



Newton Weekly Note

Week Ending 7.5.20

HELPFUL LINKS

Twitter - [@NewtonPrimary01](#).

Technical Support -
newtonfamilysupport@stirlingschools.net

Family Support –
newtonfamilysupport@stirlingschools.net

School Website -
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/newtonprimaryschool/>

Advice to support children regarding Covid-19 -
https://www.cosla.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/15570/covid19adviceforsupportingchildrenandyoungpeople.pdf

[Free School Meals](#)

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/stirlingeps/information-for-parents/>

NEWTON NOTE

Dear Families, I hope everyone had a reasonably good week given the circumstances we are all currently living in. We are very lucky that we live in such a beautiful part of the country. As time goes on, we are all realising how difficult this is for everyone. Everyone at Newton PS are thinking of our children and families and we very much wish we could all be back together.

Google Classroom – I wish to thank families and children for their kind messages and comments on this platform. It is so lovely to see and hear from so many of our wonderful families. It is also great to see so many of our children engaged with learning remotely. Some parents may not have realised but you are able to download the Google Classroom App to your phone where you can view the grid, teacher posts and upload photos of learning activities etc. This is a very quick and easy way to access the classroom without the need for a computer.

'Live' Learning - As I have shared before after advice from Education Scotland and teaching unions, Stirling Council have taken the decision that teachers should not have live Zoom, Teams, and web chats with our children. Appropriate social etiquette cannot be guaranteed using these platforms and we must safeguard our children and our staff. As adults we navigate these online resources with ease however, we cannot take risks with our children and to ensure appropriate conduct from all and for GDPR reasons (e.g. recording of the sessions) we will continue to follow this guidance. We are aware that other local authorities have engaged with this in different ways however we are also aware that this has not been without many concerns and problems too.

What do teachers do all day at home? I am very aware that many of our parents are working from home and it is tricky to manage this and help with home learning, look after young children and perhaps vulnerable family members too. Our class teachers are also doing all of this. Although not 'live' our class teachers are on Google Classroom many times throughout the day. This is a great platform to interact, make contact with the children and share ideas but it also takes time to read all children's posts and work, feedback on the work posted, plan and prepare additional tasks to upload, answer questions, share photographs, record videos and stories, ask how children are and share something of their own life in lockdown to keep in touch. As well as this day to day, our teachers are also planning and preparing the next two weeks set of work through the learning grids. As our teachers only have access to online resources, this takes a lot of time to research to ensure it is appropriate, then plan and prepare tasks around it. School textbooks, teaching aids and resources teachers may have access to in school are not available at home and therefore they are resourcing the children's grids using their skills, knowledge, and creativity. What a brilliant job they are doing! Teachers are also writing children's annual reports and are fulfilling their wider school commitments to the School Improvement Plan, Standard and Quality reports, Pupil Equity plans and their own continued professional development. Many of our staff are also helping their own children with their home learning grids, supporting vulnerable family members and working in the Hub.

How can parents help each other during lockdown? We are very aware that many parents are part of class WhatsApp groups or Facebook groups and social media is a great way of catching up particularly when we cannot be out and about. I am sure many parents enjoy this contact, hearing what each other have been doing during this time and how your

TALK Forth Valley Community Health Services

Our Speech and Language Therapists are missing seeing all of our children and families **NHS Forth Valley**

If you have any questions or are looking for advice or ideas to help your child's speech, language and communication skills while schools are closed, please have a look at our online information or get in touch.

- Find us on **Facebook**: 'NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy' Speech, language and communication advice and ideas updated regularly
- Visit our **webpage**: <https://nhsforthvalley.com/health-services/az-of-services/speech-and-language-therapy/>
- You can call us on **01786 434078** (Monday-Friday 9am - 4pm) We will answer your call if we can, but as our therapists are working differently just now to support the wider NHS, you may need to leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Remember to keep using Makaton! Have a look at www.makaton.org or www.singinghands.co.uk for some signing fun, including signed stories.

We look forward to seeing you again soon
NHS Forth Valley Speech & Language Therapy

Hi5 Award for Young People in Stirling
 – Children and families may be interested in the additional learning opportunity to gain the Hi5 Award during this time at home. More information about the award, how to get started and support available can be found at <https://young.scot/get-informed/stirling/hi5-award-in-stirling>.

Newton's Eco Code

	E	ncourage eco awareness around our school				
	N	ever drop litter				
	V	alue outdoor learning				
	I	mprove our playground				
	R	espect our school grounds				
	O	pportunities to grow and cook				
	N	urture all living things				
	M	ake community links				
	E	ngage with the Global goals				
	N	ever leave lights on when not in use				
	T	ell everyone that Newton is an Eco School				

children are getting on with home learning etc. Thank you to parents who are checking in with each other and supporting each other at this time. Can I please also ask parents to be mindful of each other's circumstances. For many of our family's social media can cause stress and anxiety as children and parents often compare what they are managing to do with others. The health, wellbeing and safety of our children and families is what is important right now. I wish to remind everyone that the learning platforms are optional and whilst I hope that children and families will engage with learning opportunities, there is no expectation families must. As a school community we fully understand the limitations of 'lockdown', the resources available to households e.g. IT and devices and the level of demand on parents. It is most important that we all support each other and ensure our children feel safe and secure during the school closures. No one will judge you if you do not manage – we fully understand that everyone is doing their best.

Learning Grids - As per my parent mail on Tuesday I appreciate that for some families having the grids to look at and discuss over the weekend will better suit arrangements and therefore our next set of grids will be sent out on the evening of **Friday 15th May** with my Newton Note.

Enjoy the bank holiday everyone!

Kind Regards,
 Mrs Kane