



Customer Services

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Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and managing to stay safe. We have been very lucky with the weather so far this term, let's hope it continues as it gives the children the opportunity to run off excess energy outdoors in the garden, and maybe allows you a little bit of time to yourself. The staff and I are all missing your child/children very much and not being physically in school working with them. This current situation certainly makes you think carefully about all the things you took for granted, just a few months ago.

I also hope you are coping well with home schooling. Please remember that your main job as a parent is to keep your child/children safe and happy, we are not expecting you to teach your children, just support their learning. Please do not become stressed by trying to be a teacher, just do the best you can, the majority of you are not a teacher, so please don't put too much pressure on yourself or your child, remember you and your child's Health and Wellbeing is far more important.

We understand that every family is different and that home schooling will create some issues for some families. We also appreciate that some parents are also working from home, so they have to continue working, as well as supervise their children, which can't be easy.

With the exception of the initial packs which we sent home, prior to Easter, the majority of the work provided by the teaching staff will be posted on either Seesaw or Google Classroom. Again, we are aware that some children are sharing IT devices, some homes have poor internet provision, some parents are excellent with technology, others are just learning. When preparing resources and lessons staff are trying to bear in mind all the different challenges you as a family may be encountering. It may be that you have to timetable the shared device in your home into hour slots, to enable each child to access their work. It's a work in progress, so again just do what you can.

This goes for staff too, we are all on a very steep learning curve and trying our best to cope with this new way of working and living. The staff have been absolutely fantastic, over the Easter break, staff were doing online webinars and researching how to post and organise online work. We have weekly staff meetings using Google Meet, all very new indeed. Staff are also working in the Hub schools in Helensburgh and Garelochhead, on a rota system, we are looking after a number of children of key workers, so there will be a time, each week, where staff will be unable to get back to you immediately, as they will be otherwise engaged in the Hub.

An outline of what we are expecting, we would like to have communication daily/weekly with each child, preferably through Glow and Google Classroom, in each pack we sent home there were details on how to get on to Glow and how to log in, so far we have over 90% of all school pupils on Google



Classroom, we now just need the last few children to join. If you are having problems joining, either message the class teacher through Seesaw or email the school and we can help you join. We will help you in any way we can to access learning over the coming weeks. We would like Nesy/Spelling and Sumdog/Times Tables done every day, P7 are 2 or 3 times a week, pupils should then go on to their Google Classroom and look at the Literacy and Numeracy tasks that have been set for them. There may also be Science/Tigtag activities assigned and other Curricular areas. Again, please encourage your children to do what they can from these tasks. We are not expecting them to be sitting at a table for 5 or 6 hours each day, but we would expect a good few hours each day to be spent on school work.

Pre-5 parents, you have been sent via Seesaw and email some activities and ideas to keep you busy, whilst at home, if you have not joined Seesaw and wish to do so now, please email the school and we will get you a QR.

Please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions for us as this way of working is new for everyone.

Some school staffing news, Mrs Natasha Stephenson has sadly decided to leave the Pre-5 unit after 14 years working with us, she was going to leave at the end of term, which under normal circumstances would have given us time to inform you all and to organise a wee celebration, to thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the years. This will currently not be able to happen as the Pre-5 unit is unlikely to open before the end of June. Natasha has promised as soon as we are all back at school she will come and visit and we will be able to give her a proper send off. We will all miss her very much and wish her many best wishes for the future. Kathryn, Joanne, Kirsty and Catherine will cover the hours that Natasha work, so staffing will remain the same.

Some other delightful news, Mrs Hendry is expecting a baby in the summer, we are all so happy for Kerry and her husband. Plans are coming together to ensure we have staffing in place for August, Ms Kirsten Black will move to Primary 1/2 and a new member of staff will teach P3/4, Miss Catriona McMurtrie, will stay at P5/6 and Mrs Jane McAloon at P7. As soon as I have more information I'll let you know.

After you have read this email, please check that All your children are on Google Classroom as this will really help with delivering home learning. As always, I am here if you need anything at all, just email the school and I will get back to you.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to all in the community that are working in the NHS or front-line care, as essential workers, you are all doing a fabulous job protecting us from the Coronavirus.

Keep safe.

Alison

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