



Dream it, Live it, Achieve it



School Newsletter

May 2020

School Priorities for 2019/20

- Review the implementation of activities to support the development of pupil Health & wellbeing
- Develop a consistent whole school approach to learning, teaching and assessment of learning
 - Develop approaches to engage parents/carers with family learning and partnerships
 - Develop approaches to support high quality play

Dear Parents

We are fast approaching the last month of this school session and in the most unusual of circumstances. As you will understand, the end of this school year will be very different as we continue to adhere to Scottish Government advice and home learning continues.

We thank you for your continued support and ask that our school community is mindful of the updated guidance from Scottish Government. Whilst some measures of lockdown are being eased, we are still being reminded to 'stay at home as much as possible'

I am sure you will be aware that Scotland's 1st Minister recently outlined plans for education, indicating that school buildings will welcome learners back in August. We are delighted that we will see our learners back in school in August and we look forward to our new P1s joining us. The return to in-school learning will be a special moment and one we are all looking forward to. The initial return of children will be through a 'blended' model of in-school and home learning. How this will take shape is still being considered, we will keep you informed as best we can about plans for next session and how our blended model will begin.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, the health and wellbeing of children and staff will be our main consideration as we make decisions regarding our return to in-school learning. We are fortunate that our curriculum makes good use of our local context and the resources surrounding us, we will continue making best use of our outdoor space to support learning.

I have said often that we are very fortunate that we have a supportive school and wider community, this supportive community will be necessary when we return to school. A new normal will be established and we will require the support of everyone to ensure that our children feel welcomed and reassured upon their return.

We will focus our return to school on positivity by engaging with nurturing activities that celebrate our community relationships and our resilience. We will take small steps and ensure that our nurturing approach supports our goals and helps to re-establish the very good ethos of our school.

Throughout this unusual time there will be have been times when things for all families have been good and times when things have been not so good; we must understand and respond as a community to the individual needs of all when we return to our school building. The support of all children and families for all children and families will be essential to ensure a very welcoming, understanding and empathetic approach for all.

Our plans for our return to the school building are developing in light of the current advice and guidance from Scottish Government; this guidance will undoubtedly change over the next months and our approach will evolve in line with the guidance.

Continued Engagement with Learning

It has been really fabulous to see so many children joining their online 'class meetings'. These have proved fun, engaging and really helpful for children to keep connected with their classmates and friends. If your child has yet to manage to attend a 'class meeting', please try and support this over the next few weeks. Thank you to parents for supporting these meetings.

I hope your children are also enjoying their virtual tour of the continents of the world. I know that they are enjoying the videos of staff guiding them to their new destinations, as I am 😊

And the Oscar goes to....???

We will have a continued focus on our 'remarkable world' and a possible quiz to end our tour!

Over the next few weeks we may also ask for video contributions from our learners to be uploaded to their virtual classrooms. Once again, this is intended as an opportunity to have fun and to raise smiles 😊 Do what you can and have fun doing it.

To those children and families who continue to engage with home learning in various ways, you are doing a great job. I know this can be a difficult task but we really do appreciate all that you are doing to support learning. I know that for some, the longer the current situation continues the more difficult it may be to enthuse children's engagement but please do what you can and remember, you can only do your best.

I ask once more that children please sign in on their class register as they engage with their tasks.

Questionnaires

You may receive some questionnaires over the next while. Your answers to these questionnaires will inform next steps at both a school and authority level. Your engagement with this is very helpful and I ask that spare a few minutes to answer these.

Reporting Progress for this Academic Session

Pupil progress reports for this current session will be issued on Friday June 19th. Due to the current situation, progress will be reported from the beginning of this academic session up until school buildings closed on March 20th, in line with guidance from East Lothian Council.

Ordering School Uniforms

Patricia Bewsey our main local uniform supplier has asked us to help her find a way to get things moving again in advance of schools starting back. She would like to let everyone know that she will be taking orders online at Patricia Bewsey Design www.garmentprinter.co.uk and that can be ordered any time. She has indicated that she has lots of stock as this all had to be ordered in January. We will obviously need to try to get all these uniforms out to everyone the best way we can nearer the time of School starting back, we as a School will liaise with Patricia to facilitate this.

A reminder of helpful links to guidance / support / advice

East Lothian Council have composed a number of information leaflets that can be found on the school blog

<https://www.edubuzz.org/dirleton/category/news-from-the-head-teacher/>

Parent Zone Scotland have a number of related links that you may find useful. Access them at

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/covid19/be-at-the-heart-of-your-child-s-learning-during-covid-19/>

Within this web page you will be directed to a number of supportive educational resources – linked directly from

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/03/19/school-closures-educational-resources-for-parents-and-families/>



As Ever,
Take Care & Stay Safe
B. Moody
Head Teacher

