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Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on our remote learning arrangements as well as staffing.

Remote Learning Arrangements

As you may be aware, during and since the previous school closure we further considered how best to support pupils should there be a similar occurrence in future. We have planned to provide all pupils with an opportunity to communicate directly in person as well as via Seesaw or Teams with their class teacher on a daily basis.

As before, each class will have a weekly plan outlining progressive learning activities for pupils. There will also be further suggestions under the coronavirus section on the school website which you or your child may be able to access. The weekly plans will be emailed out on Fridays (see attachment). In addition to the plans, the resources required will be on the school website. P4-7 pupils will also be able to access the plans and resources themselves on their class team.

Live Sessions

P1-3 pupils will have planned daily live sessions with their teachers via Seesaw. We had initially planned to do this via teams accessed through glow but uptake has been low. As we have now found a way to deliver access to a Teams meeting via Seesaw it means pupils only need to log into Seesaw. The live sessions will be at the same time everyday and will be communicated via the weekly plan. There will also be an announcement on Seesaw alerting you to access the session.

P4-7 pupils will have a minimum of one daily live session with their teacher, sometimes there may be two sessions. These sessions will be on Microsoft Teams, which pupils access using their glow log-in. Again, this will be at the same time everyday and will be communicated via the weekly plan.

The content of the live sessions will evolve over time, initially there will be a greater focus on answering pupil queries about any of the resources they are accessing, and as pupils become more comfortable will progress to more specific input and activities.

Both Seesaw and Microsoft teams can be used on a laptop, tablet or phone, although you will need to download a free app on a tablet or phone. All parents who have given permission for their child to use Seesaw have previously been sent the log-in details; if you need this sent again please contact the school office. P4-7 pupils have already been accessing glow and should know their log-ins. We are now only allowed to share glow log-in details with pupils. Therefore if you phone the office, someone will be able to tell your child the password, or we can post it out to them.



Please note that the camera functionality has changed on Teams and your child can be seen on camera if they choose to select that option. There is an option for pupils to set a background so that others cannot see their surroundings.

Attendance at sessions on Seesaw and Teams will be monitored as well as general engagement with learning. Should there be any reason such as a medical issue, pupil reluctance or difficulty accessing sessions please communicate this via the school office and we will try to support you as much as possible.

Resources

There were very few pupils in school at the end of last term, therefore packs have not been handed out. Those pupils who were in took a jotter home, for example, their homework jotter for recording using at home. As we didn't ask for the packs back when pupils returned to school in August you may still have resources at home. Resource boxes will once again be available for pupils to access during the current lockdown. Each box will contain various items that pupils may require in completing their tasks i.e. paper, jotters, pens, pencils etc. All boxes will be in place by the end of next week. Once they are, we will communicate via email and social media the location for each box.

Pupils in school

Pupils who are in school will be following the same plan in school as they would if they were at home. They will be in small bubbles and will not be with their class teacher. If pupils have headphones that they are able to bring into school they may do so for use during live lessons.

Please note that pupils in school will generally be under the supervision of support staff and non-class committed teachers. Should class teachers need to supervise a bubble in school then the class teacher would be unavailable for live lessons or interacting online during the day; should this need to happen this will be communicated in advance.

Staffing Update

Unfortunately we have a few staff leaving us for pastures new. Miss Johnson finished her post as nursery play assistant prior to the Christmas holidays. Our nursery pupil support assistant, Miss Wright, is moving on at the end of next week. Miss Patullo, our nursery senior ECP is planning to finish working at Breadalbane in two weeks, although depending on restrictions she may be able to be with us for a little longer. Mrs MacDonald, one of our primary GME teachers, is taking early retirement and will be finishing this term although may do some supply work until later in the term. Our Primary PT, Mrs Jenkins is also moving on at the start of March.

Each of these staff members has been an integral part of our team during their time here and we wish them every success in their new endeavours – some in this country and some further afield. Each post has or is being advertised and new appointments will be communicated in due course.

If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

V.L. Marshall

Mrs Marshall

