prefer the frequency was...	22



## Self Evaluation— 2.7 Partnerships

Thank you to the parents who got in touch with us regarding the usefulness of the information shared at parent consultations. We also received some feedback on our interim reports which we sent home the following week. The interim reports detailed the general academic progress being made so far.

These comments are useful in finding out the best methods of sharing pupil progress and how we can have useful formal and informal methods of communication to enable parents to find out what their child is learning and how they are progressing both in terms of learning and how they are managing generally in school.

Partnerships with parents and parental engagement in children's learning are so important in a child's life. These create positive connections between home and school, ensure that children can talk about their learning and their progress as well as what they have enjoyed doing in school.

Partnerships with parents allow us to see the bigger picture of a child's life and, extending this into working with community partners, ensure that children are making progress across the 4 contexts for learning; ethos and life of the school, curricular areas, opportunities for personal achievement and Inter-disciplinary Learning.

Please [click here](#) to answer this month's Quick Question about what is important to you in terms of partnerships and any ideas you have to help us improve these.

### Communication & School App

Thank you to everyone for your feedback to us and the PTAG regarding the School App. The decision was made to cease using the app as a result of this feedback. We will stick with groupcall for disseminating information. We can revisit this in the future if parents feel they would find the app useful when more events and communications surrounding these build up.

A green rounded square button with the text "School App for Parents" in white and yellow.

### No Nuts in School or ELC Please

We would like to remind parents that we ask that **no nut containing products** are sent into school as snacks or in pupils' lunch boxes. This includes Nutella. We have several children in school with severe nut allergies and it is extremely important we all do our bit to keep these little ones safe. Thank you very much for your cooperation with this matter.



### Christmas Jumper Day

We are holding a Christmas Jumper day on Friday 10th December. However, we know that not everyone owns a Christmas jumper so we are happy for it to be a Christmas jumper or just something Christmassy! If you have a Christmas jumper that your child has outgrown, we'd appreciate these being handed in and we can distribute these to families who might require one. We also have a large number of Santa hats for any children who might not have anything Christmassy to wear. We also know that some families do not celebrate Christmas so a brightly coloured jumper would be a alternative.



### Rag Bag Collection

Your child will bring home a Rag Bag. This is to raise funds for the school. If you are having a pre Christmas clear out of any old clothes or textiles you wish to recycle, please pop them in the bag and bring them along to the school on Friday 10th December. (please check the bag for details regarding suitable contents)

Thank you in advance for your support!



## Diary Dates

Monday 29th November	Tempest School Photographs—ELC & School—individuals and siblings
Tuesday 30th November	Wear Something Tartan if you like—no pressure to do so and no donation of chocolate required any longer. School uniform to be worn.
Monday 6th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5:30pm Parent Opportunity to find out about and comment on the P7 Cyber Resilience Programme (Skype)</li><li>• PTAG meeting 7pm</li></ul>
Friday 10th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christmas Jumper Day—Wear something Christmassy and bring a donation for charity (Save the Children)</li><li>• Rag Bag Collection</li></ul>
Monday 13th December	P4 Christmas Party
Tuesday 14th December	P1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 15th December	Virtual Christmas Panto
Thursday 16th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 16th December	Virtual Magic Show
Friday 17th December	P3 Christmas Party
Monday 20th December	Possible Cinema Trip for P6 & P7 pupils tbc
Monday 20th December	ELC AM Christmas Party*
Tuesday 21st December	ELC PM Christmas Party* (Full day children who do not attend on a Monday or Tues will be able to opt to attend one or the other)
Wednesday 22nd December	Last Day of term before Christmas Holidays begin
Wednesday 5th January	ELC children return (INSET day for school staff)
Thursday 6th January	School Pupils Return

Please feel free to get in touch if there is anything you wish to share with us, discuss or clarify either via email or telephone. The line manager for the ELC, P1 and P2 is Mr Hunter & for P3-7 it is Mrs Delargy but we are both more than happy to help with any enquiry you may have. We will endeavour to respond as soon as we possibly can.

If you have any comments or questions about anything within this newsletter or you wish to get in touch about another matter please click the link below to leave your comments or contact us via email or telephone if you'd like to discuss anything in more detail. We'd love to hear from you!

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKUNb9FKKQ6FLiyDnXf6QmrxUQ0E2V1QwNEpBTEdYMkNCUEtEVEM4MkxSVC4u>

Please also send in any information about your child's achievements outside of school, we'd love to hear all about them and celebrate their wider achievements with the whole school community.

Kind regards, Mrs Delargy, Mr Hunter & The Bellsquarry Team.