

NEWTONGRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EDUCATION DIVISION

Head Teacher
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**Midlothian**

Our Ref:



15.01.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Remote Learning Update

It has been quite the start to 2021!

Thank you for your patience and support as we transition to remote learning. As I am sure you can appreciate this is a very different way of operating, one which challenges each of us in many different ways!

Since the announcement of the new lock down restrictions to combat COVID 19 and the move to remote learning for the majority of our children, staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure we can offer high quality remote learning. This letter will provide further information regarding our remote learning programme for our children at Newtongrange Primary School.

We recognise that for children remote learning will look very different depending on lots of different factors including such things as access to a device, internet availability, parent or carers work commitments and ability to support children, space in the home etc. Families have to look at their own circumstances and make remote learning work in the way that best suits them. Our approach is designed to be as flexible as possible. We will share all the learning tasks for the week on Monday mornings and once children have completed their tasks they submit them online to receive feedback from their teachers.

Our remote learning programme, as of Monday will include a range learning approaches including 'live' interactions between staff and children, pre-recorded videos to support learning tasks, online and offline activities. The planned learning will include opportunities for children to consolidate and extend their learning. Learning tasks may include reading, doing, creating and inventing, playing, problem solving, observing, investigating and many more skills.

Below details the remote learning programme for the different stages within our school which will begin on Monday 18th January 2021. We are learning all the time and elements of our remote learning programme are new for staff too, so we do ask for families to be supportive and patient if things don't quite work out the first time we use them!

ELC Setting

In our ELC we are planning to introduce the following from next week.

- Upload 3 learning activities every day that parents can engage their children in. The activities will detail the intended learning and reference any required resources.
- A daily video message from a member of the ELC team.
- Share two stories a week, pre-recorded by a member of the ELC team. One of the stories will have a grid of suggested learning activities to go along with it.
- Share every week, a rhyme of the week, a recipe to try at home and an ECO challenge.
- Throughout the week, we encourage children to share their remote learning through Seesaw and receive feedback from ELC staff.

P1, P1/2 and P2

In P1-P2 all four classes are planning to introduce the following from next week.

- Upload a weekly learning grid on a Monday morning to Seesaw (Google Classrooms for P2). The learning grid will detail intended learning, activities, learning prompts and reference required resources or web links.
- Teaching input will be uploaded in a format which best suits the learning intentions such as: a written explanation or PowerPoint; a link to a video/audio clip; a recorded lesson made by the class teacher or a demonstration of how to carry out a task or procedure.
- Through Google Meet have a daily 'live' check in with each class. The link to access the Google Meet for each class will be posted on Seesaw (Google Classrooms for P2). Children will require their Glow Login details to join the check in.
- Share 2 stories with the children. Classes will be invited to join a 'live' story session where a member of staff will read them a story, through Google Meet and the other story will be pre-recorded for children to choose when they would like to listen to it during the week. Your class teacher will inform you when your child's class will have their story time.
- If any parents have any questions or require support with Remote Learning, you can contact teachers directly through Seesaw.

P2/3-P7

In P2/3-P7 all four classes are planning to introduce the following from next week.

- Upload the weekly learning grid on a Monday morning to Google Classrooms. The learning grid will provide an overview of the intended learning, detailing the activities, learning prompts and reference required resources or web links. The learning tasks will be uploaded into clearly labelled folders, Literacy, Numeracy, Learning Across the Curriculum and Other Activities.
- Teaching input will be uploaded in a format which best suits the learning intentions such as: a written explanation or PowerPoint; a link to a video/audio clip; a recorded lesson made by the class teacher or a demonstration of how to carry out a task or procedure.
- The Google Classroom should only be used for the purpose of teaching and learning. There is a classroom stream where teachers will post announcements, including their weekly learning grid. Children can use this stream to ask questions and discuss learning tasks. This is not compulsory and is up to individual choice. Children are reminded to follow the Remote Learning Code of Conduct when using this feature.
- Every day, provide a daily 'live' check-in with each class through Google Meet. The link to access the Google Meet will be posted within Google Classrooms. Children will need to be logged into their Glow account to join the check-in.
- If any parents have any questions or require support with Remote Learning, you can contact teachers directly through Seesaw.

'Live' Interactions through Google Meet.

The table below details the 'live' check-in time for each class. It is our expectation that these sessions will be daily and will last for approximately 15 minutes. Class teachers will communicate with children the structure of these sessions. They will provide opportunities for children:

- To connect with school staff and their classmate.
- To ask questions and receive support with remote learning activities.
- To celebrate achievements and successes.

Daily 'Live' Class Check-ins

Time	Classes
9:00am	P1b, P1/2, P3, P5, P6a, P7b
9:30am	P1a, P2, P4/5, P6b, P7a
10:00am	P2/3, P3/4, P4

Please note, it might not always be your child's class teacher leading their daily check-in as some teachers are supporting in-school learning during this time. We are hoping that during daily 'live' check-ins that we can connect the children who are learning remotely at home with the children who are learning in school. We are keeping our fingers and toes crossed our first 'live' check-ins go smoothly on Monday morning and technology is on our side!

Please support your child to follow our Remote Learning Code of Conduct (attached to this letter) when participating in these 'Live' interactions.

We do hope and expect that children will make a good effort with remote learning tasks and try their best. Teachers, Learning Assistants and the ELC team will monitor our online classrooms throughout the week. They will provide learners with feedback on the learning tasks they submit and answer any questions.

Support guidance for accessing online Google Classroom and Seesaw is available on Midlothian Council's website <https://sites.google.com/mc.glow.scot/distancelearning-parentcarer/> . If after consulting these materials, you require additional assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

Whilst lockdown is in place we will continue to monitor our remote learning approach and evaluate this on an on-going basis. If needed, we will make changes to best support our children, families and staff. Please remember we are in this together and you can get in touch with the school at any time if you are finding things difficult. We are here to help! We are aware that some families may not have access to some resources at home e.g. pens, crayons, coloured pencils, glue, paper etc. Please let us know through Seesaw or by contacting the school and we can provide some resources for you.

During the first lockdown the strength of our school community shone through. Let us face current challenges together, in the hope of brighter months ahead.

Stay safe!

Vicky Morgan
Head Teacher

