Dear Parents/Carers,

 I hope you are all continuing to keep well and have managed to get out and enjoy some more of the sunshine that we have been lucky enough to have!

 It is so lovely to see all the fantastic learning that has been going on in all the different Google Classrooms. Thank you for supporting your child with this and for upholding high expectations for what they complete. If your child has not yet uploaded anything to Google Classroom, please support them to do this as a matter of priority. It is important that our learners maintain a link with their peers, their teachers and their school and this is a simple way to do that.

I am aware that some families are choosing not to engage with Google Classrooms at all, however I encourage you to engage in some way, however small, in order to highlight the value of education and the importance of responsibility, time management and self-improvement. Next week’s activities will all be based around School Camp; this is a perfect opportunity to engage with Google Classroom if your child has not yet done so as the activities will be ‘hands on’ and a bit different to what has typically been happening in Google Classroom over the last 7 weeks.

 Our in-service day this week was very productive. As a staff, we looked to identify priorities for school improvement next session. We will continue to work on this over the next few weeks and we hope to share this with you and gain your thoughts and ideas soon.

 We are making good progress with our transition programmes for P1 and P7. We have had a number of meetings to ensure we provide the best experiences possible for our learners as we know how important the transition process is. More on this to follow.

 I was delighted to hear how so many of you enjoyed our Staff Quiz last week. The feedback has been so positive and it is very much welcomed by our staff, who put a lot of time and love in to the preparation of these activities. This week’s Fun Family Friday activity will, as usual, be revealed in our school assembly, so if you haven’t watched it yet, you have something to look forward to!

 Again, there are a number of attachments with this update, which you may find useful, such as information from the National Parent Forum of Scotland about ‘Learning at Home in Lockdown’ and ‘Online Safety’. There is some really useful advice on these documents, as well as some links you can follow to find out more information. I encourage you to read them.
There is also a short story that can be shared with learners to help them to understand what a pandemic is, which I know some of you will find useful.

As mentioned before, Midlothian’s Educational Psychology website has lots of information about how to look after your emotional and mental wellbeing during this time. It has lots of resources for both parents and children. You can visit it at <https://mideps.edublogs.org/> I am

I am sure that many of you have heard the First Minister’s statement yesterday in relation to schools reopening on the 11th August for all, which is earlier than our planned day of 19th August. She also stated that learners will continue to spend some time learning at home and spend some time learning at school. Please be assured that your child’s health and safety will be our greatest priority upon the reopening of schools and we will follow all procedures carefully, as directed.

Midlothian Council have since released the following information (taken directly from the council website):

**Updated 21 May 2020**

**Update for parents and carers about schools reopening**

***Plans are already well underway to re-open schools in Midlothian and today’s publication of the Scottish Government’s ‘Strategic Framework for Reopening Schools and ELC Settings in Scotland’ gives further clarity on progressing those, including arrangements for the return of specific groups of children in late June to support transition.***

***All ELC settings should continue to provide childcare for key worker families only until further notice.***

***First Minister Nicola Sturgeon also announced that schools will reopen on Tuesday 11 August, which is earlier than our planned date of 19 August.***

***We will be sharing an update on reopening and transition arrangements with staff, parents and carers as soon as we have them. A key priority is to ensure the safety of our children, young people and staff.***

***In the meantime, you can read more information of the First Minister’s plans for schools on the BBC website***

Please continue to use the school email address if you have any questions or queries or require support in any way. If we can’t help you then we have lots of groups we can refer you to who may be able to, no ask is too big or too small.

 For those who are unwell, or who have family members unwell, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and we hope you get well soon.

I hope you all have a lovely week, please continue to send us your photos on google classroom and/or twitter. It is lovely to see the children’s smiley faces and fantastic lockdown outfits!

Be kind and stay safe

Miss Chidgey

#kindnessmidlothian

