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Dear Parents / Carers,

Well done to all of our young people for their great efforts since the beginning of the new term, to engage in home learning, and to all of our parents/carers who have juggled their own work commitments and personal circumstances to support their child's learning at home. We understand that this is very challenging and we will continue to do whatever we can to support all of our families.

Following the announcement yesterday, we are hopeful that our youngest pupils will be able to return from 22<sup>nd</sup> February. This includes our Early Years Centre and P1-3 pupils as we start a phased re-opening. A final decision will be taken on the partial re-opening in a fortnight on 16<sup>th</sup> February when the Scottish government review the current restrictions.

### **Scots' Language**

The learning focus since the beginning of the term, as always at this time of year, has been on Scots' language and our Scottish heritage. Many of the children have put in an amazing effort to learn poems and songs; complete written work and engage in research; as well as producing a range of great work. We are planning to share some of the highlights from home and school on our Facebook, twitter and the BLOG next week.

### **Home Learning**

Class Teachers and the Senior Leadership Team monitor the engagement of every child, and most children have been making a good effort to engage in many of the weekly tasks. Most children now have access to a device at home and for those who do not, the Class Teachers have endeavoured to contact parents/carers and provide paper copies. The expectation is that all completed tasks will be photographed and uploaded to TEAMS or SEESAW, or handed back into school once completed so that the Class Teachers can record engagement and track progress. Completed work will be uploaded to your child's profile as a record of their progress.

We appreciate that it is not always possible to engage in the live sessions on TEAMS, but it is important that parents/carers monitor closely the work which is being set by their child's teacher and the tasks being completed. The live sessions allow teachers to deliver new learning and offer support with tasks. Please encourage your child to access as many of these sessions as possible.

The feedback on live lessons from parents/carers and children is very positive and we would like to continue to offer this to enhance the home learning.

If your child receives pupil support in school, Ms Ryding and Mrs Briggs are delivering live sessions and checks ins through TEAMS. These are at set times each week and your child's class teacher will have informed your child of their allocated time(s). Please encourage your child to join in, as the

support offered in literacy and numeracy is extremely important to help your child make continued progress.

**Live sessions are not able to be recorded by the Class Teacher and should not be recorded in any way by parents/carers or pupils because this would be a breach of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), as you would be recording children and staff members without their consent.**

Teaching staff are timetabled throughout the week to support the children within the school as well as engaging with the children who are at home. They are involved in delivering whole class and small group teaching online as well as planning and preparing resources. Each class has a range of weekly tasks set in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well-being, as well as some selected tasks from other curricular areas. The children are expected to engage in some independent learning using the materials which have been uploaded to TEAMS, SEESAW or provided through paper copies, as well as meeting up with the teacher for some live sessions to further enhance their learning.

**Parents/Carers and children should be aware that the Class Teachers are not online all day so will not be able to respond to e-mails and messages immediately and it may be later on that day before they reply.**

### **Health and Well-being Week**

The Health and Well-being development group have been planning activities for next week which focus on family engagement to support mental and physical well-being. We felt that it would be a nice way to lead up to the February break, where we can all have some time to relax and be free from home learning commitments. Attached is the timetable and details of some of the planned activities, which we would encourage you to get involved in.

Yours sincerely

*Louise Morrison*

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Head Teacher