







2nd February 2021

Dear Parents and families.

I hope our February newsletter finds you in good health and as well as can be expected during this time of uncertainty and huge risk.

I wish to convey both condolences for those who have passed due to Covid-19 and heartfelt wishes, for a speedy recovery, for those testing positive. Our school community has been affected, like most. Better times must lie ahead.

Today's update from the First Minister, Ms. Sturgeon, advised of a return for P1-3 children from 22nd February. I will communicate further detail of this when our plans for a safe return are finalised.

Learning provision

I fully understand the challenges of home learning, as do staff, who themselves can often have children at home whilst carrying out their jobs; it is fraught with potential stress and anxiety. Please remember it is all relatively new to many but by working together, we will continue to support the children in every way possible.

The teachers are providing daily activities and many of the children are responding well. We hope your child is managing to check in every day with his/her teacher. We do monitor levels of engagement and completion of tasks with a view to contacting any families who may need a quick call to offer support.

I know that you will be trying to get your child to complete their tasks; truly, everyone deserves a medal!

Showbie engagement levels

88% to 100% have signed up for Showbie, depending on the class.

There is **76-90% average** engagement, again depending on the class. Not all children who have signed up are completing the activities set each day. There is a clear weekly trend of less being completed on a Friday. We will keep working to encourage increased levels of engagement.

Short survey

I am looking for your valued feedback on the home learning provision. To this end, there is a short survey on Showbie that I ask you complete. Your comments will help us to evaluate our next steps.

iPads and devices

It is evident that not all of our families have access to tablets or iPads to complete online tasks. It is also the case that I do not have an infinite number of devices to offer and the school is not giving out new iPads to keep, to everyone ... I only wish I could

This said we have managed to support many families but in order to clarify what has been issued; I have outlined the position below.

We are dealing with four sources of iPads:

- P7 iPads,
- Digital Inclusion iPads,
- Community Trust iPads
- Legacy iPads.

- All P7 children have a school iPad as per Glasgow City Council Education practice. These may be taken on to the secondary school, if within Glasgow.
- <u>Digital Inclusion iPads</u>- all parents were asked/surveyed back in October, if they required a device because the government was providing Digital Inclusion iPads to schools. We received around 58 requests from families. However, we received 33 iPads. These have been issued to families and will be returned eventually to the school (within the year).
- <u>Community Trust iPads</u> were sought and we secured 28. These were issued, primarily to the families who missed out and did not get the <u>Digital Inclusion</u> ones. These can be kept by the families, in line with the Community Trust policy. There is a contact name/number on them if you need support with them. They are not school property.
- <u>Legacy iPads</u>- these belong to the school and we have issued some to families on a temporary basis. They are used in class regularly and they must be returned when this is requested by us. They will support Showbie and Sumdog use. If we obtain anymore, I will let you know.

Children's Glow emails

West Online School is part of the national e-learning offer. West Online School has recorded lessons in Literacy and Numeracy (many of which have been recorded by teachers) which can be used as part of the remote learning offer.

In order to get the full benefit of West Online School, your child will need his/her Glow email address and password which will be issued via Showbie soon. The lessons are accessed through a Glow tile and we will give you advice about this too and it will be posted both and Showbie and the school website.

Staffing updates

- Mrs Adams P5 class teacher (currently Mr Robb) has returned to her post after Maternity Leave. Let's hope the little one will not miss mummy too much!
- Miss Black has returned to her DHT post from her foot injury and we wish her a happy return.
- Miss Degnan will continue in her role as acting DHT for a while yet.
- Miss Linning will continue in her post as acting Principal Teacher too, until further notice.



http://www.ourladyofpeace-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/News/Story.aspx?SectionId=6d275a80-5e97-48a9-8785-d50cc050053c&StoryId=a6914273-07fb-4501-802d-5ccddc0a8449 The link to Maureen McKenna's (Director of Education) Covid Question & Answer session with parents on 28th January 2021

As ever, we are here to help as much as we can. Please just call the school office or use the school email/my email should you need to be in touch.

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Yours sincerely Mrs A M McDonald Headteacher

<u>Key COVID information:</u> Glasgow Online <u>http://www.goglasgow.org.uk/Pages/Show/2344</u> City Council <u>https://glasgow.gov.uk/coronavirus</u> https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/26214/Coronavirus-COVID-19-advice-and-guidance-for-schools Government <u>https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020/</u>