

People Directorate

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Date: 24th April 2020



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Dear Parent Carers and Pupil(s)

Covid 19 Newsletter Term 4

I hope you all are keeping well during this difficult time and coping with the changes to daily life and work now that you have had some time to adjust. The Easter break was certainly more enjoyable to endure during 'lockdown' due to the lovely weather. I know it must have been hard this week getting back into the swing of trying to undertake some learning.

We are continuing to communicate with Parents and Pupils mainly via our new Facebook private group but also twitter when we can and have been monitoring the use of these. Fun learning activities and ideas for the week/day have been posted but as of this week we will be posting daily challenges for families to try out on our pages. This will include literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and science activities for children aged 3-5 years and activities for 2 year olds linking to promoting communication, wellbeing and curiosity, creativity and inquiry. These are all associated with the curriculum for excellence, Building the Ambition and Developmental Milestones. Parents can choose as many as they like to do and can share their learning on our private page. There are also links to literacy, numeracy and science on education city where children have their own login details. Staff have all started creating homework on education city to have a main focus for each individual child's needs but parents can explore the website at their own leisure.

This is a two-way platform to share learning and we would encourage you to access this. Staff and pupils who currently use it are finding it beneficial to discuss learning and we would love to hear from more of you!

Please let us know if you have trouble accessing this and we will try to resolve it. We have been in touch with you all and have directed parents to our Facebook page, Twitter and education city for daily activities. Teachers can track children's learning through education city and can offer some support and challenge. Particularly in light of the fact that the current situation could mean that, **'Schools won't open until at least summer break' as reported recently by John Swinney.** *Should you require support to access these to ensure learning continues, please do not hesitate to get in touch.*

It has become apparent that there is a wealth of activities now available for pupils as previously mentioned which will allow them to continue their learning from home. Twinkl is a platform that teachers often use to find material and they now have a parent Hub which can be accessed for free. <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>

Reading/Literacy

I'm passionate about encouraging a love of reading and stories. You can keep this up at home by joining the library via this link <https://library.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/selfreg.html> Once you are registered- You can use this link below to access books and magazines etc. <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/ereading/>

- Mrs Stewart and Mrs McClelland are currently sharing/reading night time stories Monday – Friday. Miss Crane is going to start recording some songs and rhymes once a week for children and families to join in and Mrs McPhee is going to try reading some books or songs once she has signed up for Facebook and worked out how to record.
- We have also directed parents to the 'early years – P3 Parents home learning support group' on Facebook for some other ideas from other parents and schools.
- Parents can also use the bookbug app to listen to songs and rhymes from our bookbug sessions.

You can also now access the Big Cat Collins reading books from home!

<https://collins.co.uk/pages/big-cat-ebooks> Go to **Collins Connect** ,click on the Teacher portal, enter: Username: parents@harpercollins.co.uk Password:**Parents20!**

In terms of speech and language; If you have concerns about your child's speech you should contact the Speech and language team on 07833095374 on the following days and times: Tuesday 2pm - 4pm Thursday 10am - 12pm

Health and wellbeing

As always Health and well being is at the forefront with utmost importance and with that in mind Active schools have developed activity resources. Cards will follow in a separate email due to the size of the document. Each week they will focus on a new activity and sport. These cards are designed for use within the home to encourage families to remain active, and to continue to develop their skills whilst they are at home. They have also developed a weekly planner and an individual activity record so pupils can aim to complete 60 minutes of physical activity per day as per the guidelines.

These resources are complemented by daily skills videos created by the team and some young leaders/coaches which are being shared on their social media (facebook, twitter and Instagram) **daily at 2pm**. The videos and resources can also be accessed on their youtube channel (Active Schools South Ayrshire) and their website www.activeschoolsssa.co.uk

We continue to encourage families to use Cosmic kids Yoga (mindfulness) & The learning station videos on YouTube as well as other daily exercise which will be posted on facebook & twitter as of this week.

Mental and emotional wellbeing is equally important and I'm sure on occasion situations can become fraught, especially if your household is anything like mine with two boys who are now forced to be together all day long and do nothing but bicker all day long..... In school we use Circle Time to deal with situations like these along with 'Activities to help Children get on together.' You can find free resources to support with this here <https://www.circle-time.co.uk/resources/> Click on Freebies and then Circle Time Activities.

There is also a wealth of support for Parents which can be found on <https://www.parentclub.scot/> I'm sure you will have seen the many adverts that they post on TV.

If you have question about the Coronavirus, Axel Scheffler has created a book for children titled 'Coronavirus A book for children'. You can access this for free here <https://nosycrow.com/> along with some other free books.

Please continue to follow us on Twitter as we will post a selection of links to support you during this period.

What I would ask is if you can please let us know how you are doing via Teams, Facebook, or Email. Furthermore if you feel there is anything else that we as a school community could or should be doing, whether that's around learning ideas, further links to websites, school meals or more frequent updates then we would be delighted to hear from you.

As a school we will continue to offer whatever support you need during this challenging time, so please get in touch via Teams, Facebook, through school email address or my email address. We are missing you all!

Best wishes and good Health to you all. Please stay safe and stay connected in whatever way we can.

Leeanne Campbell

Head Teacher