

15/5/20 WORKING TOGETHER LEARNING TOGETHER

Dear All

I hope this letter continues to find you all well and safe and you and your children are continuing to manage the current situation as best you all can. Please remember you are doing a brilliant job and thank you to everyone who has sent in photos of home learning. Mrs Boardman has created our first slideshow from some of these photos, as you will understand at this time we were not able to use all of them. This will be put on facebook, emailed to those not on facebook and on to the school blog. If you haven’t seen some of your photos yet don’t worry, we will include them in other slideshows as we plan to create these roughly every couple of weeks. We hope to send some into the Authority too. I am seeing some fantastic home learning and everyone is being so creative. Well done to you all. Please keep sending the photos in and can I ask you now send them straight to Mrs Boardman – gw16boardmanaimee@ea.dumgal.sch.uk. Thank you to Mrs Boardman for doing this for us.

This week’s updates

* Added to next week’s home learning is some work on **kindness**, an important school value and a crucial theme just now. Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week and the theme is kindness, as it is such an important theme, we feel it would be worthwhile doing some work around it. So next week why don’t you do something to show kindness, which could help to make us all feel a bit better, from carrying out acts of kindness to organising or taking part in virtual get-togethers, all of which would lift our spirits and make us feel more positive. I am sure you will have lots of other ideas too. We know you are all doing lots of kind things anyway. So you can either, draw a picture of what you have done, design a poster about kindness or write a poem about what kindness means to you or send us some photos of you doing your acts of kindness or your kindness work. Email these photos of your work to us at the office email address gw08officecargenbrid@ea.dumgal.sch.uk and we can share these with everyone. #Be Kind
* Dumfries and Galloway is also supporting this week too, as they recognise that protecting our mental health is central to us coping with and recovering from the coronavirus pandemic, with the psychological and social impacts likely to outlast the physical symptoms of the virus. Throughout next week, they will be undertaking different activities to raise awareness of mental health awareness week, focusing on different aspects each day as well as providing information on support that is available. Thursday 21st May is ‘**Wear it Green’** day. All staff are encouraged to wear something green to show their support for Mental Health Awareness. Also that day, they are encouraging staff to have a virtual cuppa together. So we thought maybe you could all wear green too and arrange a time for you and your family and friends to all get together online – have a break and catch up over a cuppa. Making sure we still see each other and speak regularly is important. If you do this then please send us some photos to let us know what you have done. The school staff are going to be taking part as we are missing each other too.
* **Sumdog** is being used to set weekly challenges for pupils in numeracy and mathematics as well as spelling and grammar for some classes.  Pupils are familiar with Sumdog as they used it in school and for homework and they love it. It can be used independently on a laptop or tablet. We would strongly encourage all children to access Sumdog regularly and complete the work set. This is a good way to maintain learning in numeracy with minimal parental input. There is also a new **Dumfries and Galloway Sumdog Competition** starting today and finishes at 8pm on 21st May. It would be good if we could have as many children as possible doing this. Good luck. If you have any difficulties with Sumdog please contact your child's teacher.
* I am happy to take phone calls from any parent wishing to have a chat about anything. My next shifts in the hub are Monday 18th May until 2pm then Wed 20th May from 2pm.
* I am pleased to say that we managed to get all the reports emailed to everyone this week. Any queries, pupil voice section, pupil or parent feedback should be emailed to the class teacher.
* We will send out another pupil questionnaire next week and we are pleased we received 40 completed questionnaires the last time. The responses were very positive which was good to hear.
* On facebook, on the school blog or emailed to you, you will receive a copy of another useful document for parents, this time from Education Scotland. We hope you find it useful and informative as it gives other ideas for activities to do at home and how to support your child at home.
* Transition from Nursery into P1 and from class to class is being discussed at the moment and we are busy planning what this will look like this year. We have some ideas already of how to do this virtually. Any suggestions of transition ideas please let me know via the office email address. We are soon going to be able to inform our P6 pupils who their buddies will be and how to make contact with them. More information to come.
* Just a reminder - As you know we are open as a childcare hub for key workers, this is for child care only and there is no formal learning taking place, so it is not school. The hub is getting even busier and is nearing capacity so please remember that this is only for those key workers who have no other alternative child care provision. It is lovely to see some familiar faces in the hub.
* We still have no information yet as to what schools will look like when they return or indeed when this will happen. As you imagine there are lots of discussions taking place locally and nationally about this. I know that some of you will be worrying about your child’s learning and wellbeing but rest assured whenever school returns and whatever it looks like we will be ready to support your child. There will be provision put in place when we get back and we will be ready to support pupils emotionally, socially and educationally.

We will continue to communicate with you in lots of ways through teams, facebook, email, text and via phone calls and through a weekly letter. 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. Remember you are all doing an incredible job.

Regards

Mrs E Watson

Head Teacher