

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Happy New Year to you all. Despite the new restrictions since Boxing Day, we hope you and your families managed to have a relaxing break and we wish you all the best for 2021. Let us hope it is a better year.

School Closure

Unfortunately, as you know, we are unable to return to school as normal, due to the continuous increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. The school closure and national lockdown restrictions are difficult for us all, but we look forward to the relief that the vaccination programme will bring in the coming months.

You will have received various communications from Renfrewshire Council over the holidays to keep you informed of changing arrangements. This included the fact that the school holiday has been extended for children till Friday 8th January 2021 with online learning beginning on **Monday 11th January 2021**. At the moment, online learning will remain in place till 1st February 2021 but this will be reviewed regularly by the Scottish Government.

School Hub

School will be open ONLY FOR CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN.

Application should have been made to the council during the holidays for keyworker spaces.

In order to obtain a space, parents/carers must meet these criteria:

- your job meets key worker status
- you and your child's other parent are both key workers or you are a single parent and a key worker
- you and your child's other parent cannot work from home or you are a single parent and cannot work from home
- you have no alternative childcare.

Please note space would only be provided for the hours the parent / carer works.

A key worker is defined as:

- Health and Care workers directly supporting COVID-19 response, and associated staff; Health and Care workers supporting life threatening emergency work, as well as critical primary and community care provision; Energy suppliers (small numbers identified as top priority already); staff providing childcare/learning for other category 1 staff
- all other Health and Care workers, and wider public sector workers providing emergency/critical welfare services (for example: fire, police, prisons, social workers), as well as those supporting our Critical National Infrastructure, without whom serious damage to the welfare of the people of Scotland could be caused

- all workers (private, public or third sector) without whom there could be a significant impact on Scotland (but where the response to COVID-19, or the ability to perform essential tasks to keep the country running, would not be severely compromised).

If a child is within a school hub they will follow the online work posted by their class teacher, the same as all other children working at home. Therefore the class teachers within the hub will change. This will be the same for children in the mainstream and those in the anchor base.

On-line Learning

While schools remain closed to most pupils, we would like to see children online every day if possible. Staff are committed to providing the best learning experiences they can. This lockdown will be different from the last time as we are more prepared. We will be using a variety of methods to engage children. These will include; recorded lessons from the teacher, live lessons which will allow for interaction between the teacher and children, completing written tasks, discussions and feedback etc. For this reason, it will be beneficial for children to be online regularly. Teachers will be planning learning which would normally have taken place in school. At the end of the session they will gather the evidence of learning to support their teacher judgement on pupil progress.

The nature of online lessons will vary to meet the needs of children. However, we will follow a similar structure across all classes. Teachers will be online 9-10, 11-12 and 2-3. This will allow children and parents to ask any questions they may have, it will allow live lessons and discussions. The online learning will reflect most aspects of the normal school day. Teachers will be teaching new learning and for this reason having children engaged in the lessons will be of benefit to ensure they make progress. Live lessons will not begin immediately and each class teacher will inform you / your child of details each week via seesaw / google classroom.

Using the information provided by you in our online survey we have identified those who will need technology to support learning. We will issue chrome books to P4-7 where identified from our limited stock within the school. These will be delivered Friday 8th January / Monday 11th January. Some families have requested a paper books and these will also be delivered over the next few days.

As you know we have been encouraging online homework and we hope this will have helped you to become familiar with our key programmes. Our preferred method of learning will be online. This allows for regular contact with the teacher and allows the teacher to provide feedback and help children along the way.

Reading Eggs – every child has an account with a reading level set by the class teacher to suit your child's ability. Children should continue to use this as the key reading resource.

Sumdog – every child has an account. Please use this to support your child to reinforce their learning. Allow children the opportunity to practise previous learning will help to deepen their learning.

Writing will be supported throughout the week with the class teacher posting various tasks for children to complete.

Mrs Gavin will prepare and upload RE and Music lessons across all mainstream classes.

SEESAW – will be used across P1-3.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM – will be used across P4-7.

Children in the anchor base will use a mixture of seesaw and google classroom

If you need passwords resent there will be a form to complete on the school website and someone will get back to you. However, in the first instance any passwords we feel are needed will be issued.

Staff will be working either in the school hub, remotely, delivering online learning to pupils and supporting in the community delivering resources. Support staff will also be supporting pupils by reading stories online and carrying out some activities which will be uploaded to Seesaw / Google classroom. This will be important for the children to help to maintain a connection with staff in the school.

Check-in

Our Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) staff will be calling all families over the course of the coming weeks to check-in. Primarily this will be a pastoral call but will give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

If you need anything else the school office remains open at the moment you can therefore call the school and we will do what we can to support you.

Kind Regards

Louise A. Maher

Head Teacher

