

St James' Primary School
10 Brown Street
Renfrew
PA4 8HL

Tel: 0300 300 0183

Head Teacher: Natalie Fitzsimmons

Email: stjamesrenfrewenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Website: st-james-renfrew.renfrewshire.sch.uk



Children's Services

NF/JG

8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy New Year. Whilst we are saddened not to be able to welcome all of our young people back to school in person this term, we can at least look forward to brighter times and the hope that the new vaccines bring us for the year ahead. None of us wanted to be in the position of full national lockdown again but at least this time we have the benefit of previous experience and so are more than ready and fully equipped for the challenges and opportunities of remote learning. Remote learning will begin for all pupils on Monday 11th January 2021. As detailed in the correspondence sent out yesterday, the chosen digital platforms are P1 Seesaw and P2-7 GLOW and Google Classrooms. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher through these platforms or through school mail if you need any support for your child to access their learning remotely. stjamesrenfrewenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Our staff have been busily preparing high quality learning and teaching experiences for our young people for the weeks ahead. I hope that the information contained in both yesterday's letter and this correspondence provides a helpful outline of our approach to remote learning and that it will be useful to you and your child. When our young people returned to school after the last lockdown, they told us that they missed engaging with their teachers and classmates most of all. Therefore, all teachers have endeavoured to plan for learning experiences which will contain a mixture of independent learning and opportunities to engage with teachers and classmates through their online platforms.

We recognise that structure and routine can be difficult to maintain at this time and that family life has been impacted in a major way as we begin this second period of school closures. Please be assured that you are not expected to be teachers during this period of remote learning. We know that you still have to work, look after children, take care of your wellbeing, your family's wellbeing *and* continue to juggle all of the things that parents and carers do! We will provide high quality and engaging learning activities for your child throughout this time and your child's teachers will be on hand to help your child with any difficulties they experience with their learning.



Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn

Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley PA1 1TZ

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We understand that some learners will need to share devices and that not every child will be able to maintain school hours. Therefore, every teacher will schedule work to be posted each day and will be available for children to access at any time of their choosing, old materials will then be removed as required.

Your child will be offered a variety of approaches to learning and teaching during this period of remote learning. Sometimes they will be asked to view a recorded lesson, a recording of a teacher explaining a worked example/presentation and moving forward they will have the opportunity to participate in a live lesson. Teachers will also use online resources to direct learners to learning activities and pre-recorded lessons as appropriate. Following the teaching of new content, learners will be set activities to help them develop and consolidate their learning. Teachers will share with pupils which pieces of work require to be uploaded and what the focus feedback areas.

To ensure variety and promote wellbeing, not all activities will involve screen time or online learning. Teachers will check their Seesaw (P1) and Google Classrooms(P2-7) daily for any messages from young people requiring help with their learning. Your child's teacher may respond to this with a return message, a phone call or an invitation to a Google Meet.

We want your child to feel connected to our school community throughout this time. Therefore, members of our team may endeavour to call home to check in and offer any assistance. However, please do not wait for a call if your child is struggling. Learning queries can be messaged to the class teacher daily through Seesaw (P1), Google Classrooms(P2-7) and parents/carers are always welcome to contact the school if we can be of any assistance to you. Please ensure that you keep us updated with any changes to your contact details.

As indicated in the First Minister's announcement, school will re-open for children of key workers and vulnerable young people on Monday 11th January. The Office Team will have contacted you with further information should your child be attending any of these days. These children will be supported in school to access the remote learning materials posted by their teachers. If they do have access to their own device and it is suitable for learning then we ask they bring their device to school (it is useful for learners to get used to navigating their own devices), however if they do not have access to an appropriate device then please so not worry, we will provide access to an appropriate device for your child to use when required in school.



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If for any reason your child is unable to attend online learning, please remember to let the class teacher know through the online platform, a call to the school, or by e-mailing the school enquiries box each day just as you would if we were not in lockdown, this will ensure that we are able to support continuity of learning for your child on their return.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support. I firmly believe that our school community is much more than bricks and mortar. Whilst we will miss seeing our young people in person in the coming weeks, I am confident that the strength of our community will ensure that we all pull together to do our very best to enable our young people to continue to thrive.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Fitzsimmons', written in a cursive style.

Natalie Fitzsimmons
Head Teacher



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