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February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Many parents and carers who answered the most recent online learning survey and during phone calls with teachers have mentioned the increase in the amount of work being posted for the children.

During the first lockdown, we were setting up Google Classrooms, and all getting used to a new way of working. It was a time when we were all finding ways to keep learning going; teachers started by posting quite a bit of revision work to allow children to practise skills they had already learned before lockdown.

This time, teachers are tackling new learning with their classes, as we cannot afford to lose valuable learning time during this lockdown. To make sure that children are getting online and into their classrooms, or are using their learning packs, we are monitoring the online engagement in Google Classrooms and monitoring the use of paper packs via phone calls with families. Teachers are also tackling their own new learning, while keeping the learning going for the children and their own families – all of our ICT skills have improved beyond what we may have predicted or anticipated!

We are still working to resolve situations where there is a shortage of devices at home; this is the same in most other schools, therefore this creates a waiting list of orders for Chromebooks that we requested weeks ago. We have been assured by the company that they are going to be delivered.

Some families are also telling us that they are finding it difficult to keep the children motivated as well as managing to complete all tasks, which I understand. Therefore, to give children and families some breathing space, we will have two catch up days where the children can either catch up with their tasks, or work on a creative learning challenge, or choose to take on an extension activity, which will be posted by their teacher, for more of a challenge. These two days will be 11th and 12th of February, following the long weekend. The class teachers will be online on these two days. **This comes with the understanding that I expect all children to be ready to engage fully again with their teacher and classmates on Monday 15th February.**

If you are experiencing any technical difficulties, I urge you to contact us at school, via the office for help.

Following on from recent Scottish Government announcement, it is hoped that the children of Primary 1, Primary 2, Primary 2/3, Primary 3 and **the Primary 3 children only of the Primary 3/4 class** will be returning on 22nd February.

If this goes ahead, please remember to return all reading books and devices to school.

I would like to take this opportunity again to thank:

- all our amazing children who have accomplished so much during this huge change to their education
- you all, and commend the outstanding efforts families have made to support their children and the school, many of you while working from home
- all the staff working tirelessly in school and from home to keep this unusual and challenging provision going
- staff in the hubs; their work has meant that key workers have been able to continue to work in their vital roles in society for the benefit of us all
- key workers for their commitment to keeping the country going and for working so closely with us to plan around their shift patterns

Finally, please continue to look after each other and look forward to better times ahead! We all hope it won't be long until we can open Brediland for business as usual!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Temple

Mrs MC Temple
Head Teacher