



**Head Teacher: Mrs Alison Palmer**

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Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and adapting to having your children at home and home schooling. The staff and I are all missing the children and the school routine very much, we are all well and doing what we can to ensure that your child's education continues, as best it can, at this really difficult time.

We have no date for the reopening of schools in Scotland, as soon as I hear officially, I will let you know. At the moment the Scottish Government, Local Authority and Head Teachers are working on a Recovery Plan, to ensure a safe return to learning, as soon as possible, however this is unlikely to be before the end of June.

It is such a shame for the Primary 7 and Nursery pupils, their last term of primary/nursery, with all the exciting transition events, school activities and trips will not occur, as they usually do. Transition is still happening and Mrs McAloon has been having conversations and virtual meetings with Hermitage Academy staff. There are also online Transition activities which the pupils will be involved in. Our nursery pupils usually have their transition days at this time too, so they sadly are also on hold, the transition topic they will be working on this term, will be The Gruffalo, by Julia Donaldson, there will be transition activities sent via Seesaw to all nursery pupils next month.

The Primary 7 pupils meet up with Mrs McAloon through Google Meet, daily, at 10.30am, this is a really good way for the pupils to see their friends and also discuss their learning at the same time. Miss McMurtrie is also going to start having class Google Meets, these will take place at 1.30pm, weekly, on a Wednesday. She will post a meeting code on Google Classroom and on Seesaw, it would be really good for as many children as possible, in Primary 5/6, to join these meetings. She has already had smaller group meetings, but we are going to try a class one to see how it goes. It is also hoped that this term, Mrs Hendry and Miss Black will also try a Google Meet, it is much harder for the younger ones as they aren't as computer literate as the older pupils, but we'll give it a go.

I have been very impressed by the way the staff have reacted to this situation, teaching staff have been learning a whole new way of working and teaching, preparing resources, marking work and communicating with pupils and parents, as well as manning the Hub schools. Nursery and school support staff have also been working in the two local Hubs on a rota, providing cover for our essential/keyworkers children. Team Arrochar are doing their bit to help out.

Please be reassured, at this moment the Health and Wellbeing of pupils, parents and staff are the main priority. However, it is also important to try and continue with some sort of routine and schooling.



The level of engagement, by the vast majority of the pupils and parents has been spectacular. The pupils have been incredibly enthusiastic and the standard of the work they have produced has been amazing. I must also thank parents for their participation and time, I know you have to support and help your children, alongside trying to do your own work from home, but your input is really appreciated.

I would like to encourage the few that are still not fully engaged in Google Classroom to try and do a little more each week, as it's really important that your child doesn't fall behind in their learning. You know your child best and if they and you are up to it, please try and complete some of the work set by the class teacher, as it does look like we will be off school till August.

Each week the school staff will add activities for your child to complete on Google Classroom and on Seesaw. There are also French, Gaelic and Music activities, to keep you going. We are looking for your child to complete Sumdog and Nessy, we would like this done daily. These tasks are for every child from Primary 1 to 6. They should be able to complete these activities without your support and they should take about 20 minutes each. The staff get a daily report which lets us know whether your child has been on this activity, how long they have been on the activity, their score and their accuracy level. The teacher can then add activities and challenges to this programme based on this information. It might be beneficial to let your child know this, to encourage them to do it daily. We would also like to see pupils from Primary 3 up, accessing our Accelerated Reading Programme, which again gives us information on the time spent on the activity and accuracy levels and progress.

Moving on to Google Classroom activities, we would like to see evidence of work completed, please do not just hit the 'Hand in' button, you need to either upload or take a photograph of the completed activity, this can be sent via Seesaw or Google Classroom. This will enable us to mark the task off on our plans as having been completed. The local authority ask each school for feedback on the levels of pupil engagement, so this would really help us when discussing our school information.

The nursery also use Seesaw and activities are added for them to try out. Last week they had some lovely art activities, some French and the next chapter of Mrs Stark's story about the bears that came to stay with her! If you wish to join Seesaw, please email me and I'll get a QR code to you.

We really are here to help and if you are struggling or unsure of how to operate Seesaw or Google Classroom, please ask, we will be more than happy to help out or get the IT department to, if we can't. It's in everyone's interest to keep the children engaged in their learning.

Since the school closed in March, free school meals have been delivered daily, this will stop as of the end of May. The last delivery will be on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of May. The Food boxes (contact number 01546605524) on the Thursday and Friday, will continue as will the local group delivery of soup and a sandwich on a Friday. If your child would like to draw a cheery picture, which will be delivered to a community member on a Friday, please put it in the jotter box. Extra jotters will be available in Karl's cosy cabin, at the school, and at the Pitstop, in Arrochar, Ms Kay will top these up, as needed.

This week is a three day week, due to In-service days and the May holiday weekend. There will be no work posted online on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, work will restart on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of May.

Wishing you all well and a lovely sunny weekend when it comes.

Alison



Mrs Alison Palmer  
Head Teacher

