

NEWTON NOTE



Newton Weekly Note

Week Ending 27.3.20

Thank you so much to all our families who have been in touch offering kind messages of support at this very challenging time for all of us. I hope that families are beginning to settle into a routine at home and whilst our health and wellbeing needs to be our priority, I also hope that the children are working hard and enjoying the challenges, tasks and activities that have been set by their class teachers as well as enjoying the many resources that have been available online. We have received lots of positive feedback about the range of learning opportunities for our learners so thank you very much for this. I understand that how this is managed will look very different in every household as all our circumstances are different. The most important thing at this present time is to stay home and stay safe.

This week as a staff team we have all been very busy. Some of our staff are working remotely planning and preparing learning tasks for next term and working on our School Improvement Plan. Many of the teachers, Nursery Educators and Support Staff have volunteered to support the Dunblane Hub which has been set up in Dunblane Primary School. As I am sure you appreciate this has taken a huge amount of planning, organising and consultation as new teams come together. We have totally relied on the good will of our staff teams to ensure we can provide essential childcare for critical workers and NHS frontline staff. This is a very different way of working for many of us, but we have had a brilliant response from our colleagues and friends at Newton, within the Dunblane Learning Community and across Stirling Council. It is also so lovely to see some of our children there.

Moving forward, the learning grids your children have been working on should be completed by next Friday. Please do as much or as little from the grids to suit individual family circumstances. Please follow us on twitter [@NewtonPrimary01](#) and we would be keen for parents to share children's learning by uploading onto our twitter page for us to see and to comment on if you wish.

For the following two-week period (6th-17th April) we feel that it is of the utmost importance that the children have an opportunity to have a proper break, switch off and have time to relax. For many of our children we understand that anxieties will be running high. Please see the link for all families that has some great advice about understanding and coping with our current situation. <https://www.cosla.gov.uk/covid19-advice-supporting-children-and-young-people>. As we approach the end of term it is important to remember that children will be tired, need a rest and time to have some down time.

After the two-week Easter holiday period, we will send out the next learning grids. These will be of similar format to current grids but may be more tailored to individual needs through choice of tasks linked to learning. We are looking into how we can be more interactive with the children but as I shared in my letter last week, we currently do not have the IT infrastructure to set up Microsoft Teams, Webex, Virtual Classrooms etc, to ensure we meet GDPR and parental permissions etc. Staff are also working in the Hub and depending on locations broadband access can be difficult in more remote areas. We are also acutely aware that for many of our families accessing digital devices can be problematic, particularly when both parents are working from home and there are siblings requiring digital devices also. For this reason, we will continue to

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set a range of both paper based and digital learning opportunities. Class teachers will share intended learning for next term through the usual Sharing Learning Leaflets which will be issued after the holiday period and learning grids will reflect these also.

Please can I remind parents that as per the letter sent out last week regarding Newton Digital Support, our Digital Leaders have uploaded self-help guides and videos to our website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/newtonprimaryschool/> to support the use of some of our digital platforms. Here you can find advice and guidance under our 'Digital Information' tab. We understand that when using digital technology there can at times be technical issues! In order to support this during school closure, our staff Tech Team have set up an isolated email address to support families with this. Please email newtontechsupport@stirlingschools.net should you encounter any problems e.g. logging on, passwords etc. Responses will not be immediate, but staff will pick them up when they can. During this period of closure, we do not have access to our newtonps@stirling.gov.uk email address, so we ask that parents do not use this email address for now.

I would like to wish everyone a very relaxing weekend, please keep well and stay safe. We are missing our Newton Family.

Mrs Kane