



Banton Primary School



January 2021



Dear Families

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new year! Regretfully we haven't been able to welcome everyone back in person and to find out about their Christmas. We are missing all the great chat from the children and their interactions with each other.

The main focus of this newsletter is about learning at home and making sure everyone knows what is available, and how to get help, if needed.

If you would like to discuss any items in this newsletter please do not hesitate to contact me on 01236794874 by phone or email at ht@banton.n-lanark.sch.uk

*Kind Regards,
Siobhan McLeod (HT)
& Banton Team*

REMOTE LEARNING

The majority of our pupils and families are learning at home and not in school. A big challenge at home for most families will be getting into a routine that works for them. Just as our children are unique and individuals, so are our families and what might be okay for one family, may not suit the other.

I emailed a 'Remote Learning' guide in October which had 3 pages of information.

Getting Ready
This information shares what will happen in the event that pupils have to return to learning at home whether it is due to Covid or Severe Weather.

Pupils will need:

- A routine and somewhere practical to do their work each day.
- Access to the school blog. (There is a link at the bottom of page.)
- Access to a device, like a computer, tablet or iPad.
- Two home learning jotters and some stationery.

To Photograph/upload finished work to their teacher through Teams, Glow, or email.

APPS
SUMDOG: Pupils will use this every day. This numeracy programme will match the level of the pupil. They have a username and password.

Microsoft Teams
Every child is part of a Class Team. Pupils can access assignments set, and upload their work to the teacher for feedback. Some will upload to ePortfolios on the blog.

GLOW
This is a digital platform that gives pupils access to Office 365, and files that lead to other programmes. Pupils have their own email address, username and password.

SCHOOL BLOG
Pupils can find their learning activities here each week and ePortfolios. This does not need a special username or password as it is on the web.

SCHOOL ROLE & MONITORING

The school team will continue to monitor pupil engagement and have virtual meetings to discuss the progress of all pupils.

The Management Team will contact some parents to check-in and offer support, particularly if a pupil is not engaging with learning.

Teaching and Learning

At the beginning of each week, class teachers will post learning activities on the school blog. Class teachers will also plan to check-in with pupils through Teams, three times each week. During this, the teacher will answer questions about tasks, teach short lessons, and give feedback. They will also be able to set specific tasks through Assignments, and give individual feedback. Teachers will also be available through email.

Class Teachers will also check on pupil progress for any apps being used. The app registers how often an app is used, and notes scores. Class Teachers will be making sure your child continues to progress.

SAFETY ONLINE

Pupils have done some work about keeping safe online and the school will continue to reinforce this. NLC can monitor activity on their devices.

ROUTINES

Do not allow your child to take the device into their bedroom as this would encourage the to use it beyond hours, keeping them awake and exposed them to a screen for too many hours each day.

Return the device to its bag, a safe place for storage, after use.

Remote Learning 20/21 - PARENTS Banton Primary

LEARNING AT HOME

- Check the school blog at the beginning of the week to help your child plan their learning.
- Make a note of when the Team Meets are.
- Set start and finish times for learning activities.
- Make sure your child can login for their team meet before it takes place.
- Check the battery level of the device.
- Help your child to upload their work to the teacher.

Video Links

How to access Glow/Office
How to access Sumdog
How to set Office 365 to Glow Launch Pad
How to upload work to Teams
How to upload work to Assignments, or Teams Using a iPhone
How to upload work to Assignments, or Teams Using a computer/Pad

1. Pupil - explaining what they need to do and how they can make their learning successful;
2. School - explaining what support we will provide and what learning might look like;
3. Parents - explaining how you can help, with links to videos and guides to assist you with technology.

Pupils were also issued with two Home Learning Jotters with glow usernames and other logins. Now is the time to use these.

Week Beginning Monday 11th January 2021

Learning begins and this includes virtual meetings with teachers, so you need to make sure your technology is ready for learning. (The Remote Learning Guide has lots of tips and links to videos!)

There are two main things to access for learning.

1. The class blog which will have the learning and work your child can do;
2. Microsoft Teams to hand in completed work, meet with the teacher for learning, support, activities and feedback.

Go to our school blog

You can google banton primary school glow blog or use this link:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/banton/>

and click on your child's class blog. (Use menu at top right of screen or right-side links) If you want to go back to the school blog, click on the school badge

Banton Bairns (P1-3 Mr McNab);

Banton Buddies (P4-5 Miss Hay/Miss Meechan);

Banton Biggies (P6-7 Mr Johnston)

Click on Home Learning Wk beg. 11th January 2021

You will see the learning activities your child can complete.

Check the time of any virtual meetings on Teams and check you can get on. (Don't leave this until the meeting starts otherwise time will be lost during the lesson/chat. The Management Team will try to be available at these meetings to help with technical difficulties.)

The learning this week will focus on some revision with a priority on checking in with everyone, solving technical issues and getting into a routine.

DIGITAL DEVICES

We offered school iPads for use at home. The advantage of these is that children are familiar with them and they can access familiar apps that they would use in school each day. We sent home an acceptable use policy with this for you to go over with your child. Children are familiar with this in schools but might need a bit of support to remember these rules should still be followed at home.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



NL VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Two documents will be attached with this newsletter. There is one for your child and one for you. This will give you information about this superb resource that our NL Digital School has created.

You will receive a second communication to let you know how to access this virtual classroom and the level of learning that is suitable for your child.

There are a number of other great sources out there for learning at home, in particular, BBC and other sites. We will signpost to these as we go along.

HOME WORKING

All staff have been in school preparing for Remote Learning and looking at how best to support our learning community. From Monday, 11th January, some staff will be working from home while others come into school to support children who are in school. We will have a rota.

Some of our staff will be facing the challenge of doing their job while their own children are at home. We know this can be difficult and unpredictable. We know many of you will also be experiencing this too, but we can only do our best. Please don't worry about asking for help or checking something out. We want this to be successful for everyone and are only a phone call or email away.

Staff will respond to emails/communication during their working day. Communication sent outwith this time will be responded to the next working day.

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PUPIL ATTENDANCE

It is very important that pupils continue with their learning and join in with lessons and the support available through TEAMS. The majority of children have been marked as learning at home so there is an expectation that this is happening. If a child is unwell and unable to do their work/join in teams meet, you need to let the school know.

Pupils who are attending school, including those who have been given a place at school must also attend. We are continuing to educate your child and want to build upon all the hard work the we have managed in this school session so far.

KEYWORKERS

You will have seen social media communication from North Lanarkshire Council and received some regarding Keyworker categories and eligibility for your child attending school. Please complete the necessary paperwork using the link below. In the event there is a delay in their response and you need a place, please contact ht@bantton.n-lanark.sch.uk

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/key-worker-guidance-december-2020>