



22/5/20

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. The return of the sunny weather this week has helped us all. Please remember you are doing a brilliant job and thank you to everyone who has sent in photos of home learning. We have sent into the Authority our home learning slideshow and the video from staff to you all. This may be shared across D and G by them. Please keep sending the photos in and can I ask you now to send them straight to Mrs Boardman – gw16boardmanaimiee@ea.dumgal.sch.uk. Thank you to Mrs Boardman for doing this for us. Photos about kindness can be sent in to either the school office or to Mrs Boardman. Thanks for those who have done so already and there have been so many great acts of kindness taking place.

This week it has been great to catch up with some of the children in the hub and it was lovely to see you all.

This week's updates

- 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 1st June until 2pm then Wed 3rd June from 2pm.
- Thanks to all those who have returned the pupil voice section, pupil or parent feedback to the class teacher. These can still be returned.
- This week there was another check in questionnaire sent to all children. It would be great if you could find time for your child to complete it. The link is on your team's page and some teachers also emailed the link too. This helps us support you and your child as best we can. Thank you.
- We know individual teachers have different ways to stay in touch with you and your child. Please keep staying in touch as directed by your teacher as this is so important but could we ask that everyone at least tries to check in once a week by email so we have a regular chance to communicate and support with you to help with any concerns you may have. Thank you.
- Next Friday 29th May is an Inset Day for staff, so pupils would not have been at school on this day. Therefore we suggest you take a break from home learning and have a relaxed fun day. Staff will not be able to communicate on teams/emails this day as they will be doing other school work.
- This term we would have been having all our outdoor events such as sports day. We have been asked to take part in a Regional Themed Sports Week 1st-5th June. We will put more information about this on facebook/email/blog. During this week some work will be linked to this and families are encouraged to get involved in creating a sports day at home, in the house or garden (be careful what activities you pick for suitable spaces!!) Active Schools would like to encourage pupils to wear their school t-shirt or jumper so they can identify which school they are from. They would love to see banners with school name or any words of support. Photographs should be sent into the school office and we will forward these and a video montage of the virtual regional sports week will be collated to celebrate and share by Active Schools. These photos need to be with Active Schools by 8th June so we would need them in to us by 4th June as we have to choose 5 photos to send in. Send to gw08officecargenbrid@ea.dumgal.sch.uk We hope this is something you will all take part in and have lots of fun.

- On facebook, on the school blog or emailed to you, you will receive the next copy of the newsletter from Education Scotland (Issue 2). 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.
- As you will know the First Minister announced yesterday a road map to coming out of lockdown and in this was a little information about the plan to reopen schools. Headteachers across Dumfries and Galloway met online this morning with the Director to progress plans for children and young people to return to school after the summer holiday. The First Minister announced yesterday that it is expected that pupils will return to school on 11 August with measures in place to keep children and staff a safe distance from each other and make sure everything is kept clean and hygienic, so that children can return safely. The national information from Parent Club is available <https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/reopening-schools>. Locally, there will soon be a Dumfries and Galloway webinar about our Local Authority plans for schools and nurseries– we will share this with you when we have the details. However, while the schools are reopening, they won't be going back to the way they were before. The reason for this is to make sure that children and staff are in as safe an environment as possible. This is likely to mean that not all children can be in school buildings at the same time – we will balance this with learning outside and at home. This might mean that pupils will take it in turns to go into school for a few days or a week, and then learn at home for the rest of the time. Pupils will start to spend more time in school as soon as it's safe to do so. The authority and schools are starting to think about what this blend of school and home learning will look like, taking account of the needs of pupils and families, as well as practical arrangements like cleaning and transport. There will be a Frequently Asked Set of Questions created which will be sent to you and I will share more detail as soon as I have more information available. Until then, we will still be learning with you at home.
- All those who indicated they had no digital device at home should hear soon about delivery as we are waiting for them to be delivered to the school. On receipt of these parents and pupils need to sign an agreement form as these will be returned back to schools afterwards.
- In the meantime we have started to meet to discuss in more detail transition – Buddies will be allocated at the beginning of next week. All P6 pupils and our new P1 parents will receive a letter detailing this. A separate Buddy Team has been created for P6 to use. We have also created a P1 Transition Facebook Group to share generic information with all new P1 parents. In relation to transition for all pupils into next year's classes we are still unsure what school will look like but once we know a wee bit more and hopefully that will be soon, your child's new teacher will be in touch with you all.
- 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 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 and stay safe. Remember you are all doing an incredible job. Be kind to yourselves.

Regards

Mrs E Watson
Head Teacher