



Gowanbank Primary and LCR Newsletter

April 2020



HT Update



I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families well and I hope that you enjoyed the Easter break in these challenging times. Thankfully the weather has been good but I have to say I was glad to get back into a routine and to our “new normal” with online learning and keeping in touch with all our families. We are missing you all!

Online/Home Learning

As a school we are trying very hard to keep everyone in the loop through our various communication channels. Our parents and families are at the forefront of every decision we make. Our sincere thanks to all of your contributions to remote learning so far. Given that it all happened so quickly I have been encouraged to see everything that's been going on in Seesaw and in Microsoft Teams. The staff have been working tremendously hard to keep this content going and the encouragement from families has been such an encouragement to us all. Please take a look at our twitter feed to check out some of the home learning in action. We are continuing with our home learning from **Monday 20th April**. Please use this to help support your children with a daily routine if you are well and able.

Please remember that keeping everyone safe is the priority at this time and that tasks are being set to maintain continuity for the children and allow them to practise and apply their skills. We are aware that many of our families are on different journeys through these difficult times and we are here to support you as much as we can. Please complete what you can when you can. At the forefront of all of our minds is the wellbeing of all our children and families and the last thing we want to do is put undue pressures on anyone at what is already a difficult time. The learning that we are sharing with you should be a help and form part of a daily routine which also involves spending time in the garden, helping around the house and being kind to each other. As we all know some days can be more positive than others. We know that you may be completing your own family tasks and accessing some of the widely available resources produced by the BBC. Many of the teachers are enjoying hearing about some of the learning you have been doing with your families so please keep the photos coming.

Prior to the Easter holidays we posted home printed packs that families had been unable to collect. I hope you received these and found them useful.

Communication Methods

There are a number of ways that we are providing communications to you all over the coming weeks.

Twitter:

Please keep an eye on our school twitter pages which have lots of information. Please feel free to add pictures of your online learning to share.

@GowanbankSchool is our main page but each class also has a page.

HT Termly Newsletter and weekly email updates:

I will continue to provide weekly email updates and a termly newsletter to keep you updated on the changing national and local picture. Our SLT and teaching staff will continue in the interim to contact all our families every two weeks to check in and see if we can provide any support for you all. These have been very positively received by all of our families and continue to highlight the positive relationships we have in our school. However, if you need to contact the school please contact the Headteacher email account below and someone will get back to you:

Headteacher@gowanbank-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Online Learning

P1-3/2 & LCR Classes - Teachers post daily activities on Seesaw

P4/3-P7 Microsoft Teams - Teachers post daily activities on Microsoft Teams

School Office –The school office will have a member of staff answering calls every **Friday** for the next few weeks should you need to get in touch with a member of our team.

School Website - Useful Resources

Many thanks to Mrs Rigmand who updates our school website. Mrs Crawford has been working on a Home Learning Area with Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy areas. Please use these to help your child with learning activities/ideas to support you all. The link below will take you straight there:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/gowanbank/home-learning/>

HMIe Update

I am looking forward to sharing the outcomes of our positive inspection in the coming weeks. Please look out for the information in an email and we will also add the links to our twitter page.

Report Cards

Unfortunately, due to circumstances outwith our control Parents Evenings were cancelled. Our teachers are busy completing report cards this term and we hope to have these out to you at the start of June. I am sure that you will find these useful and informative.

Sad News

Is it with great sadness that I have to share with you the passing of Ms Karen Muir, the Head Teacher of Howford Primary School. She was a great friend, colleague and inspiration to us all. Her passing was not related to the current pandemic.

When we return to school we hope to have a celebration of her life to mark this sad time. She will be a great loss to our school community.

Please feel free to share any tributes on the memorial page set up in Karen's memory:

<https://www.forevermissed.com/karen-muir/>



Long Term...

As far as we are aware school will not reopen in the normal sense for the foreseeable future. Those families accessing key worker provision will continue to do so. I will continue to keep you up to date and please look out for a survey coming your way in the next week to ask for your views about online learning. In line with national and local guidance we are beginning to discuss what our return to school may look like. I look forward to sharing this with you in the coming weeks once it has been formalised what format that may take.

Thank You

I cannot express how much we appreciate your support and understanding at this time. The sense of community that we have experienced, even though we are physically separate from each other, has been quite overwhelming. It may be some time away yet, but we are already looking forward to seeing everyone again when conventional schooling resumes. Until then please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need us.

Very warmest regards,

Amanda Clubley

Headteacher