May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

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We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well during this challenging time. This is not the way that we would normally start a new Term! We are really missing seeing our pupils’ smiling faces in the morning coming into school and we know that they will be missing their friends and the familiarity of their daily routine. They are probably all settled into a new routine at home by now!

We hope that everyone has managed to find a way of working that suits their family, taking into account the technology available at home, resources you have to hand and the time you can offer, as we are aware many parents are still working. To all those parents who are key workers and NHS staff, we would like to say thank you for all you are doing!

Daily Tasks

Please note that tasks for both P1 and P2 are being set daily, covering literacy, numeracy and another curricular area, differentiated to suit all groups. These tasks can be **accessed via our class Glow page** from the **daily task folders**. We have shown the pupils on numerous occasions how to login to the class page, but we are aware that being some of the youngest pupils in school, they will require greater support to access the page and other online resources. If you are looking for previously set tasks, they will be in the archived work folder and should be dated. Please see below a general guide as to the tasks which will be uploaded each day, although this is not set in stone:

Monday – P1 and P2 Spelling/Phonics, P1 and P2 maths, H and WB or Technology or Art

Tuesday – P1 Comprehension, P2 Literacy activity, P1 and P2 maths, Science

Wednesday – P1 Writing, P2 Comprehension, P1 and P2 maths, PE of some sort

Thursday – P2 Writing, P1 Phonological Awareness, P1 and P2 maths, Topic

Friday – P2 Grammar, P1 Spelling/ Grammar, P1 and P2 Problem Solving, RME

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Task Topics

**Most tasks** set on Glow have been and **will continue to be revision tasks.** This means they cover aspects of learning which the children have already worked on in class. Some tasks may draw on previous learning and skills and encourage your child to apply what they have learned in a different context e.g. Problem Solving.

* This Term, maths will cover various practical topics including measure, volume/ capacity, area and time. We will also encourage pupils to keep their number skills ticking over through daily number and challenges set on Sumdog, for example.
* In literacy, we will continue to introduce new spelling sounds and grammar topics weekly in accordance with our Termly plan. We will revise how to write a letter and instructions and will also have a go at writing some poetry and diary entries.
* Our topic this term is about Living and Non-Living things, food chains, habitats, and growth. Science will link in with topic and explore the five senses of hearing, sight, taste, touch and smell.

Our wish list…

We are aware that each family must find a way of working that suits them best and everyone’s circumstances are different. We are completely supportive of this and wish to help in any way we can. If you have questions or concerns or something that you think we may be able to help with, please contact us direct via email. Our addresses are:

gw16brysonsusan@glow.sch.uk

scameron004@aberdeenschools.org.uk

We are also aware that this will mean some families choose to access all, some or none of what we are offering on the Glow page and that some will access but choose not to upload completed tasks. This is totally understandable, but it does make it challenging for us to assess how everyone is getting on and what they are doing. Even if you choose not to upload, it would be great if you could post the occasional “Hello” on the class page discussion board. If we could have a wish list for the most important things to do with your child to help keep their skills ticking over it would contain the following:

* **Read with, to and hear your child read (for those who are reading) daily.** This does not have to be through books or texts set by us but by using favourite stories you have at home and/ or through websites such as getepic.com.
* **Ensure your child has at least an hour of exercise each day** and try to get outside as much as possible. If you have a garden, make as much use of it as you can. Keep fit using PE with Joe, take other lessons outside or look for specific outdoor learning ideas on Ms Sang’s Glow page.
* **Practise mental maths skills and recall.** For P1, this would mean reciting the numbers 0-20 in order and counting back. It would also mean, for some children, reciting number doubles to 10 e.g. 2+2, 5+5 and number bonds that make 10 e.g. 3+7, 7+3. For P2 this would mean reciting numbers 0-30 (and beyond for some) and counting back. It would also mean, for some children, reciting number doubles to 20 e.g. 6+6, 8+8 and number bonds that make 20 e.g. 3+17, 17+3. Your child can also use Sumdog and Education City to consolidate these skills.
* **Encourage creativity** and help your child to engage in art and craft activities as often as you can.
* **Ensure there are opportunities for mindfulness, rest, relaxation and free play every day.** This may be having a cuddle on the sofa whilst watching a favourite TV programme together or it could be your child having quiet time to draw in a sketchpad. **Follow your child’s interests**, you know them best.
* **Continue to develop your child’s life skills and independence.** A list of age appropriate tasks was sent home with each child when the school closed, and they are also posted up on our class Glow page. These include baking and cooking, helping round the house, helping to get themselves ready etc.

Helpful information

Please note that the **homework diaries contain helpful information** such as common words, a hundred square/number line, hints and tips etc. **They also contain stage appropriate maths and language targets which you may find useful.** If you are unable to find your child’s diary then you can request a copy via email and a copy will also be **uploaded to the class Glow page**.

On the school website if you click on the ‘Parent’ tab you will be able to select ‘ Home School Links’ from a drop down menu, this will enable you to access the school closure letters for all the classes, additional activities and ideas.

We hope to see you all soon and look forward to getting back to some sort of normality. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can support your family in any way.

Keep safe and well,

Mrs Bryson and Mrs Cameron.