



Headteacher: Mrs Denise Penman
Telephone: 01259 452319

8th January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

First of all can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year! What a very different new year it has been and we now find ourselves once again in lockdown. With that in mind, I thought it might be beneficial for me to write to you to give you some understanding as to what life at Sunnyside Primary School will be like over the next few weeks and what our expectations will be of the children.

In-School Learning

As you will be aware, only children of Key Workers and those who it is recognised may require support will attend school in person from Monday 11th January. Due to the gravity of the situation regarding COVID and the seriousness of the spread, we have been asked to significantly limit the numbers of children who enter the school building. We will have 5 distinct bubbles of children: Nursery, Primary 1 & 2, Primary 3, Primary 4 & 5 and Primary 6 & 7. Telephone calls have been made to confirm which children should attend, and they should come to school as normal the times being 9.00am – 3.00pm. Breakfast Club will also be available from 8.30am at the cost of £1.20 per child. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, there is no charge for this club.

Children who attend school during this time should continue to wear school uniform. However, the expectation will be that children will spend time each day learning outdoors. It is therefore extremely important that they come to school appropriately dressed for the weather e.g. waterproof footwear and a warm, waterproof jacket.

It is important that we minimise the number of staff who enter the building also, therefore staff will teach bubbles on a rota basis. Your child may be taught by their own class teacher but may also be taught by another member of staff. Each bubble will also be supported by a Learning Assistant each day.

During the school day the children will engage a range of learning opportunities which will be carefully planned to ensure that they are appropriately challenged and supported in their learning. They will take part in PE lessons and also an on-line whole school assembly each week.

These assemblies will take place each Friday aiming to support our sense of school community. These will be occasions where we will celebrate the successes of the children's learning both at home and in school and an opportunity to award 'Home Point' certificates which will be later posted out.

'Home Points' are a method of encouraging children and supporting their motivation for learning both in school and at home. Points will be awarded for examples of good

work and online engagement with the Google Classroom. When the children receive 25 points, they will earn a Bronze Home Points certificate. If they receive 50 points, they will earn a Silver Home Points certificate. Furthermore if they receive 100 points, they will earn a Gold Home Points certificate.

Online Learning

For those children who are learning online from home, their class teacher will post lessons onto Google Classroom. The expectation will be that children will complete a literacy, a numeracy and one other curricular area as a minimum each day. All children have also been invited to join 'The Pod' online classroom which will offer a range of materials and ideas to support them in regulating their emotions. The classroom is intended as a drop-in and will be updated regularly with new ideas and materials.

In order for children to access the weekly on-line assembly, a link to a Google Meet will be posted onto their Google classroom, which will take you to the assembly. The children currently have weekly assemblies using Google Meets so they will be familiar with this process. When the children login to their Google Classroom on Monday, there will be a guide as to how join a Google Meet.

Class teachers have been asked to monitor children's engagement with this and contact families to offer support where necessary.

Digital Equipment

Questionnaires were resubmitted asking for details of any families where accessing digital equipment or the internet would be challenging. In order to support this, we will be issuing school iPads and internet dongles for those who require it. Should you continue to have difficulties with this, please do not hesitate to contact us for support.

Whole School Thematic Learning

Again, to try to ensure that children have similar experiences both in school and at home, all children will be learning about Scotland/ Burns over the next few weeks. Children in school will be taking part in learning linked to this subject and the Google Classrooms will be populated with similar learning for the children to do at home. The work from the children at home and at school will be displayed in school and celebrated at assemblies.

Communication

During this time it is important that communication continues to be a priority. You can contact the school using the usual measures i.e. telephone, email, Learning Journals (for ELC), Google Classroom and Twitter.

ELC/ Pre-school - In School

The children accessing our ELC will form a new bubble and after consultation with the children they have decided this will be named 'Thistle Group'. Similar to the school, your child's keyworker will work in the bubble on a rota basis.

During this time, your child will continue to experience high quality learning experiences and our curricular learning journeys will follow the child's interest which is our normal way of working. Also, as with the school, our first themed interest will be 'Scotland' and 'Rabbie Burns'.

Outdoor learning will continue to be one of our priorities. Please ensure that your child comes prepared for outdoors daily e.g. Waterproofs, wellies, hats, gloves, jackets, change of clothing and if necessary nappies, wipes. Keyworkers will share your child's learning in the ELC via the learning journals.

ELC/ Pre-school – On-line Learning at Home

Your child's keyworker will provide online learning via the learning journals. The learning will be individual and targeted specifically to meet the needs of your child. We will offer lots of fun and exciting activities during this time to ensure your child's progression in their learning. This will include:

- Curricular activities
- PEEP sessions fortnightly
- Storytelling video's
- LIFT sessions

We also enjoy seeing the children taking part in the learning provided. It would be great if you could upload your pictures and any feedback to the journals.

If you have any issues accessing the learning journals or if you have difficulty accessing digital equipment, please let us know and we can try to support.

As I stated earlier in this letter, should you have any further queries, or indeed need support in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Penman
Head Teacher.