

People Directorate

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Our Ref: Your Ref:
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Dear Parent/Carer,

We were devastated to hear the news of school closures yesterday. It was really difficult to witness the sadness that swept over our staff teams as reality hit home. Our job has many parts to it, but the thing that we need in order to be able to relish in our roles is our pupil groups, so to say we will miss them is an understatement!

So, we are going to try and support our families as best as we possibly can at such testing times. In school over the next couple of days, staff are finalising the first Home Learning Grids for each class. These grids will give examples of activities that children could be working on at home, based on prior learning, so really as consolidation of their learning. These grids will be uploaded onto the School Website on Friday afternoon and should be used across the next 2 weeks. We then have the 2 weeks school holidays. If schools are to remain closed after the holiday period, staff will upload a new Home Learning Grid every 2 weeks. We will ensure that you know when a new one is being uploaded. If future Home Learning Grids are required, staff will ensure that aspects of new learning are included and will also supply guidance to support parents in this.

On Friday, children in school will take home with them a home learning pack. This small pack will contain a jotter, pencil, reading diary, a couple of library books, log in passwords for certain online resources as well as other bits and pieces relevant to their own class. If your child is currently not at school and you would like this pack, please attempt to pick one up from school before the end of the day on Friday. If this isn't possible for you, please contact the school and we could arrange to have one dropped off for you. (No home learning pack is required for EYC pupils.)

A few things for you to consider doing:

- Check that you have access to our school website – we will use this to upload Home Learning Grids and other useful resources regularly. You can access it on any device such as phones, tablets or laptops. Type in Coylton Primary School. It will take you to a South Ayrshire site and you click on school website. Alternatively, here is the direct link blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/coyltonpsandeyc/
- If you don't already follow us on Twitter, consider doing so @CoyltonPrimary and @CoyltonEYC. Twitter is a good way for staff to post useful information for families – and it would be lovely if families wanted to send us photos of some of the creative things you will be doing at home. Staff check Twitter regularly too!
- The activities on the Home Learning Grids are examples of learning but be creative. Apart from staying in bed all day, or being fixed to TV or games consoles constantly, everything else you do with your children can be a learning opportunity. Dust down things like board games, jigsaws, Lego, construction, soft toys, books and use them to play. Take a lead from the Play Based approach to learning in the Early Years! Reading with your child, to your child or questioning what they read is such a rich literacy activity so try to build that into every day if you can! Parents with a South Ayrshire Library card can access loads of books online, and we will post on Twitter and the website other ways to access online books too!

- GroupCall Xpressions will be the main method of communication between school and families. Please ensure that your current contact number is the one we hold in school, especially if you have not been receiving messages from us. Remember, with GroupCall, you can message us too! We will be regularly checking this service and **WILL** get back to you!
- Parent Council have a Facebook Page. Parent Council can check in with school if anyone has a query or question as another means of communication.
- Please don't panic if you are faced with some resistance from your child in terms of home learning. For many, they will see this as a bit of extra time off school at first, and will perhaps feel confused that they are being asked to complete work normally done in school at home. Take time for you and your family to fall into a routine as mental health is equally as important as physical health. Don't worry about your child regressing in their learning. Every single child is in the same boat, and once we get them all back into the classrooms, we will meet their needs at that moment in time – that's what the staff here are wonderful at doing!!!!

We will be in school until Friday evening – no question is too small so get in touch if we can help with anything before schools close. We will be available during the period of closure – staff are working but doing so remotely and we are planning as though we will return after the holidays. I know that the wording out there right now is 'indefinite closure' so we can't predict what will happen, but **MOST** importantly, stay safe and healthy and support one another well. Keep in touch with us – we will be sending out texts regularly just to check in with you all!

Keeping everything crossed we will see everyone back where they should be soon.

Very best wishes

Fiona Donnelly

Head Teacher