

19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING 4

As you know tomorrow is our last day before the school closure programme begins. We would like to invite all pupils to 'dress down' and to take part in our 'Farewell Friday' afternoon activities. **I should stress here that pupils who have been absent due to 'self-isolation' issues within their families should continue to stay at home and not come to school for these activities.**

Today we have had five members of staff absent and 114 pupils absent. I'm delighted that 273 pupils were able to attend and continue their education here today.

I would like to draw your attention to our school web-page and to look out for some new additions over the next 24 hours. We shall be posting an 'Annick P.S. Learning Guide For Parents' which will give you some helpful guidance in your education interaction with your children over the coming weeks and months.

Also, tomorrow we shall be publishing our 'GLOW Group Guidance' which will set out the key principles of this communication tool. Lots of helpful information and instruction will, hopefully, be useful to you moving forward with the activities and tools provided by your child's teacher each day.

One last addition to our web-site tomorrow will be some advice and guidance from North Ayrshire Councils Psychological Services eg. 'Talking to Children About Coronavirus, and 'Take Care of Yourself' and 'Ideas for Structuring Your Child's Diary'. I hope you find this helpful in your engagements with your child during this challenging period.

Looking further ahead, I feel that I should give some reassurance to parents/leavers of our new P1's due to start here in August. Of course, we do not know what the future holds but it is reasonable to expect our extensive induction programme not to take place. After the Easter break, when all placing requests etc. have been organised, we shall be in contact with the parents/carers of our new P1's through Term 4 just to make sure they know any news and to give out information about the start of the new session. We are already planning an alternative start for our New P1's which takes into account the loss of our induction programme. Please pass this on to new parents/carers and reassure yourself that it will work out!

A word to parents/carers of our departing P7's. I have not yet spoken to the secondary schools but fully intend to bring our fabulous P7's back here for an afternoon when school resumes. Leaving primary school is a major 'right-of-passage' and we want to give our young people the space to do this properly. Watch this space – you'll be back!

Finally, the Depute First Minister spoke this afternoon regarding vulnerable children, free school meals and children of 'key worker' amongst other things. Our local authority will now be considering his statement very carefully and giving schools some direction as to our next steps. Of course, I'll be in contact with you tomorrow to inform you of the position here at Annick. Hopefully, by tomorrow at this time we'll have the answers to many of the questions you are asking me. Assuring you of my best at all times.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Stuart Brown

Head teacher

