**P6/7 Newsletter Term 4**

Dear Parents,

I wanted to write to you to let you know, as usually happens, the sorts of activities that your child will be undertaking this term, albeit in a very different way! As you know I wrote to you two weeks before the end of term giving lots of information about learning websites and ideas for activities during this time away from school and I would urge you to have another look at that as all the information there is still very relevant.

As you know each day I am uploading three activities to our Google Classroom (except on a Wednesday where Mrs Rennie continues to provide one of our daily tasks, focusing on General Knowledge and Geography at the moment). Each day the pupils will have a literacy task, a numeracy task and a task from another curricular area.

These tasks will of course, be different from tasks undertaken when in a classroom environment, and will be mostly revising and consolidating skills already learned or applying them in a different way, please do NOT worry if they are not all completed or indeed if some prove tricky or if your child is just not in the right place that day. These tasks are provided to keep some form of learning available, when we do (and we will!) return to the classroom, be that Fishermoss or the Academy, no child will be ‘behind’ or have any gaps. Every child in Scotland is in the same situation. As we keep saying, and I know that I am repeating myself as I say this in my daily classroom posts, your family well-being is the priority. As a parent myself working at home and helping my two primary age children access home learning tasks, I really do understand the daily juggle, there are days where children complete tasks, there are days when some are completed and there are days where it is harder to get things done. Emotions can be high, and some days are tough for us as well as our children, all families will be feeling this way at times, mine included. If you have more than one child then learning to share and be with each other more than usual can also prove challenging, as can all sharing the family computers, tablets and trying to stretch the wifi so that everybody can use them.

You are likely to be involving your child in gardening, cooking, house-work (well we can dream!) and other tasks that are all rich learning experiences. Perhaps your child is learning a new skill, or trying to beat their record for trampoline bounces or keepy-ups. Maybe like me, your house is just covered in Lego models! There is plenty to do that is not screen or school based. Some afternoons here turn into a movie and popcorn fest. There is no right or wrong daily schedule. Lots of you will be working from home, trying to participate in online meetings without little visitors on the screen, working out how to get the shopping delivered and helping family and friends if they are unable to get out. The acts of kindness demonstrated in the community from painted stones to dropping off a card show how much our children are learning.

The tasks provided will take many forms, the literacy tasks may involve spelling tasks, or some tools for writing (such as up-levelling sentences or using descriptive language) there may be a story starter or perhaps watching Newsround and taking notes. The maths tasks may be a short exercise to revise mental maths, tables, or consolidation of addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. We will be looking at measurement this term, revising length, volume and mass, lots of scope for home activities such as baking there or helping measure for DIY tasks. There may also be problem solving issued, this is where I really want to stress that there is no expectation for everything to be complete, as problem solving can involve using multiple strategies and for many pupils they can find this difficult when not in a classroom where we can talk it through and share ideas.

 Setting work remotely is a new challenge for me, and there may be times when the work seems too tricky or indeed too easy, I will be honest and say that I am learning too! Use what is set in a way which suits your family, and how you are feeling that day.

 The third task may be an art task or perhaps Health and wellbeing or PE. We do have a ‘topic’ this term and I am delighted to say it is science! There are lots of fabulous resources available to do home experiments, and again I will state that if you can’t or don’t want to complete these tasks or if you don’t have the equipment required, it is absolutely fine. I will provide notice of anything needed, but it will be things that we usually have around the house.

There may be families where the work provided is more than enough, and for some that you may like a little more to fill the day can I remind you about the websites that the children are signed up to such as EPIC, Education City and Sumdog. The BBC Bitesize website is fantastic and each day lessons are provided, there is also a daily 20 minute TV show available on iplayer. My two children have enjoyed it on some days.

I would also like to direct you to the tab on the Fishermoss Website where you can select the Parents tab to find more ideas for Home Learning.

 <https://fishermoss.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/home-learning-links/>

May I also remind you that there are lots of resources in your child’s Homework Diary like times tables, reminders of maths outcomes and also the Book Detective tasks. If your child has left their diary at school do not worry, let me know and we can arrange an electronic version to be emailed to you. There are reminders about the maths and literacy targets for their stage contained within which will also help you when accessing daily tasks.

My initial Home Learning document is still available on Glow but if you can’t find it, or if you are not sure about any logins, or if there are any questions remember that I am still contactable so do not hesitate. Thanks so much to the parents who have sent messages of support and to those who have asked after my own and my families’ health, we are still a class family despite not being physically together.

Finally, Mrs Ferguson sent an email last week detailing websites that provide support for families who are perhaps facing challenges, and I would add that my thoughts are also very much with you. I am missing the class very much and look forward to when we can see eachother again.

With my very best wishes,

Catherine Middleton