**Menstrie Primary School**

**Newsletter**

**April 2020**

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| Dear Parent/Carers  Welcome back after the Easter Holiday.  We hope that you have all had a restful break and that you have managed to enjoy some of the lovely weather, despite the challenging circumstances which we are facing. We are all missing the children greatly, and can’t wait to see you all again as soon as we can. Please take time to read this newsletter as there is lots of important information which we would like to bring to your attention.  ***STAFFING***  Miss Henderson will be returning from her Maternity Leave to Menstrie Primary from Thursday 30th April as Headteacher. Due to ill health, Miss Henderson is shielding, so will be working remotely. Initially Miss Henderson will be working four days a week and I will continue to be Acting Headteacher on the other day. Miss Henderson will return on a phased return when we return to the school building. I will remain the first port of contact during the transition period. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and the community for all the support I have received as Acting Headteacher. I am incredibly lucky to work for such a great school and community.  We were very sad to say goodbye to our janitor Bob Harrower who retired at the end of last term. Mr Harrower was a very valued member of staff who we will all miss greatly. We want to thank him for his many years of service, help and friendship and wish him a very happy retirement. Due to the situation, we were not able to celebrate with Mr Harrower however we will ensure that we do this when this is all over.  We would also like to welcome Steven Peter to Menstrie Primary, who will take up the post of Janitor when we return to the school building.  ***ONLINE LEARNING***  Having returned back to school, the teachers will continue to provide online activities and advice during the normal school hours of 9am – 3pm.  **Please remember our priority is everyone's health and wellbeing so please do not feel under any pressure to always complete all tasks.**  The work set by teachers is a recommendation and we fully understand that there will be times when this is not completed. We do however ask that families check in on a regular basis through either Google Classroom, through the class blogs or by email so that we know that you are managing to engage with our online platforms. If you are having difficulties with this, please let us know.  Teachers will continue to provide generic feedback to pupils about their learning. There may be some days when our teachers are quiet online, this could be for a variety of reasons such as being in one of the hubs for the children of key workers. The staff will continue to be your main point of contact for your child's learning, however this way of learning is very new to us all so please be patient. If you have any other queries then please contact Mrs Murray or Mrs Campbell  **Your child’s mental well being is of the upmost importance so if you feel that your child is struggling with this, please let us know and we’ll see what we can do to support you.** |  | ***PARENT SUPPORT GROUP***  Our Parent Council are keen to support the families of our school and nursery children during this difficult and uncertain time.   It is an anxious and worrying time for many with the loss of routine, and a new way of working and living. We are keen to support families in whatever way possible and thought of a support network to help keep in contact and look after all our wellbeing.   This support could take the form of online chat, emails or by telephone.  If you feel that you would benefit from speaking with other parents in similar situations or would just like to link up with other families/parents in the area, please email menstrieparentcouncil@gmail.com and they will help arrange this for you.  Remember we are all in this together and it helps to keep in touch.   We hope to hear from some of our families.  Take care.  ***FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES***  As a community, we are very aware of how this current situation is affecting those around us. Circumstances are changing on a daily basis for families and we want to be there to help those in need. Clackmannanshire Council has created a [helpline](https://www.clacks.gov.uk/coronavirus/shielding/) (01259 452275 or communitysupport@clacks.gov.uk) to assist those at risk in our communities during the outbreak, to help provide extra help and support. If you are facing difficulty or need advice, please contact this service to see what they can do for you.  In addition if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school email address ([menstrie@edu.clacks.gov.uk](mailto:menstrie@edu.clacks.gov.uk)) as I will be able to signpost you to a variety of supports. The parent council and the community council are also keen to help those in need so please do let us know. We are all in this together.  ***IT SUPPORT***  With online learning being such an important part of how we access education during this time, Mrs Campbell has set up an email address for notifying us of any difficulties, lost passwords, etc. The email address is  [grp-menstrieprimaryitsupport@glowschools.org.uk](mailto:grp-menstrieprimaryitsupport@glowschools.org.uk)  Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any help.  ***MOVING FORWARD***  Unfortunately I am not in the position to be able to tell you about classes for next year or how the transition process will look for Nursery to P1 and P7 to High School. However I can reassure you that we are working on this just now and I will share with you any information as I get it.  Take care and keep safe.  Mandi Murray  Acting Headteacher  Menstrie Primary School  menstrie@edu.clacks.gov.uk |