

PAISLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

22.2.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school or remote/live learning after the half-term break. As I write this newsletter, I am very conscious that the Prime Minister will be outlining the road map for the relaxation of the lockdown later today. Obviously, as soon as we have received further instruction and information on school reopening, I will write to you with further details to confirm dates and any other organisational information.

As I did last half-term, I would like to thank all the parents and carers for your continued support for remote/live learning. It has been a steep learning curve for everyone involved: staff, children, parents, but we are really appreciative of your effort, resilience and the fact that the vast majority of children are accessing the online learning. I've included some of your feedback and our responses at the end of this newsletter. You will note that, if you've struggled at times or had issues with technology, you have not been alone... Thank you and please remember that you are doing your best and that's all we ask!

In terms of the spring term Parents Evenings, rather than produce a written report like last term, each class teacher will be arranging a brief meeting with you, at a mutually-convenient time, to discuss your child's learning. This meeting will either be over the telephone or via MS TEAMS. Class teachers will send out further information in the very near future. The meetings will be held over a fortnight, beginning on 22nd March.

On behalf of all the Paisley team, I thank you all for your continued support for the work of the school and send you our very best wishes.

Mrs. Hird

Headteacher

REMINDER ON SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Just a reminder that your child needs a P.E. kit, indoor shoes, book bag and a water bottle in school. Towards the end of last term we had a growing number of children wearing inappropriate jewellery. Earrings should be small studs and the only piece of jewellery allowed is a sensible watch. Unfortunately, some bracelets and necklaces were being worn and this is not permitted. A reminder, too, that nail varnish should not be worn. We also have some occasions when our older girls were clearly coming to school wearing make up. This is not allowed. Thank you for your support in these matters.

READ, WRITE, INC., PHONICS INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE

Just a reminder that on our website, if you click on curriculum, phonics and reading, you will find a letter to parents from Miss Leach, which explains the RWI programme and also includes a link to the Oxford Owl website. There you will find a mixture of story and phonics books to support your child's reading.

PARENT GOVERNOR

After our successful recruitment of our Parent Governor, Sarah Beetham, last term, we still have a vacancy for another Parent Governor on our Local Governing Body. If you are interested in joining the Local Governing Body and contributing to the strategic direction of our school, and would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me, via the school office.

DIARY DATES

Hopefully, when the children return to school, we may be in a position to host a few socially-distanced events in school. This will depend on any revised risk assessments. Any forthcoming events this spring term will be communicated to you in separate letters, in due course.

4th March – World Book Day – Celebratory event, both in school and via remote learning

19th March – Red Nose Day – Celebratory event, both in school and via remote learning

22nd March until 2nd April – Parent Consultations via telephone or TEAMS – further details to follow

23rd March – Key Stage 1 Topic Day

25th March – EYFS Easter Bonnet Parades

29th March – 9th April – Easter Holidays

12th April – Teacher Training Day

13th April – Children return to school

REMOTE LEARNING FEEDBACK

It would be great if the same format was used when different teachers are teaching e.g., being able to edit the work, etc.

We have moved to a single remote learning team so that we can be as consistent as possible. This should mean that the work set is also consistent.

I really like to see my teachers. It makes me happy. I like to see my friends joining in, too.

We like to see everyone, too!

My child is doing his school work at home very well but sometimes finds it difficult to keep up and play catch up when child goes to grand parents' houses for childcare, due to work reasons.

Don't feel too pressured in these situations- nothing is straight-forward. We want all children accessing as much of the remote learning as possible but we know there are situations when it is not possible. We appreciate that you are doing your best!

The lessons on the laptop are great... I am just rubbish on the laptop. i.e., this morning, I had to log off it, as I didn't know how to take the camera off, although my child still listened to the story and has drawn a thermometer, which was set. Sorry.

Please don't be sorry for struggling with the technology. We were able to help this family with a school appointment. Please speak to the school office to get some support.

Microsoft TEAMS is a bit difficult to get used to. My child has followed the steps by using the calendar to get into his live lessons but there are always more than one live lesson to choose from and he has gone in to the wrong one a couple of times and had to wait until the lesson had been uploaded to watch again.

We have made changes to avoid this happens now, so hopefully, it won't be a problem for you anymore.

The cameras on would be great. My son is missing his friends so much he would love to see them. Especially having 2 much older sisters he doesn't see anyone his age now.

We introduced cameras in the final week of last half-term. From Monday, the teachers will be holding a brief, daily well-being check with cameras on, as part of the lesson.

This week he has had the opportunity to share at the end of the lesson his favourite food or activity and that's made him so happy, it's a good incentive to get through the lesson. More of this simple stuff would be good. Overall we are happy as possible with the amount of assignments and live lessons. It's enough with me having others at home and a job to do outside the home. Perhaps some encouragement to read books and be able to send work in or a picture in of what they have read would be good and encouraging. Thanks for work so far everyone.

Thank you for your positive and helpful feedback. We have now encouraged children to send in their work or a picture. Some of these are on our website. We have also begun practical activities away from a screen through our, 'Screen Free Fridays' initiative.

We are doing the minimum amount of work. It's very hard to motivate them whilst trying not to let your relationship suffer through the stress and nagging. The teachers are doing a great job and I have utter admiration on how they are dealing with this crisis.

Just do what you can and make sure that you ensure your family's well-being. Thank you for the support.