



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

7 January 2021

### **DIARY DATES**

11 January All pupils resume – Microsoft Teams for online learning

### **Dear P4-7 Families**

I would like to start by wishing all of you a very Happy New Year. I know these are very challenging times for all of us but I believe that by working together we will be able to support each other.

We have had a very busy start to school and have managed to get our school hub up and running. This had to be done very quickly and I want to thank the school staff who helped organise this and staff it this week. Thank you to our key worker families (who cannot work from home) for their flexibility and only requesting a place where there was no alternative. We need to minimise the number of children and staff in the school building to minimise the spread of this virus, especially with the new variant being so prevalent.

School staff have also been working very hard this week to prepare for online learning until Friday 29 January. Currently children are all expected to be back at school on Monday 1 February but this is dependent on many factors and the Scottish Government will keep us all updated.

Families who requested to borrow an iPad using our online Form opted to collect them either this afternoon or tomorrow morning at 9.30am. The booking form will re-open tomorrow and this will allow us time to set up further iPads next week, should there be any additional requests.

Our online learning will build on our provision during the first Lockdown but we will now be able to interact more with the children. I have outlined a brief overview as to how this will look

when the children resume learning on Monday 11 January. Please note that this may evolve as we try things out.

A general plan for the week will normally be posted on Teams on a Friday. However, expect the first one by Monday.

### **Monday to Thursday**

There will be specific core learning tasks set each day in Literacy and Numeracy/Maths, with accompanying learning intentions and success criteria.

There will be another task each day from another curriculum area.

We will prioritise Health and Wellbeing for all.

Children may choose additional tasks from a range of other activities which will support Health and Wellbeing, Creativity and Life Skills.

Children will have two formal Assignments (assessed work) every week in Literacy and Numeracy/Maths.

Children may also receive informal feedback at other times.

Teachers will provide pre-recorded videos containing direct teaching of core learning for the children in Teams. This will be a mixture of visual and audio.

### **Friday**

This will be a more flexible day with children focusing on different areas designed by the teachers. There will also be pre-recorded Assemblies for P1-P3 and P4-P7.

Our Support for Learning team is in the process of contacting families directly by email or by telephone to make arrangements for support over the coming weeks. There will be a mix of pre-recorded online lessons on PowerPoint and live sessions for some groups or individuals on Teams.

P4-7 will continue to use Microsoft Teams for online learning. **It would be helpful if you could let us know as soon as possible** if you are having trouble accessing Teams.

We will also provide opportunities for the children to interact live with teachers online via Microsoft Teams. We will begin hosting live check-in times with the pupils – at pre-arranged times in the week - from Monday 11 January. This will include opportunities for the children to talk to their teacher and to use Microsoft Teams' two-way video functionality.

**PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED RESPONSIBLE USE GUIDES AND SHARE WITH YOUR CHILD. CONTACT [admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk) IF YOU DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION FOR THIS.**

The pre-arranged check-in times for each year group are as follows:

- P4 12:00- 12:30
- P5 9:30- 10:00
- P6 11:00- 11:30
- P7 9:00- 9:30

These meetings will occur each Monday, Wednesday and Friday and can be located via the Calendar section in your child's class Team. On Monday 11 January, your child's class teacher will share the format of these check-ins, which might include: an overview of the week, a question and answer session, a story, an opportunity to ask for support or a review of the week. (Please see attached Teams HOW-TO Guide for families.)

Although at times it was challenging, we have been reflecting on just how fortunate we have been to be able to return to relative normality since August. We look forward to the day when we can welcome all the children back to the building and restore normality again. We know it has not been and will not be easy for families and we thank you for working with us to support the children at this time. Our staff are looking forward to supporting you with online learning as well as working shifts in the Hub.

Stay safe, stay home wherever possible and look after each other.

Andrew

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