

## **NATIONAL PARENT FORUM OF SCOTLAND**

### **Welcome to the latest edition of our e-newsletter!**

Hello on a very wet September day,

It's good to be back in some sort of routine following an unusual year so far. Things are obviously not 'back to normal' in schools, but most seem to be managing to create a reasonably positive experience for our children. As always, I am grateful to all our school staff for their care and attention to all of the children in their care, particularly with all the extra pressures at present. The NPFS is keen to hear how things are going in your schools, and please let us know if we can ever help with any school related issues or answer any questions.

The last few weeks have seen various extra measures put in place around schools. There are many different points of view in these discussions but please be assured that all of these views are represented in meetings the NPFS attends. I welcome these emails and I am very pleased that so many of you have taken the time to share your opinions with me.

I'm happy that the NPFS is hosting another Q&A with the Deputy First Minister. The first one, in June, took place at a very different time for us all, where things looked very precarious for the reopening of schools. This time round, while we are obviously expecting questions surrounding back to school issues, it would be good to have wider questions about parental engagement generally. Send your questions to [questions@npfs.org.uk](mailto:questions@npfs.org.uk) and we will do our best to cover as many themes as possible on the night.

I hope you are able to join us next week and look forward to receiving your questions and comments for Mr Swinney. We are in the process of organising a couple of other Q&As on other subjects, with the relevant personnel and will pass on these details when they are finalised.

Have a good week and look after yourself,

Joanna



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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the National Parent  
Forum of Scotland

## Parent Q&A with the Deputy First Minister

### Parent Q&A with Deputy First Minister John Swinney, Thursday 10th September 2020

The National Parent Forum of Scotland is delighted to announce, after the popularity of the event in June, that we are hosting another live Q&A with John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

The event will take place on Thursday 10th September 2020, 7pm – 8.30pm, and it is an opportunity for parents to receive answers to their questions about education, and the way forward this coming year.

NPFS Chair, Joanna Murphy, will be directing questions live to Mr Swinney. These questions will be collected from parents in advance of the meeting, so please make sure you have emailed your question(s). This is to ensure we cover as many issues and concerns as possible.

Please submit your questions in advance to [questions@npfs.org.uk](mailto:questions@npfs.org.uk). We anticipate a high volume of questions, and therefore it may not be possible to answer each one we receive, however we will endeavour to ask questions that are representative of the range of questions we receive.

To register for the event, please click [here](#).

If you are unable to attend on the evening, the Q&A will be uploaded in full to the [NPFS youtube channel](#) shortly after broadcasting. There will also be the option to view the Q&A with subtitles on the youtube video.



## Back to School Webinar Series Available on YouTube

Thank you to everyone who came along to our learning together back to school webinars in August. If you weren't able to make it, don't worry!

All of the sessions are now available on our YouTube channel, on a dedicated 'Back to School' playlist. You'll find a range of sessions including literacy with the Scottish Book Trust, STEM with Dynamic Earth, Aberdeen Science Centre, and Glasgow Science Centre, Maths from Count On Us, and Creativity from Education Scotland. These webinars explore a range of topics for a range of ages and stages.

These sessions are designed for parents, helping you to support your children's learning and the transition back to school.

You can find all of the videos [here](#).

**Resolve Mediation Service**

Resolve Mediation Service

# Hear to Talk



RESOLVE: ASL

[resolve@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:resolve@childreninscotland.org.uk)  
07955 788967

As pupils and education staff return to schools across Scotland, we wanted to remind you that Resolve Mediation Service is available to help address any conflicts and disagreements in education that may arise in the coming months. As well as their usual service, Resolve are also offering a listening service to education staff, parents/families and individuals if they are feeling overwhelmed with the current health situation and the effects of this in the education environment.

Whilst Resolve are not able to hold face to face meetings, they can provide our service via on-line using video calls. To find out more or to discuss a new referral you can contact Sandra or Alison on 07955 788967 or email [resolve@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:resolve@childreninscotland.org.uk).

**Back to School Tips for  
Communicating with your school  
from Enquire**

## Back to school: Tips for talking about your child's support once schools re-open



Since lockdown began families and schools have pulled together to keep children learning at home. Good communication with schools has been crucial in helping parents and carers support their children's learning. With schools re-opening you may still have lots of unanswered questions about what your child's day will look, how they will learn and how their support needs will be met.

### Tips for positive communication

Schools will be busier than usual at the start of the new term as they get used to the new way of working and it may take some time before things get back to normal. So how can you make the most of your communication with schools during this challenging time to make sure your child gets the support they need?

#### Here are eight handy tips to help:

- 1 You can help your child's teachers understand the impact lockdown has had on your child's learning and well-being by sharing how you feel they have coped.

- 2 **The Salvesen Mindroom Centre's 'Back to School toolkit'** can guide you through some of the topics you might want to talk to your child about before they start school. You can share this information with your school by email or by talking to your child's teachers.

Back to School Toolkit

[www.mindroom.org](http://www.mindroom.org)

- 3 If you have any worries once your child returns to school arrange a time to talk to your child's class teacher or guidance teacher.

- 4 Prepare what you want to say in advance so you can make the most of the time you have to speak to them. Send an email so the teacher has a note of the issues you want to discuss. This will give them time to think about your questions or find out information that will be helpful to have to hand.

If you are worried about your child it can be difficult not to get upset or emotional. But try to stay calm and focus on what is most important for your child.

- 5 Check out our factsheet on **Working together with your child's school** and our webpage for more advice on communicating with the school.  
[www.enquire.org.uk/parents/meeting-with-school](http://www.enquire.org.uk/parents/meeting-with-school)

- 6 It may take time for schools to respond to emails or requests for information. If the issue you want to talk about is related to your child's safety or ability to attend school, make this clear when you get in touch.

- 7 When talking to your child's school keep the focus on your child and their individual needs and ask how the school can support them.

- 8 Don't be afraid to make suggestions that might help your child in school. If you've tried new or different approaches with their learning or behaviour at home, share these with your child's teachers.

Check out our parents' guide to additional support for learning for more info: [www.enquire.org.uk/publications](http://www.enquire.org.uk/publications)



#### What if I need more advice?

ENQUIRE

- Please get in touch with our helpline using our website contact form [www.enquire.org.uk/contact](http://www.enquire.org.uk/contact) or call us on 0345 123 2303 Monday-Friday 1pm-4:30pm.
- Check our coronavirus webpages for more information: [www.enquire.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.enquire.org.uk/coronavirus)
- Our Reach website has lots of advice for children and young people to help them with their wellbeing and learning as life returns to normal: [www.reach.scot](http://www.reach.scot)

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