

People & Partnerships

Midlothian Council
Fairfield House
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Dalkeith
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Executive Director
Ms Fiona Robertson

Midlothian



19 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to extend a personal thank you to all for your continued support at the start of this term. I know that many of you are supporting your children and young people while juggling other responsibilities and appreciate the challenge that presents.

Last week I had the pleasure of a virtual meeting with the Chairs of our Parent Councils and was heartened to hear their very positive comments about the range of learning activities being offered to pupils. I am sure you appreciate the extent to which teachers are going to in providing 'live' learning opportunities and check -in style interactions with their children. I recognise that staff, in both our schools and working remotely, are planning well to meet the learning needs of learners and I understand the challenge for those who do so whilst supporting their own children with their learning.

As we move into another week of remote learning, and now that we know we will be continuing with this until at least mid-February, I am sure our approaches will continue to develop further. Our Remote Learning Guidance, which your school will make available to you via their usual channels of communication, is in line with national principles and expectations. In order to outline to you our expectations and commitment to this, I attach our *Midlothian Promise for the Delivery of Remote Learning*.

We ask that you continue to be supportive to teachers as they further develop their skills, which will help provide children and young people with their entitlement to a balance of 'live' learning opportunities (which may also take the form of recorded videos or voice recordings in which teachers explain and/or demonstrate the learning) and independent activity. I also attach two documents from our Digital Learning Team which you may find of use in this regard.

During these unprecedented times, it is also important to support and look after everyone's wellbeing. You will notice that schools and individual teachers will place an emphasis on this through their communications with children and young people, and I would urge you to contact your child's school if you have any concerns about your child's health and wellbeing. It is important that we look after each other as this pandemic has impacted on so many of our lives.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light grey rectangular background.

Ms Fiona Robertson

Executive Director, Children, Young People & Partnerships