



Dunblane Learning Community

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to all parents and carers for your continued support during these uncertain and challenging times. Our staff have really appreciated the many messages of support that have been shared with the school. From Monday all Stirling Council employees which includes teachers, support staff and nursery staff, are either working remotely or will be volunteering across the public sector in different capacities including leading and supporting our Hub structures at Dunblane PS, Killearn PS, St Ninians PS, St Margaret's PS and Callander PS. Teachers, support Staff and those working in schools are not on holiday.

Our focus this week has been on supporting children in school and now we turn our attention to how we ensure our children who have parents working in frontline services are able to continue to go to work and we also must consider our vulnerable families. We are now planning how this will look for our families within the community of Dunblane. I understand all parents received a text message last night with a link to a questionnaire regarding childcare needs.

As a learning community our three primary schools have been working together to ensure we have a consistent, manageable approach to support our families, pupils and staff. We have worked together to discuss, create and agree a plan moving forward, taking into account various factors and believe we have a plan that will work for everyone concerned.

Using our normal platforms, Parentmail and Google Classroom (P5-7) and our website, parents will receive a home learning grid from Newton PS for their child/children to complete relevant tasks and learning opportunities at home. These tasks are for two weeks and will allow children to either work independently or with their family until the normal Easter holiday period. You will receive further learning grids, leaflets, and more information after the two week holiday period. We have also sent children home with a grid and a jotter today. If you wish to collect a jotter/grid, the school foyer will be open on Monday from 1.30pm and we will leave jotters for you to collect. The school is being deep cleaned and therefore there will be no access to the building for parents.

In line with what the Education Secretary shared yesterday, we do not expect parents to home school their children and there is no obligation or expectation that children must complete the tasks, however there are a range of activities and ideas to support parents. In addition we have already shared with parents a list of websites children can use to continue their learning at home although we do not wish to add additional burdens to parents who may also be working from home and requiring to use computers, IT equipment etc.

We understand that some children may be experiencing symptoms and we absolutely do not wish to give families additional pressure by having a requirement of pupils to complete work at home. We also appreciate that for some, routine is best especially when there is so much uncertainty. We also know that our families have many great ideas for home learning of their own.

Children's completed work should not to be sent to school or for teachers to mark. There will not be daily communication from the class teacher to pupils or families regarding work being completed at home and teachers will not be sending out individualised work packages. We do not have the IT infrastructure for staff to skype/facetime individuals or groups and we are unable to expect teachers to share personal emails and phone numbers.

Please can I also remind parents and carers that we also must be mindful, and I am sure families understand, that our teachers may also have symptoms, be unwell, will be working from home or volunteering whilst caring for family members and looking after their own children who may be unwell and will be off school too.

As a whole school staff team we wish our families stay healthy and keep well. We will continue to keep parents and families informed but at this time the most important thing is that we are all looking out for each other within our community and beyond.

Many thanks,

Linda Kane

Headteacher, Newton Primary School on behalf of the Dunblane Learning Community.