

TARBOLTON PRIMARY

COVID Reflection

Find out what lockdown
was like for the staff
and pupils at Tarbolton
Primary in South
Ayrshire



Head Teacher's Perspective



As news broke that we were closing our school buildings I was anxious about what this would mean for me as a Head Teacher. I was unsure what was lying ahead and worried about how I would provide support from home to my staff and the families who attend our school.

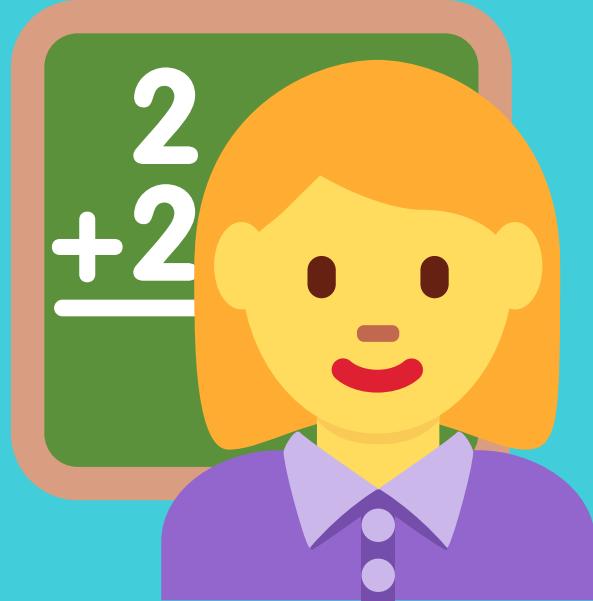
Initially we delivered packed lunches to local families and teachers remained at home providing learning ideas to families. Many school assistants and early years practitioners supported child care hubs. We quickly found our feet and I was feeling much more able to work as a remote Head Teacher. Thankfully we had access to work laptops at home and our school Digital Champion had set up a Teams group for all staff to access.

Teaching staff worked extremely hard and I was blown away by the quality of home learning they were providing. They moved away from providing learning ideas to conducting full lessons on-line and setting differentiated work for their pupils. Seesaw was our selected digital platform as most of our parents were already familiar with it as a communication tool. Most families settled with ease into home learning.

We worked hard to ensure we contacted all our families, and all families had access to online learning. Those families who did not have digital devices were supported by the authority and devices were issued for their use.

On average, between 60 and 70% of families were completing the majority of home learning tasks. We regularly reviewed what we provided and made adjustments as necessary. We realised initially we were providing too much which was overwhelming to some parents.

Staff settled in to their role and staff meetings took place via Teams. As a headteacher, I used Skype for Business to talk 'face: face' with other head teachers which was a good way of exchanging ideas and supporting each other in these testing times.



P1 Teacher's Perspective

The first week of home learning was nerve-wracking. A lot of the time was spent working with our parents, via Seesaw messaging or telephone calls getting the children set up with their logins and ready to take on remote learning.

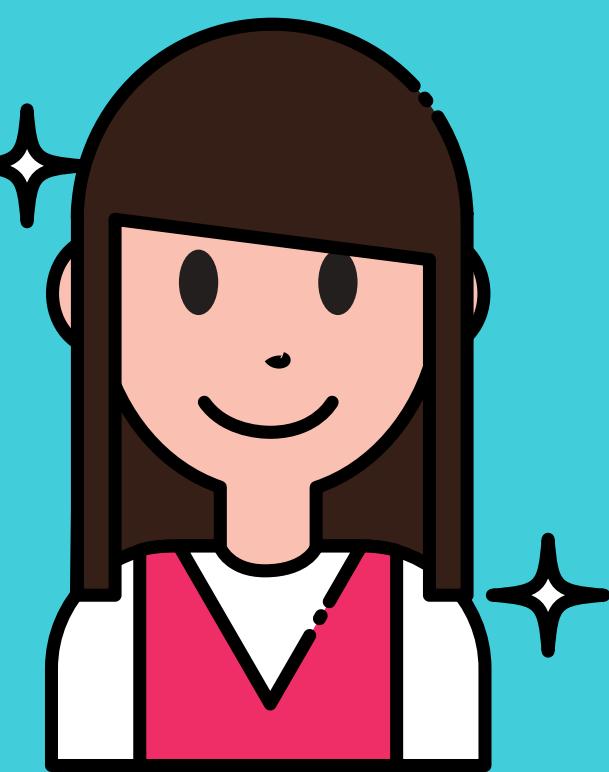
We began to find our flow working from home and learning was of a high standard across the stages. Registers of attendance would be taken and sent to our clerical staff. All teachers found different methods to suit the learners in their own class and differentiated learning was delivered. Teachers would check in, in the morning with a video and set activities for the course of the day. As children post and responded with their work, teachers would begin to interact via voice and written conversations.

I was worried that in the early years the best resource in the classroom is the teacher, and not having my children in front of me would be a huge challenge. However the children engaged in a wide range of written, play based, active, and digital tasks daily. We made use of various websites and I felt like I had become a Youtuber with the amount of pre-recorded videos I was sending to the children. This definitely worked and the feedback from parents was that this helped to boost motivation at home and also supported them in the delivery of home learning.

Children evidenced their work and posted to their learning journal with photographs, video, and written evidence. Staff used this evidence to assess progress as well as various other assessment strategies. Microsoft Forms were used to assess end of unit progress and gather feedback from parents to find a common approach to learning to suit all.

Myself and my stage partner had daily Teams video calls to plan learning for the next week, ensuring that we were following the same programme of work we would have been using if we were in the classroom. Staff meetings were done via Teams and I engaged with the nursery EYP's and class teacher in May via teams in preparation for transition.

P6 Pupil's Perspective



When we went in to lockdown, I was in primary six at Tarbolton Primary School. When we were told that the school building was closing I was sad that I was not going to be able to see my teachers or my friends. I just was not sure how I was going to learn. I had heard of Zoom and thought that maybe we would all meet up to learn in this way.

Once at home my mum told me that, I would be doing my work through my Seesaw app. I was okay with this because I was used to using this app for homework and some other things we had done in school.

I still got up early every day during lockdown to do my schoolwork. My teacher would upload a plan of what we had to do for the day. Some of the task I completed on paper and then just uploaded a picture of my completed work to my Seesaw app. My teacher would then send me some feedback on how I had done. Other jobs I videoed and sent them to my teacher though the app. I also used sway to share my learning.

If we were learning something new or looking at something that was a bit tricky my teacher would upload a video of herself explaining what we were to do and give us examples.

I like Seesaw because my friends can let me see their work and I can make comments just the way we do in class with peer assessment. I have the seesaw app on my phone which is very handy but I can also use it on my laptop if I want to. My Little sister does not have a phone so she just used my dad's phone.

I am glad we are back in school now and I can see my teachers and friends each day but for me lockdown was fine. I liked being able to get in touch with my teacher if I needed her and I learned lots.