

Law Primary School



Happy New Year

Welcome back to the spring term. We are looking forward to the nights becoming lighter and the date of our vaccinations getting ever closer.

I hope everyone had a well-earned break. It was lovely to relax in a new way this Christmas with all social engagements cancelled affording us much time to do little. I personally enjoyed that very much.

Children in school

I am sure you all have strong views one way or another about school children being able to attend school. In such a large school as Law we see in excess of 60 staff in the building every single day and I am sure you will agree that at the moment this number of adults in a confined space is not safe. Schools will open to a very limited number of children following strict guidance. Only staff who have been asked to support these children will be allowed in the building to reduce the possibility of the virus spreading.

The children coming into school will be reallocated to a new bubble grouping and will stick with this bubble for the foreseeable future. If anyone tests positive within the bubble, the whole bubble who have been in school with the adult or child will have to isolate.

Keyworker spaces in school

Keyworker spaces are allocated following strict criteria and are all decided by a panel of Educational staff. There is no decision-making at school level around this and so if your place is not supported by the panel the decision cannot be overturned by the school.

The application process has opened again for keyworkers who now need space given the news of the extended lockdown period. Please note days will be allocated only for times at work and not while working from home or days off etc.

Places for children who may be vulnerable if not in school

Again strict criteria are in place to meet the needs of children who may fall into this category. I am sure many parents feel their child would fit this category for one reason or another and therefore strict criteria need to be applied to ensure equity. Again the numbers granted a place in this group are very small.

If you feel your child should be considered then please email a full account of your circumstances to the Law Primary School email address for the attention of Shona Thomas. Your application will be discussed at a senior leadership team meeting.

Offer of learning

Children who will be in school will be receiving the same educational input as children at home. The learning will be delivered online in the same way for all children. Children will be supported to access this learning from a range of staff.

Learning continuity

We have been looking at the offer of learning and how to ensure that children sustain their engagement over this period of time. It is **essential** that children engage in the priority tasks set each day by their class teacher and then other activities will be offered as additional, extension tasks as part of your child's day.

One of the most pronounced consequences of the previous lockdown was children's reluctance to put pen to paper when they returned to school. For younger children particularly their physical dexterity was greatly reduced. For this reason, class teachers will be ensuring a writing task is prioritised each day.

If children require any resources to engage with learning activities at home please contact us and we can ensure these are packaged up and put out for collection at a set time and place.

Class teachers will register classes every day Monday to Friday. This will take the format of short Google Meets to cover the day's activities and address any difficulties which have arisen or are preventing children from engaging. Details will be available in your child's Google Classroom prior to Monday. **If your child has forgotten their Google login, please get in touch with the school office immediately.**

Each year stage will produce a timetable for all pupils to follow. This will contain recorded lessons and activities, including

lessons from our Art and Music specialists.

Staff are contracted to teach for 22.5 hours throughout the school, and children have 25 hours of teaching time. While in school this additional time is provided by the Specialists in art, music, PE or French. To enable staff to meet and have their appropriate planning time these designated times will be indicated on the year stage timetable and staff will not be available to participate online during this time. In addition we require a teacher to be present for each group in the Critical Childcare Hub so they may not be as fully available for online feedback for their class on the day that they are on rota, but will have times during the day to catch up.

Parent consultations

Instead of the usual parent consultations which were planned for the week before the February break where we would update you on educational progress since October, we will be offering family check-in calls over the next few weeks. This will give you the opportunity to speak to the teacher about any concerns you have and access advice on how best to support your child at home. Please note that the calls will be delivered mainly through your child's teacher's own mobile phone so the call will show no caller id. I know a number of parents are always wary of this. Your child's teachers will arrange these calls.

Calls can last no more than 15 minutes and the teachers will not be able to deal with requests for places in school.

Should you wish to contact your child's teacher please do not use your child's edubuzz email. This breaks the IT protocols we have in place and places your child's email account in jeopardy. Your teacher can be contacted through the school email account or their edubuzz email address.

Additional devices

Please complete the following form if you require support with an additional device to allow your child to access their learning. Each child in school will require a device so the number we have available has been reduced. The parent council is receiving offers of old devices and will be in touch about how these can be accessed. If you require a device please contact the main school office.

Phone calls will be made to parents to arrange a pick up time for a device.

The government has launched support for families to access an increase in their data allowance. Information can be found here.

[Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children - Get help with technology - GOV.UK \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increasing-data-allowances-on-mobile-devices-to-support-disadvantaged-children)

There is also support available for any parents who are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID. Information can be found here:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/30092/financial_support_during_covid-19

I am sure there will be difficult times ahead but I would like to thank everyone for bearing with us as we prepare for the next few weeks. We will keep in touch with you and please do get in touch with us with any queries, requests or concerns you may have.

I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday, virtually or in person.

Jacqui MacKinnon

Head Teacher