

NEWSLETTER December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are now 3 weeks into online learning and I have been blown away by the amazing work going on. Huge thanks to you for supporting your children and to the staff for working so hard to make learning as interesting as possible while remote. You will have heard that the First Minister has announced that school will remain closed to the majority of pupils until mid February. These measures will be reviewed on 2nd February 2021. In the meantime stay home and stay safe.

I know this is an exceptionally difficult time for everyone. Home Learning on the scale we have currently, is still relatively new to us all. We have developed so much since last time and will continue to develop our skills and confidence over time. All we can do is be patient with each other.

You will probably recognise that this time lockdown feels different than March-June last session. This is largely due to the different expectations set out by the Scottish Government for remote learning for the whole of Scotland.

You will recall the last time around we uploaded work, children completed it and you supported them to send it back. This time around there has been an introduction of live lessons & interactions. Live interactions will take place using Google Meet for P1-P7. The links will either show up in google classroom P4-7, or seesaw P1-3.

The learning planned for each class will vary but will include; live teaching inputs, pre-recorded teaching input, follow-ups, stories, quizzes, collaborative tasks etc. Google Meet will also be used for check-ins with learners. This time around there is a greater focus for children to have a connection with the staff and children in school, albeit remotely. Support staff are also offering interactions with stories and poems etc as work to keep connected with children as much as we can. Please bear with us if there is the odd technical hitch. We will get there.

Staff will deliver a minimum of two live check-ins and two live lessons each week. We appreciate that everyone has very different circumstances at home. We will continue to provide imaginative lessons for your children, however, please try not to worry if there are days you cannot support your child at the time requested. We hope to record all live lessons to allow children to experience these at a later date.

It will really help if your child's learning is shared with the teacher as he/she will use this and provide feedback. It will also help them to plan future learning.

Remember this can also be something you do as a family, fitness in the park or arts and crafts. We would love to see this.

Feel Good Friday – as a staff we have decided to have a more relaxed Friday starting next week. There will be no live lessons on a Friday. Staff may still do a check-in but this is just an opportunity to check-in with class mates and keep connections going. We hope this is of a support to you and your families.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We all have mental health in the same way we all have physical health. At times in our lives these are positive and at other times we struggle. This is normal. We all have good days and bad days.

At this time many can suffer from anxiety, especially when the future is quite uncertain. Resources have already been shared on the school app. Please find the link below. There are some useful, practical suggestions. I hope you find them useful.

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/coronavirus>

Time to Talk Day (4/2/21) is the day that we get the nation talking about mental health. This year's event might look a little different, but at times like this open conversation about mental health are more important than ever. Follow this link to find out more.

<https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/get-involved/time-talk-day>

Communication

We are always working to improve the way we work. During these times when we unable to have families in school, we recognise communication is more important than ever. You will be sent a link for a survey to help us to improve the way we communicate about the work of the school. When you receive the survey please complete and we will examine the results and work to make improvements.

P1 Enrolment & P7 Transition

We have now received the names of the children in the catchment area who have been registered to start school in August. Over the coming months we will be working on our transition programme and contacting nurseries. We will also continue to plan and meet with high school colleagues to ensure quality planning of transition for our P7 children. Anyone who has made a placing request will find out in April if they have been successful.

Community of Faith

As a community of Faith we continue to work on our faith development during these tricky times. Mrs Gavin is preparing RERC lesson across the school. This includes; sacramental preparation for P4 and P7, Pope Francis Faith Award for P6 & P7 as well as curricular work within RERC. We hope during lent to be able to come together as a community to support one another and share our journey through Lent.

In the meantime I would encourage you to share in the celebration of mass.

St Charles' Parish, Paisley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToPJJUSpWAU>

Dates for the Diary

1 st – 7 th February	Children's Mental Health Week Classes will have a focus on Mental Health across the week Look out on the app where we will post something each day.
4 th February	Time to talk Day
8 th February	HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
9 th February	HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
10 th February	IN-SERVICE DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

11 th February	Safer Internet Day P1-3 will have an assembly from NSPCC. Details will be in seesaw
12 th February	P4-7 will have an assembly from NSPCC. Details will be in google classroom.
17 th February	Ash Wednesday – Start of Lent
1 st April	STOP FOR EASTER BREAK

Kind Regards

Louise A. Maher

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Head Teacher

