



# Parental Information and Update

## 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

We wanted to provide an update today in order to clarify a few matters. Whilst not wanting to overload our families with information at this time, I hope that regular updates like these continue to be helpful and we will balance them alongside our Newsletter formats in the coming weeks. Thank-you also for the many positive messages which you have sent us regarding the Remote Learning we are providing; these mean a great deal to our staff and have been shared with the team whenever appropriate to do so.

### **Remote Learning and timeframes**

At this time, it remains the case that the Scottish Government has identified the 1<sup>st</sup> February for a return to schools for children however this remains strictly under review. We will of course keep you closely updated as we learn more in the days ahead.

### **Remote Learning arrangements**

During our first week of Remote Learning, engagement levels across the school have been very high which I am delighted to note. We continue to ask all children to 'register' by checking-in to their own class Google Classroom as soon after 9am as is possible, each day Monday to Friday.

Within our Google Classrooms, our teaching team are trying to lead a balance of on-screen and off-screen activities, though inevitably a great deal of this must be explained and led through a screen in the first instance. We do understand the pressures on all our families at this time and therefore want to reassure you that we recognise it will not be possible for every child to complete every activity fully. We support your decisions as parents/ carers in knowing the right balance for your children on a day to day basis.

If you require any support with the use/ functionality within our Google Classrooms, please use the 'How-to' guide on our Home Learning website pages:

### **[Remote Learning Guides](#)**

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.

We have also developed **Home Learning pages** which 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](#)**

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

### **[Giffnock Primary School Remote Learning Guidelines](#)**



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### Google Meet, 'live lesson' experiences

Each week, every child will be invited to at least two of these experiences. New learning will be introduced into the Google Classroom every week, for example through pre-recorded video or audio. This learning will then often be referenced, assessed and extended through these Google Meets. Where at all possible, all children should attend these.

Digital safety and secure accessing of these Meets is obviously vital and there are a range of safety measures already in place to support this. One important aspect is that all such Google Meets must begin with the teacher accessing the meeting before the children, and this is why you may have noticed that the link for the Meets often appears very close to the time of starting in the Google Classroom. The link is actually set up some time in advance but is only made visible just before the Meet, in order to prevent children accessing the meeting without adult supervision. Similarly, we would ask that children only try to access Meets through their personal Glow [@er.glow.scot](mailto:er.glow.scot) accounts, as attempts through other accounts (including parent email accounts) will be blocked.

We would ask that parents/ carers do not become 'involved' in the children's dialogue or conversations during these Meet times but rather, as needed, support the technical accessing of the Google Meet. Can we also remind you that no recording of any of the Google Meets is authorised as we do not have permission from participants. Thank-you in advance for your support.

### Parental Survey December 2020

Just prior to the winter break, we shared an online survey with you to ask how you had found the first term of the school year, between August and December 2020. We had eighteen responses which we have now collated. These were extremely positive and we again thank-you for your kind comments. No problems or concerns were shared through the survey but rather a range of aspects of both in-school and Remote Learning which parents felt were working especially well.

We understand what a challenging time this is for all of our families and thank-you for your ongoing support. 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,

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher