



Parental Information and Update

7th January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Happy New Year to you all and I wish you the very best of happiness for 2021.

Whilst this is not the start back to school that we had all hoped for, we will do all that we can to continue to provide the best learning experiences for our children. I also want the school to do everything possible to support our families at this enormously difficult time, so if you have concerns or problems that you feel we may be able to help with, please do get in touch with us via the school email or office telephone.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Children in-school learning

As you will be aware, we have already begun welcoming into school these children and will continue to do so in the coming days and weeks. Detailed communication about arrangements has already been shared with these families. This remains an 'emergency' provision which will only be attended by limited numbers of children and staff.

Remote Learning arrangements

Your child's class **Google Classroom** will be the focal point for all information about learning activities on a day to day basis. These Google Classrooms have been used for homework on a weekly basis since August 2020 so your child should be very familiar with accessing them. However, if you require any support with the use/ functionality initially, please use the 'How-to' guide on our Home Learning website pages:

[Remote Learning Guides](#)

Alongside this guide, there are a range of other guides there which I think you may find very helpful in the coming weeks and I would encourage you to have a look through this link in the next few days. If possible, I would also encourage you to have your child go into their Google Classroom before the 11th, to check that they are confident as to how to do this and so that they are ready to begin learning on the morning of the 11th January.

In the simplest terms, we would ask that your child goes into their class Google Classroom each school morning from the 11th January and 'check-in' with their teacher then. In this way, we form an online 'register'. Thereafter, all the information that you need for the day's learning will be outlined by your child's class teacher.

Alongside our Google Classrooms, **emails** such as this and the general information available through our [school website and Twitter feeds](#) will also be very useful for your family and I would encourage you to check these regularly.



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We have also developed **Home Learning pages** which were designed with the possibility of a future lockdown period in mind. These pages are filled with very useful guides, information and activities for your children. The activities there are open-ended and would allow many of our children to independently access websites/ Apps/ other, for a range of learning experiences. I would encourage you to spend a little time exploring these yourself in the coming days, so that they can be used for additional experiences afterwards, and over and above the Google Classroom as you wish. The pages are easily accessed from the home page of our school website, or through the links below:

[Home Learning Primary](#)

[Home Learning Nursery Class](#)

We do understand the pressures and difficulty of balancing busy working lives with Remote Learning from home. We do not want to add to these pressures and fully understand that it will not be possible for all of our children to be learning continuously throughout every day. In addition, we do understand the need for a balance between 'screen' time and other activities. I want to acknowledge this understanding here in the hope that it helps to reduce the pressure you may feel and to support your decision making regarding the best for your own children, in your own particular circumstances.

Our **Remote Learning Guidelines** are available in full through the following link:

[Giffnock Primary School Remote Learning Guidelines](#)

Resources to support Remote Learning

We have put together home learning packs of resources which have proved useful for those children/ classes who had to self-isolate during August – December 2020. Obviously, we were unable to send these home with the children given that the restrictions came into place during the holidays. However, we would like to make these available to you for collection from school, as the resources therein (pencils, whiteboards and pens, texts to support learning, etc.) may prove very useful in the coming weeks. I would like to stress that this is optional. We understand that it may not be easy or even possible for you to do so and that Remote Learning can still continue through the class Google Classroom without collecting a pack.

In organising this, we have to minimise the possibility of any gatherings of people and it is vital that social distancing is maintained and that all safety guidance from the Scottish Government is adhered to. Therefore, we have spaced out the collection times for stages as follows and this can happen on either of the two days:



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Friday 8th January:

9 - 10am: P1 (most children already have a pack at home and will not need another) & P2

10 - 11am: P3

11 – 12pm: P4

12 – 1pm: P5

1 – 2pm: P6

2 – 3pm: P7

Monday 11th January:

9 - 10am: P7

10 - 11am: P6

11 – 12pm: P5

12 – 1pm: P4

1 – 2pm: P3

2 – 3pm: P1 (most children already have a pack and will not need another) & P2

For collecting packs, we would ask that, where at all possible, adults only attend and that only one person comes for the family. The parent/ carer can collect packs for all siblings at the same time. Please arrive within your one hour time slot; again, it is vital that we minimise any chance of larger numbers of people arriving at the same time. If there are others at the time, please distance over 2m apart on Academy Road for the short time that you need to collect the packs. We will be setting up an easy system for collecting the packs with a member of staff on hand to support this. We will also have a hand sanitiser station in place which we would ask you to use before collecting packs. For this time only, and as the staff car park will not be full with staff cars as usual at these times, you would be welcome to use the staff car park for the short time of parking needed to collect your packs. For those children attending our in school learning provision, they will be able to take a pack home when they attend. Finally, some of the packs are a larger size and we would suggest bringing a shopping/ other bag for carrying them home.

We do not have enough laptops/ Chromebooks in school to offer to every child. Some also need to be retained in school for our in-school learning provision at this time. However, we have begun lending devices for home learning based upon fair and equitable criteria; if you



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do have particular problems with accessing your Google Classroom please do get in touch with the school and we will try to help wherever we can.

Finally, it remains unclear as to whether Remote Learning will extend beyond January 2020. At this time, it is our hope to return to in-school learning at the beginning of February, however the Scottish Government will be reviewing this during January and we will of course keep you updated as we are given further clarity for the weeks ahead.

As I began with and as always, if you have any specific issues that you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Lawson'.

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher