

Lochardil Primary School

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emergency closure 0800 564 2272 school's pin number 04 2500



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UNCRC Article 29



Dear Parent/Carers

Thank you all so much for your support this week and as always. The staff have very much enjoyed seeing the children they have been providing childcare for this week, and although slightly different to their usual experiences, the children that have been with us have showed their typical resilient selves and got back into routine well.

Thanks for taking the time to review your needs for accessing the school building for when learning recommences on Monday, this is very much welcomed and we are able to provide for everyone that has made a request while ensuring safety of all is paramount. Please continue to let us know if needs change and we can make any adjustments needed. Particularly if you are not requiring breakfast or OoSC provision as this will still be chargeable but can also affect staffing.

From Monday 11th January our new term will commence and will be delivered remotely online using our Google Classrooms until Monday 1st February or as stated by Scottish Government. Please note our aim is to ensure learning is equitable for all learners both in school or at home and for this reason staff will follow the learning from online i.e. no additional face to face teaching is planned for those in class, and these children will be supported by various members of staff including one of the year group teachers and either a PSA or EYP. Members of management will be supporting daily in school and online also.

Practical information for our weeks ahead -

- **Registers** will be taken and recorded to ensure our children are still accessing their education. Please register (same process as before) by **10.00am** daily (not 12 noon as per previous Lockdown).

If your child is unable to participate in the learning e.g. if unwell or other reason and cannot virtually attend, please follow normal procedures and call the school landline as usual to inform our clerical staff of absence. Our clerical staff will contact you if we have not been informed of any absence, as per normal practice, should your child not attend virtually. As per normal procedure, if we have not had any contact for 3 days to explain absence, Highland Council Child Protection policy will be followed and other services informed.

If child is attending school in person, they do not need to register online.

- Children attending school in person for keyworker/ other care reasons will be grouped in the following **bubbles** – ELC, P1s, P2s, P3s, P4s & P5/4, P5s-P7s. Children should attend at their normal entrances and at times as have been arranged for your childcare needs. As previously, parents/carers (other than for ELC) are not permitted within the school grounds to reduce traffic footfall and ensure safety. Drop offs and pick-ups remain the same, and if parent/carer needs access to school please continue to ring buzzer at front gate where you will be assisted.
- **Teachers/ EYPs/ Head Teacher and all other staff** are available through their usual communication means and our school generic email box will continue to be manned as normal so use this if you need to get in touch or require any support.
- Children can wear own clothes if preferred rather than school uniform if attending in person. Please ensure all clothes are fresh each day.
- **Do not bring** toys from home from Monday 11th January as education resumes.
- Those children who are attending school as parents/ carers are employed as key workers/ for other reasons, please make sure you take your Chromebook/ or own device fully charged to school along with any other work you may need to complete your class tasks set on your Google Classroom. This is not necessary for those that do not own a device or are in ELC-P4 classes as the SmartBoard & some school devices will be accessed.
- ❖ **Learning** - Children are not expected to be online all day. Learning online will include a range of experiences that involve being online but also engaging in practical activities that will involve being indoors and outdoors.

- **Class Learning Termly Overviews will be shared by Friday 22nd January for Term 3** as usually planned. This will include the key focus for learning and teaching for this term and any specific information relating to individual classes.
- **Google Classrooms** – Learning for all pupils ELC – P7 (either online or in the school building) will be delivered through our Google Classrooms. Google Classrooms will be used by class teachers, PSAs and EYPs during this closure to share work and messages rather than the Blog. This allows us as a school to use the Blog & Twitter to communicate other important messages.
- Your child may also be invited to join other Google Classrooms to continue to support their learning e.g. a nurture group classroom if they were previously attending a group, or a wider learning (clubs) group such as Glee for example, the ‘Big Bear Banter’ to support EAL, or other specific groups to support with Literacy in particular.
- **Google Meets** will be used to virtually see each other and meet up as a class at planned times during the week. The link is sited at the top of every Google Classroom and should take you directly to the forum where the host (teacher) will be able to allow access. 11th -15th January there will be daily class meets, then from Monday 18th January to Monday 1st February meets will be twice per week minimum as planned by each class teacher with details shared on the Google Classroom.
- **Google Chat (no longer Google hangouts)** messaging has been set up for every class to be used as a communication tool between pupils and with staff. Teachers will explain how they will use this with their class next week.
Please ensure your child is reminded of online safety and appropriate conduct when using the online tools. Any form of inappropriate conduct or undesirable behaviour should be reported immediately to the class teacher and our usual protocols followed. Pupils should not invite any unknown person to their group and must report this if this occurs. We ask parents/carers to regularly check in with pupils to ensure they are following the online code of conduct and are being safe online, and support appropriate use i.e. times for contacting others etc.
- Our **Family Learning ‘How to Help Guides’** have been uploaded to each Google Classroom for support. Reminders of our **How to** guides for accessing the various tools to support learning online have been posted in the classrooms also e.g. how to upload documents etc. and other how to help guides.
- Staff (Class Teachers & PSAs) log in to their **Google classroom daily**, after our **staff meeting at 9am**, to be available for children to engage and respond to any queries, hold Google Meets, provide work for that day/ week which pupils can complete and hand in as set out in their own classroom.
- **Work agreed** for consistency across our school from ELC – P7 will include a Literacy, Numeracy and Other (teacher choice of curricular area) task daily, plus we will have Health & Wellbeing tasks shared by our P.E. teacher for all classes. We will continue to use our ‘Wellbeing Wednesday’ model where Wednesday afternoons will be set for HWB focus or simply a chance for pupils/parents/carers to draw breath, catch up on any tasks, look at feedback etc. There will also be an *Explore* task shared weekly (starting wk beg. 18th Jan) which are wonderful opportunities to develop the breath and purpose of learning! Our ELC parents/carers are also encouraged to follow the Highland Council ‘Bumps to Bairns’ website www.bumps2bairns.com and you can subscribe to this blog for daily updates. This will all be reviewed regularly and evolve as time progresses if required. Depending on how long we find ourselves using this model for our education, we will use **organised whole school experiences** to get involved in to make a positive impact and take global action within our community, and continue the fun and togetherness!
- **Highland Digital Schools Hub** - These websites
<https://sites.google.com/millburnacademy.org.uk/highlanddigitalschoolshub/digital-skills/parents>
<https://sites.google.com/millburnacademy.org.uk/highlanddigitalschoolshub/home>
include digital skills information and digital skills learning for parents, schools and pupils. Also provides curricular support and guidance through links to various resources and learning opportunities should you want to support further than what is being shared from the teacher. There will be digital lessons available from the Highland Virtual Academy and we will share these on the Google Classrooms for access should you wish or staff plan for use. There is a host of super support here and we will share further details next week.
- **Support for Health and Wellbeing available** through our daily check ins, Emotion Works programme within classes, or other more specific contacts online are detailed on the Digital Schools Hub including <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/support> , <https://www.childline.org.uk/> , <https://young.scot/> and other wellbeing supports such as Place2B Scotland, and others.
- **School meals** will be available to those attending school as per normal school day and continue to be free for P1-P3, with ELC & P4-P7 continuing to pay online. Or packed lunches can be taken from home for P1-P7. Snacks should be taken from home remembering our ‘No Nuts’ in school policy. Those learning online and entitled to Free School Meals should be in receipt of their voucher payments. Please let us know if anyone requires support accessing this.
- **Parent/Carer meetings** are planned to go ahead as scheduled on our annual calendar and information on how these will operate using a virtual platform will be shared over the coming weeks.

Reminder of Guidance for Children and Parents/Carers from Highland Council
Guidelines for Learners on Distance Learning

- Dedicate appropriate time to learning as guided by your teacher/s.

- Regularly check Google classroom for information on classwork.
- Identify a comfortable and quiet space to study/learn.
- When involved in a video session, you should do so in a public room e.g. living/dining room if possible, and be fully dressed.
- Try to complete all the learning activities posted by your teacher.
- Ensure you look after your own health and wellbeing. Don't worry if you can't do everything that your teacher has set. Pupils can contact their class teacher through Google Classroom, Google Chat or email.

Guidelines for Parents on Distance Learning

- Parents know their own child best and individual circumstances will dictate the pace and type of learning which is appropriate
- Support their child/ren in their learning by:
- Providing an environment to support learning (access to technology if possible, safe and quiet space during daytime).
 - Engaging your children in conversations on posted work.
 - Monitoring time spent engaging in online and offline learning. The expectation is that there are opportunities for learning in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing daily.
 - Support health and wellbeing by providing plenty of time for physical activity, conversation and play.
 - Parents can contact the school if they have any queries around virtual learning.

Please be reminded if you need to contact us during this lockdown the school contact details are –

- Email: lochardil.primary@highland.gov.uk or tel. 01463 230250
- Keep checking the school Blog and Twitter, and the Highland Council website for information.

We continue to recognise and value the important role of parent/carers as partners in their child's learning and appreciate your support. Please feel supported by our efforts, and also empowered to use your own initiatives and ideas to support our core focus for learning for your child next term. Once again do what you feel is appropriate for your own situation, and with the time you have available. There is no pressure, simply support, for us to continue to work together to allow our children to be the best they can be, even in the most challenging of times. Remember to Be Kind to yourself, to each other, to us!

Covid-19 continues to be a real challenge to us all and as we know is having a huge impact locally which is directly affecting us all. Please follow the Scot. Gov. F.A.C.T.S guidance and never underestimate who this can and will affect.

For our school we continue to be reassured by our previous experiences of this type of learning. We know routine and familiarity, the offer of various learning experiences, engagement from children and parents/carers online, has all supported our children to be able to continue their learning as effectively as possible since their return to school in August. This time we are all more familiar with the opportunities digital learning can and does provide, and the use of technology to communicate has improved our practice for the better. We appreciate this is a huge challenge that we are all facing yet again. We are all trying to juggle yet ensure we do and give our best to our young people during such challenging times. Please know you are enough, you are doing enough, and by again keeping our special little people as safe and well as they can be with a positive attitude to learning, we will get through this. So don't worry, we've got this! Please be reminded every single bit of support will help. Don't compare yourselves to others, get in touch if there is anything at all we can help with, and we will do our best to provide during these times.

Continue to live and show our school values 'Love, Pride, Respect, Confidence and Responsibility' daily. We look forward to all being back together safe and strong in February. So until then, we look forward to seeing you online and for some in person.

Thanks



Mrs A Kellacher
Head Teacher