



Introduction

On the 30 October 2020 the Scottish Government published Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on reducing the risks in schools' Within this guidance it states:

"In the event of a local outbreak of the virus, a school or a number of schools may be closed temporarily to help control transmission. This applies to schools and local authorities across all protection levels, and is not reserved only for those areas at the highest levels. Schools and local authorities should prepare and maintain clear, strong contingency plans for providing education remotely and should include the possibility of using online national resources such as digital class.

Throughout the country, schools are finding that numbers of staff and students are needing to spend periods of time self-isolating if they or household members have symptoms, or they are identified as the contact of a positive case. This is leading to significant numbers of young people who need to be able to continue their education while at home, and staff are finding they need to manage classes where a proportion of students are in the room and others elsewhere, where they may or may not have regular access to adequate technology and connectivity."

It is highly likely that individuals or groups of children will have to be engaged in remote learning over the coming months. This plan will outline the approach that we will take in Bell's Brae to communicate with our parents/carers and learners and to ensure that all are aware of how learning can continue if learners are at home due to COVID.

Communication

A page on the school website has been added to provide parents/carers with advice and guidance on COVID. This page contains the most up to date risk assessment, school communication on COVID and other useful national documentation.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/bellsbraeprimary/covid-guidance-and-information/>

If individual children are shielding or self-isolating parents/carers should contact the relevant Depute Head Teacher to discuss individual requirements.

Updated guidance from the Scottish Government received in August 2021 states:

"The approach of requiring whole classes or groupings of pupils to self-isolate as close contacts will no longer be followed in normal circumstances. However, to ensure that any potential lower-risk contacts in the school environment are provided with public health advice on vigilance for symptoms and other key matters, schools and ELC settings should send "warn and inform" letters to staff, parents/carers and young people in relevant classes or year groups when they are made aware of a positive case"

We will follow advice from public health and when directed issue "warn and inform" letters to parents/carers and staff in the event of a positive case. These letters will advise people of the facts and:

- *Make clear there is no requirement to self-isolate unless contacted by Test and Protect and advised otherwise; • Advise recipients to be particularly vigilant for symptoms and to self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test if they become symptomatic;*
- *Ask them and their children to follow particularly closely the mitigations in guidance; and*
- *Strongly encourage staff and secondary pupils to continue testing and recording results regularly as part of the*

schools asymptomatic testing offer (see below), as well as advising households to take advantage of the universal testing offer.

Parents/carers should ensure that we have their most current email address and that they check it regularly.

In the event of a closure or a class having to self-isolate clear details of a return will be communicated to relevant parents/carers via email.

As we are unable to have parents/carers in the school, we rely on virtual and electronic communication. Parents/carers wishing to get in touch with the school can do so by telephone or using the school's email address which will be checked regularly bellsbrae@shetland.gov.uk

Remote Learning

Remote learning is the term being used to describe when learners and teachers are not physically present together in the traditional classroom environment. Advice from Education Scotland states:

“Wherever possible, remote learning approaches should endeavour to enable practitioners to maintain contact with learner through the use of technology.

*Remote learning is learning that is **directed** by practitioners and **undertaken** by children and young people who are not physically with the practitioner while instruction is taking place.*

Remote learning involves a combination of ‘live’ interactions between teacher and learners, and also learning which takes place away from the direct presence of the class teacher. It may involve a range of learning experiences which take place in a variety of learning spaces, including outdoors and includes active and physical learning.”

In developing our plan for remote learning we have considered what has worked well, what capacity and resourcing we have at our disposal and feedback we have received from parents/carers, staff and learners. Since the return to school learners in P4-7 have had regular opportunities to further develop their ICT skills.

Individuals who are shielding or self-isolating

The support provided will have to be considered on an individual basis and in discussion with parents/carers and staff. Learners in P4-7 will be able to access their class team, which will provide some learning activities. A pack of learning may also be made available for parents/carers to collect. On the occasion that individuals are self-isolating we all need to be mindful that the class teacher is class committed during the school day so will be unable to be in regular contact with anyone at home.

e-Sgoil offers a set of Broad General Education programmes for P2 to S3. These programmes are designed to complement the curriculum being provided by schools and local authorities across Scotland. We have registered for e-Sgoil and can enrol pupils who are self-isolating due to COVID-19. Any parent/carers whose child(ren) is in this position and would like them to access these lessons on top of what the school can provide should contact the school. Further details can be found here: <http://www.e-sgoil.com/esgoilbgeoffer2020/>

When whole classes are self-isolating or in the event of school closure

We will provide learners with a mix of physical resources such as learning packs and textbooks and digital learning.

ELC & P1 - Parents/carers will be able to access the learning for their child on their class blog. Photos or scanned copies

of work would be able to be emailed to staff using the Glow email address to allow for staff to provide feedback.

P2-7 – Each class has a Microsoft TEAM on Glow. Almost all learners know how to access their team and already have their username and password. Some have been using this platform for their homework so are familiar with how to access their work. All teachers will be using the ASSIGNMENTS area of Glow for pupil work to ensure consistency in all classes. ASSIGNMENTS are tasks or units of work assigned to a pupil in a class as part of their study.

Class teachers will be able to provide regular feedback to learners on the TEAM. Parents/carers and pupils can contact the class teacher via their Glow email address. We see the value of learners being able to see their teacher so will be working towards providing recorded learning sessions or 'live' check ins with learners.

All learners have access to Sumdog and already have their usernames and passwords. This platform is used to support literacy and numeracy. Class teachers may set specific tasks for learners to complete on Sumdog. Learners can also log in to take part in additional activities to enhance their knowledge and skills.

Should the class teacher be unwell and be unavailable to support remote learning, another member of staff or a supply teacher will be identified to facilitate the learning of the class.

Blended Learning

In June 2020 all schools were asked to develop Blended Learning plans. This plan covered the scenario of children returning to school but having to maintain 2m distancing from staff and other learners. This plan will be reviewed and issued to all parents/carers if the need arises.

Support

Digital Devices/Technology

There is an expectation that learners throughout the school will be continuing to develop their ICT skills by completing their weekly homework on Glow or by accessing their class blog. Parents/carers should get in touch with the school if they do not have a suitable device for their child to use to access their learning.

School staff will support individuals who are unable to access their class blog or their class TEAM on Glow. There is also useful advice on the school website COVID page and the Shetland Digital Hub

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/digitalschoolhub/parents-carers/digital-support-2/>

Health and Wellbeing

We are fully aware of the difficulties faced by families during periods of remote learning and self-isolation. Our staff will be available to provide support and in some cases signpost families to more specialised support. As detailed above the school staff can be contacted via phone or email.

