



Newton Primary School

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Newton Note

Week Ending 29.01.21

- Remote Learning
- Wellbeing Week
- February Holiday
- Celebrating Robert Burns
- Parental Survey
- NF Together
- Parentmail
- Technical Support

HELPFUL LINKS

Stirling Digital Learning Team

<https://spec.stirlingschools.net/digital-learning-hub/remote-learning>

For support with Digital Learning please see the Digital Learning Hub on our digital learning platform – <https://spec.stirlingschools.net/digital-learning-hub>

Newton Tech Support - newtontechsupport@stirlingschools.net

Twitter - @NewtonPrimary01



Weekly Note

Remote Learning – As we come to the end of the third week of remote learning I want to continue to thank parents and pupils for their efforts and support and to share that we fully understand that this can require considerable compromises at home and can be challenging to sustain. We very much appreciate the efforts that many of our families have put into this way of working and we are acutely aware that this can become more challenging the longer this goes on. With this in mind, I would ask families to please be mindful of the challenges and circumstances of others when commenting on social media such as class Whatsapp groups. Comments, although well meaning can often make other parents feel uncomfortable and guilty when they are not able to do or offer their child the same experiences as others particularly in terms of supporting learning. Wellbeing must come first and although we are not all in the same boat we are all in the same storm (I may have said this before). Children will continue to learn, develop and achieve great things. They have a wonderful future ahead of them and this pandemic will not last forever. We have reopened our email address newtonfamilysupport@stirlingschools.net for parents who may need additional support. There are always two members of SLT available in school every day and if parents need to be in touch please telephone 01786 237920 and a message can be passed to SLT or to class teacher. The link to Stirling Educational Psychology Service is to the left of the screen and also available on our website.

I would also like to share with parents some guidance from Education Scotland around the definitions of 'Remote Learning'. This may help parents who are concerned about children who are finding it tricky to be online, to be motivated, to concentrate and focus, to share devices and it includes advice around active learning which does not involve using a digital device. This may also reassure parents that children learn in many ways.

'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.'

Family Support –

newtonfamilysupport@stirlingschools.net

School Website

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/newtonpri-maryschool/>

Educational Psychology

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

The Greatest Wealth is Health.

'Remote learning can be delivered in a variety of ways. It may include reading, doing, creating and inventing, playing, problem solving, observing and investigating with some of the best learning examples not requiring technology at all, although in the current context, digital and online approaches will be commonly used.'

'Learners should not engage in online learning for the entirety of the school day. Learning may include activities such as research tasks, project work, practical opportunities, discussions and other activities that can be carried out away from a digital device.'

'The involvement of a further range of partners, including community and third sector organisations to support remote provision has the potential to provide rich and varied learning experiences.'

Wellbeing Week – Next week is 'National Wellbeing Week' and I encourage all of us to do our best to look after our mental and physical wellbeing. Teachers may ask children to take part in wellbeing activities and there is a competition across Stirling run by the Educational Psychology Department and information may be incorporated into learning tasks next week

February Break - Pupils have a holiday week beginning 15th Feb and for staff beginning 17th February. We await a Scottish Government update on Tuesday regarding any information on a return to school. What we do know is that we have the next two weeks with remote learning and then a well-earned break for children and staff.

Celebrating Robert Burns – This week in school, many of our classes celebrated Robert Burns through learning and reciting poetry, songs, playing the bagpipes and hosting a mini Burns Supper at home. We would like to say a huge thank you to Pamela and Rubber Chicken Theatre for setting their challenge to all classes. We hope children and parents have enjoyed taking part.

Parental Survey – Thank you very much to all parents who shared feedback to our school via our parental survey. We had 152 responses which was brilliant. This week we have been collating the feedback and sharing this with staff. Miss Alison, Mrs Brown or I have met with the teachers of each year group to discuss parental feedback relevant to their stage and we will feedback to parents stage by stage rather than whole school as what may be relevant in P7 may not be relevant in P1 or P2. We are also keen to share learner feedback with the children in P5-7. Overall the feedback was very positive and we thank parents for the many lovely comments acknowledging the hard work and effort of our class teachers and teachers and support staff who are working in our school hub. Key themes across all year groups were that parents would like to see children engaging further with their teacher through Google Meets to explain and go over tasks as well as wellbeing check-ins, quizzes and games, to have further live or recorded teaching and learning experiences, technical concerns such as printing, uploading, downloading, editing documents and documents presenting differently on different devices and Wellbeing including motivation and social interactions. I do hope that many parents will already have seen an increase in teacher availability via Google Meets, Live Chat Function and more pre-recorded teaching and learning as well as further explanations via the live meets.

Newton Families Together Meeting – Apologies for the cancellation of our planned meeting on Tuesday evening. Our meeting has now been rearranged for this Tuesday 2nd of February at 7pm. The Google Meet code is **mst-yntd-vso**.

Parentmail – We have had some ongoing concerns affecting parents with a gmail account not receiving correspondence from school via parentmail. Parentmail have advised that those with gmail accounts should add Parentmail to their address book even if they have not been having problems so it doesn't happen in the future. Parentmail have given the following instructions for adding to address book for Gmail accounts:

1. Select **contacts** from the **options** on the left side of the Gmail.
2. Select **Create Contact** on the top menu.
3. **Enter** the email address in the primary email box.
4. Select **Save**.
5. If an email from info@parentmail.co.uk is in the Spam folder, you can mark it **Not Spam** to whitelist it"

Technical Support - Please see below Newton Technical Support 'Top Tips and Guidance for Families for this week. All tech support information shared via Newton Note for the past few weeks will be uploaded to our website as soon as possible. There is already a vast amount of information there to support Google Classroom, including videos and instructions, under the Digital Tab.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend,

Kind Regards,

Linda Kane



Newton Technical Support – Top Tips and Guidance for Families



Class teachers are providing a range of learning materials for children to access and we recognise that some families have been experiencing some formatting issues of documents, trouble with editing online and the feeling of excessive printing burdens and costs. We do not want to add any additional pressures to families in the current circumstances and hope the tips and guidance below will help.

Printing Worksheets/Learning Activities

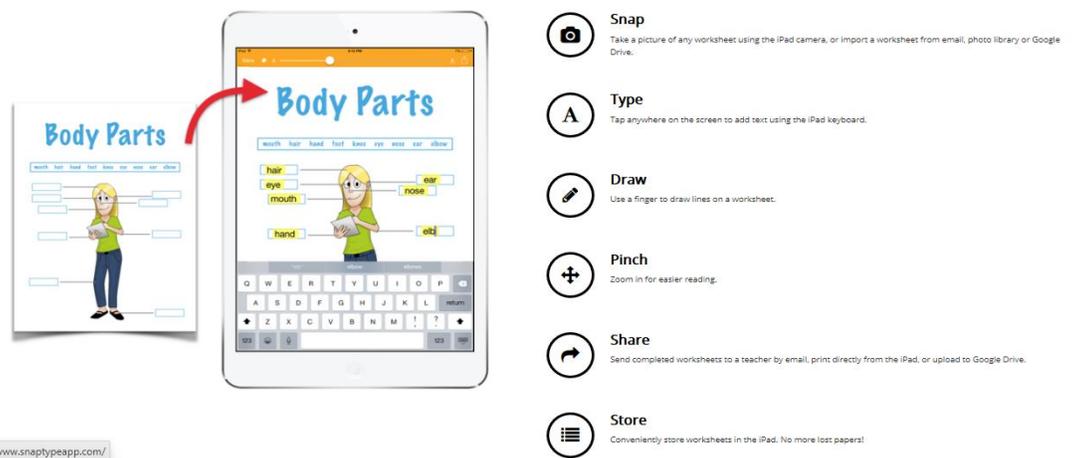
We would like to reiterate that families **do not need** to print worksheets and learning activities off to complete at home. We understand that some families like or prefer to do this but there is no pressure or expectation from the school or class teachers that this is the case.

Templates are provided as a guide and children can simply record their answers or complete tasks on their blank digital jotter or on blank/lined paper at home. Families are not expected to recreate or draw out worksheets by hand.

If families are printing documents, colour backgrounds can be removed and black and white/grayscale options can be selected to minimise use of ink and reduce printing costs

Using SnapType to complete worksheets or tasks on an iPad, tablet or mobile device.

For families who don't have a printer, want to reduce printing or are finding it difficult to complete set tasks on an iPad or tablet then you might find the **SnapType App** helpful. SnapType is a simple and alternative way to complete any school worksheet. This can be downloaded on the App Store or Google Play to complete tasks easily at home and avoid printing! The free version allows children to type and the pro version (£4.99) allows children to draw or write. www.snaptypesapp.com.



Using a split screen to view two the digital jotter and learning task/worksheet on screen at once

The split screen function can be used (see video below) to help children have a worksheet or task template up on the screen along with their digital jotter at the same time. This prevents children from having to jump between screens and they can record answers in the digital jotter quickly and easily. This function is also useful to save printing worksheets or tasks. *The key combo is **Alt and [or Alt and]** on a Chromebook only.* See link below

Using the Split Screen Function

Formatting/Editing Documents

Class teachers are working hard to provide a range of different materials to engage and motivate children and are learning new ways of ensuring material is editable and easy to complete. Google Docs is being used increasingly to set tasks and our Tech Team have found workarounds for helping to make PDFs editable. Some class teachers are trialling set assignments and the use of Google Forms. Not one size fits all for a learning task but class teachers will offer editable documents wherever possible.

Reporting broken links or formatting issues with worksheets or learning tasks

Any materials or worksheets/documents that have been shared by class teacher have been tried and tested on the device they are working from. Our class teachers can't test things on a range of different devices and can only fix issues that are reported to them. Children are quick to share with their class teachers on their Google Classrooms if a document isn't working or format is showing different on a specific device and our teachers are responding as best they can. Please encourage your child to do this or for younger parents can let class teachers know via the Google Classroom stream.

Technical Support

If you require any technical support with any elements of using Google Classroom or resetting of account passwords please contact us via email at newtontechsupport@stirlingschools.net. If your child is attending school, please make sure they know their passwords or write them down for them.