A close up of a sign

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24.4.20

Dear All

I hope this finds you all well and safe and you and your children are managing the current situation as best you all can? The weather has been just lovely so I hope you all managed to feel like you had some kind of holiday over Easter and were able to chill, relax and recharge your batteries. This term is normally really busy and full of interesting and exciting activities for the children to participate in. In particular this term focusses on transition from class to class, Nursery to Primary and from Primary to Secondary. This year this will obviously look very different. As we have still no clear timescale of when schools will reopen we will try to carry out transition activities as best we can and be as creative as we can to meet the needs of everyone at this difficult time.

I know all parents and families are doing things differently and everyone is doing their best for their children throughout these times. As we have previously said the most important thing at this time is everyone’s wellbeing. We all know that everyone is facing lots of different challenges in relation to work, family and health. Technology can also at times be frustrating. Helping different ages of children can also be hard. This is a lot to manage, so please don’t worry just do what you can. The children will still be learning from their day to day experiences in the home and through their play. It is just as important to spend time with your family doing house hold jobs, playing with them and I am sure that with this lovely weather they will be spending a great deal of time outside which should be encouraged.

Staff are now back on line to help you and they are back managing their teams to ensure there is a range of activities for your children to do. Some parents are now receiving work via emails and this can be arranged if it is better for you. The council is looking at how we can ensure nobody is disadvantaged because of lack of access to technology and or no/poor internet. More information will come out from this when they collate the information we have submitted. We had our first teaching staff virtual on line meeting on Tuesday and this went well and a new experience for us and we were able to chat about how to take forward home learning. So there will be new activities, websites and learning shared with your child which will give your child plenty of choice and opportunities. We plan to send out to all children a questionnaire to find out how they are getting on, more information to come on this too. We will continue to review learning as the term goes on. You have all the email addresses for the teachers so please contact them if you wish to ask any advice and if need be we can arrange for a telephone call as necessary to help.

As you know the school is being used as a childcare hub and it is going well and some of us have been working in the hub helping to care for the children of key workers along with staff from Shawhead, Troqueer, Laurieknowe, Loreburn, Dumfries Academy and Lincluden. A huge thank you to everyone who is able to do this.

Reports will be issued as soon as we can this term and these will probably be emailed to you. We will let you know exactly when to expect these. So as this very different term starts a huge thank you to all of you for all your hard work in your new role at home. Well done and keep up the good work. Keep posting photos on facebook to keep in touch as we are all missing the children and I am sure they are missing their friends and even although some may not admit it, they will be missing the routine of school too.

We will be still communicating with you in lots of ways through teams, facebook, email, text and via phone calls. If there is anything we can do to help at all please let us know. Thank you for your ongoing support during this time. Take care everyone, stay safe and let us hope that things are back to normal as soon as it possibly can be.

Regards

Mrs E Watson

Head Teacher