

St. James' Primary

3/5 Gockston Rd

Paisley PA3 2QB

Tel: 0300 300 1330

Email: stjamespaisleyenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Website: www.st-james-paisley.renfrewshire.sch.uk

Director of Children's Services: Mr S Quinn



Dear parent/carer,

First and foremost I'd like to take this opportunities to wish you all a happy and healthy new year. For obvious reasons 2020 was a very difficult year for all, and although the difficult times have continued in to 2021 I am confident that the marvellous efforts of all staff, children, parents and families will lead to a successful term.

Due to the ongoing pandemic and increasing concerns about its impact on the education of our children, I would like to outline for you how we plan to meet the learning needs of St James' pupils during this further period of lockdown. Hopefully the information contained below gives you clear expectations of what you can expect from the school staff and also how we can work together for the best of our children.

Following Scottish Government guidance, schools are being asked to ensure greater focus on moving learning forward as apposed to the consolidation of prior learning that happened in the previous lockdown. Therefore, **it is vital that your child engages with learning on a daily basis** and your child's engagement will be recorded on our Seemis system as attendance, similar to the way we take a register when the schools are open. It is our intention that teaching staff will aim to replicate the school day structure as closely as possible. You can expect that, for the most part, staff will be focused on delivering learning through Seesaw from 9am until 2.30pm on a daily basis.

I understand this will be challenging for some families, and where relevant staff will be working to engage children through various methods such as Seesaw activities, videos of teaching input, practical activity tasks etc. Staff will also engage through feedback with the children during the above hours. One of the challenges you may face is difficulty providing access to Seesaw for your child/children during normal school hours. I understand that there are often situations where family members are competing for or sharing devices as adults work from home, and younger/older siblings also try to continue with their education. If this is a particular barrier to supporting your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mrs Walsh to discuss how we can help you.

As our teaching staff will be focussing on delivering new learning in ways that are new to them, we would request that you try to avoid using Seesaw to communicate with your child's class teacher unless it is with specific relation to their learning. Instead, we would ask that you contact either myself or Mrs Walsh directly – either through Seesaw or by phoning the school office. This is to ensure that the class teachers are fully focussed on the children and their learning, and teachers will be encouraging children to engage with them via Seesaw whilst adults engage with school management. To further maintain communication, support staff will also make regular phone calls to families to ensure everyone is safe and healthy.

I understand you may have lots of questions and concerns, so below we have provided a list of FAQs which will hopefully address these.

I don't have a device/internet

Please contact myself or Mrs Walsh directly to discuss how we can support you with this.

My child accesses Seesaw through a mobile phone – is this suitable?

Whilst mobile phones are perfectly suitable for parents and children to access Seesaw to view work, they are not always the most appropriate device to complete tasks. We recommend that where possible children use larger devices such as laptops, tablets or Chromebooks. Please contact myself or Mrs Walsh if this is a concern.

When/how will teaching and learning take place?

Directly via Seesaw. Teaching and tasks will be uploaded at intervals between the hours of 9am to 2.30pm. Tasks will not necessarily all be uploaded at 9am as staff have been asked to replicate a school day. This could mean that, for example, Literacy is uploaded at 9am, Numeracy at 10.45am, PE at 2pm etc.

I can't "replicate the school day" due to family circumstances/work commitments etc - can my child do work outside those hours?

Yes. Your child's attendance on Seesaw will be recorded and monitored to ensure ongoing engagement in education, however we appreciate families have different circumstances. We ask that your child engages daily, but during hours that suit your family circumstances. Please note though, if children complete work out with the hours of 9am – 2.30pm, they may not receive feedback on their tasks until the following day.

I can't find my child's login details

Please contact Mrs Walsh for any login or password details. This could be for Seesaw, Glow, Sumdog, or any other online platform that you require.

Who does my child contact if they need support?

Children can contact the teacher directly during the hours of 9am to 2.30pm by messaging them on Seesaw, or commenting on a specific task/post that they need support with. Children can type comments to their teacher or use the voice note function and send a voice clip.

Who do I contact if I need help and how do I communicate with them?

Should you have a direct question about your child's learning or tasks set, you can contact the class teacher directly through Seesaw and they will respond at a time that suits them during their teaching. For all other queries, myself or Mrs Walsh will be available every day should you need to contact us directly via Seesaw or the school office.

How will I receive communication from the school?

School staff will make regular phone calls to families throughout this period of home learning. Whole school messages will be also be sent through the following media – please use as many as possible to ensure important information is not missed:

- Seesaw
- School app – this can be downloaded by multiple family members. Please see the attached flyer for information
- Website – <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stjames/>
- Twitter – @stjamespaisley
- Parent Council Facebook page – St James' Primary Paisley Parent Council

My child doesn't have the required resources

Please contact the school to discuss. Where possible, we will arrange for collection or delivery of any resources that may be required – jotters, pencils etc.

My child is ill and can't complete work

Please inform the school office, as you would for a normal basis during regular school time.

I'm having difficulty getting my child to engage in online learning

Please contact myself or Mrs Walsh as soon as possible. We will discuss how to approach this together.

I have concerns about the impact of lockdown on my child's or my own mental health

Please contact myself or Mrs Walsh as soon as possible. Renfrewshire Council have supports in place for both children and families and we can direct you towards this. Renfrewshire Education Psychology Service also updates their Twitter feed regularly with support and guidance – please follow @RenfrewshireEPS and @RenEdHWB.

Lockdown is having a financial impact on our household

Please contact myself or Mrs Walsh to discuss how we can support you.

When can I expect my child to return to school?

Currently, the First Minister has stated that this period of lockdown will last until at least the 1st February 2021. However, she will be reviewing this date on the 18th January. We will continue to deliver an online education for as long as is necessary.

We hope this information provides the clarity and reassurance that we intended, however if you have a question that has not been answered then please feel free to contact the school. We have every confidence that this term, albeit different, will be a successful one for our children and as always we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Derek Retson
Head Teacher

Jigsaw School Apps Information for Android and Apple phones

Your school is using the new Jigsaw School App to communicate with parents, so we've provided this handy guide to help you get the most out of it:

1. Downloading the app

Option A: Search your app store for "Jigsaw School App" and then download

Option B: Click on the following link on your phone:

Android: [Android Jigsaw School App Container](#)

Apple: [Apple Jigsaw School App Container](#)

Option C: Scan one of the QR Codes below:



Android



Apple

2. Selecting your school



NEW ORGANISATIONS ALL ORGANISATIONS

Search

 Brydekirk Primary School

 Canisbrooke CE Primary School

You can select your school by typing a few letters in the search box or selecting from the list of schools that you can see when the app first opens.

The app will remember the organisations you choose. These are displayed under "My Organisations"

If your school has password protected your app, you will be prompted for a password.

If you choose the wrong school, simply click on the settings icon which will appear at the top of the page and select "Leave Organisation".

