

NEWTONGRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EDUCATION DIVISION

Head Teacher
Miss V Morgan

**Midlothian**

Our Ref:



08.01.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you managed to enjoy some time over Christmas to switch off and just enjoy being in the now, without thinking about the what if's of 2020 or the what's to come in 2021. Life has been very difficult with Tier 4 restrictions in place and now National Lockdown, so I appreciate you may well have not experienced the holiday period you would have liked, hopefully, life will improve for us all again soon.

As you will be aware the First Minister made an announcement on Monday 4 January about the new restrictions to combat COVID 19. This included the stay at home guidance which came into effect on 5 January 2021.

Remote Learning

Our remote learning plan will commence on **Monday 11th January** for all year groups. We have worked extremely hard since August to ensure our plan is suitable for all children who are required to learn from home. Our ELC, P1 and P1/2 learners will use Seesaw as their platform for remote learning and Learners from P2 – P7 will use Google Classrooms. Teachers will upload meaningful, high quality and manageable activities based on children's current learning targets.

Each week teachers and ELC staff will share a learning grid with a range of literacy, numeracy and learning across the curriculum activities for learners to undertake. Learners are encouraged to share their learning with their teacher through the digital platforms. Other activities, such as our Family Health and Wellbeing Grid and 'Newtongrange's Daily 5' can be completed throughout the week.

All home learning activities are suggested not expected.

Remote Learning Support

If you require support with:

- devices
- accessing digital platforms
- passwords reset
- learning packs
- stationary to support remote learning
- or anything else

Please remember we are here to help and do not hesitate to get in contact with us. You can contact your child's class teacher through Seesaw or Google Classroom directly or you can contact the school by phone or email.

Midlothian Council have developed a Parent Information page, which has a range of videos to support families in using Glow and Seesaw for accessing online activities.

Click here for Glow support <https://sites.google.com/mc.glow.scot/distancelearning-parentcarer/glow>

Click here for Seesaw support <https://sites.google.com/mc.glow.scot/distancelearning-parentcarer/other-tools/seesaw>

Teacher responsibilities

Please remember that in addition to providing remote learning activities, teachers and ELC staff will have other commitments during the period of closure. In particular some staff members are part of our core team providing in-school learning for key worker and vulnerable children. Also, like everyone else within our school community, staff will also have their own personal commitments which may include caring for children, elderly relatives or other vulnerable friends and family.

We will do our very best to ensure your child receives feedback on their learning regularly and please be mindful some remote learning activities and feedback may be set by another teacher. It may also take longer than usual for members of the school's admin staff or leadership team to respond to individual emails or queries. We do ask for your patience and understanding at this time.

Coping practically and emotionally during the Covid-19 outbreak

During these uncertain times, it can be very daunting and worrying for you and your family. With daily updates and briefings in the news, it is natural to feel anxious, as this is unknown territory. There is lots of useful advice and resources designed to help us cope with such stress and uncertainty at this time. Please refer to our health and wellbeing section on our school website for resources <https://newtongrange.mgfl.net/health-and-wellbeing/>

Expectations

Please remember we are not asking you to 'home school' your child, but where possible to support your child with learning activities at home. We understand that many of you are still trying to work from home in these challenging circumstances. Home learning activities have been designed to be as independent as possible, bearing in mind access to technology and children's differing maturity levels. Any support you can provide is welcome and worthwhile but hopefully not always necessary.

Please try and not worry about your child regressing in school. Every child is in the same situation and they will be ok. When we are back in school, we will work hard to meet their needs where they are. Every family's situation is different and the most important thing is yours and your child/ren's mental wellbeing and health. Do what you can to keep your family happy and safe.

Family Support

Please remember there are lots of different supports available to families during these unprecedented times. Further details of these supports are detailed on our school website.

<http://newtongrange.mgfl.net/covid-19-information/>

Please be assured that Newtongrange Primary School staff will do all they can to ensure that we provide the best service possible for our key worker/vulnerable children in school as well as for the majority of children working at home. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team of staff who will strive to do their best for our Newtongrange families whilst also grappling with the implications of this further lockdown for their own families.

Your child's teacher/ key worker or another member of staff may call you (this might show up as a private number) to check in with you and your family and to see if we can provide any further support during this lockdown. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us, if you have any concerns or worries or need any support. Contact us on 0131 271 4645 or newtongrange_ps@midlothian.gov.uk

These are worrying times and it is very important that everyone follows the national rules and that you and your family stay as safe as possible.

Hopefully, we will see you all again very soon.

Please take care and keep safe.

Kind regards

Vicky Morgan
Head Teacher

