

Newsletter

February 2021



Dear Parent / Carer

I cannot believe that we are at the end of another month! February has been an interesting month for us all weather wise! I am sure all the children (and adults!) had great fun in the snow during our February break.



I would like to thank each and every one of you for the positive support and comments we are receiving with regards to remote learning. We appreciate that it can be difficult to fit learning in when there are so many other demands placed on us all. Hopefully as everyone is slowly but surely being vaccinated, restrictions will start to lift and we can start seeing the light at the end of what has been a very long tunnel! Thank you to those parents/carers who completed our remote learning survey – the feedback we received was very positive and as a staff team, we are addressing the next steps.

On 22nd February, we welcomed back our P1-3 pupils. Staff are so happy to have them in class learning, and we are crossing our fingers that we can welcome our P4-7 cohort back on 15th March. We would ask that when dropping off/collecting children that you please vacate the playground in a safe and timely manner. Please ensure that social distancing is in place and masks are worn. We would ask that groups of adults are not standing in or around the playground/gates – we must show our children and our local community that the return to school is being done in a safe manner.



Whilst in school, we will be ensuring all our staff follow guidance and children will follow strict handwashing guidance. Please can we ask that as before, children bring as few personal items into school as possible. PE lessons will happen outdoors as under current rules, we are unable to use our PE hall. Therefore, we ask that children come into school dressed appropriately with suitable clothing and footwear.

During this period of lockdown, class teachers have been continually assessing your child's progress over Google Classroom. On returning to school, teachers will continue to assess pupil progress in order to identify next steps in their learning journey. Due to the imminent return of our P4-7 pupils, we intend to hold our second parents consultation in the final term. We will send out more information nearer the time.

We had a collaborative based approach to our in-service day with Miss Lindsay leading our staff team in a range of IT based sessions. Thank you to Miss Lindsay for her delivery of these sessions.



I would like to say a huge thank you to all our staff in school who have been supporting our children, parents/carers and each other during this time. All our staff have been doing an amazing job – whether that has been working from home or in school. Things can change on a daily basis at the drop of a hat and each member of staff has adapted with no question or complaint – bravo to you all!

Speaking of our staff – we are saying ‘Au Revoir’ to our P2 class teacher, Mr Thomson. Mr Thomson has been a great asset to our school and we wish him well in his new job. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Miss Flora Stevenson who will join us until Summer. She has been liaising closely with Mr Thomson and Mrs Richmond to ensure a smooth transition for our P2 pupils.



Mr McCutcheon, Mrs Townsend and Miss Hogg have been auditing our reading books in school. I am sure our children will love the choices they make!

Our next Parent Council meeting is on 17th March at 6.30pm via Zoom. More details will follow. Please join us if you can.



Several staff in school are taking part in a Midlothian Step Count Challenge – our team are called the *Stepperoni Pizzas!* They are currently 5th out of 56 teams! The challenge runs 1-28 February. We are crossing our fingers for our Den team!



I would like to sign off by thanking you all again for your continued support of our school community. Please keep safe. We are all in this together and we will all come out of this – together.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Mellon

Acting Head Teacher