



St Andrew's Primary School

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Acting Leader of Learning

Mrs Joanne Hunter

Midlothian



Weekly Update

Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Well we have made it to the end of Term 1! It has certainly been the most unusual term of my 30 year career, with challenges for families and communities that I am sure none of us would ever have imagined 6 months ago. That said, I am immensely proud of how our St Andrew's school community has risen to meet these challenges, and the support that everyone has shown one another. It has been lovely to see our pupils settle so well into new and unfamiliar routines and to receive the cooperation and support of parents and carers as we all adapt to the ever-changing "normal."

I would like to say a special Thank You to the amazing staff at St Andrew's. The entire school team has worked tirelessly to provide a safe and nurturing return, for our pupils, and I feel privileged to have their professionalism and support as we move forward in the coming months.

All that remains is for me to wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing holiday – hopefully with the odd glimmer of sunshine! We look forward to welcoming our pupils back safely on **Tuesday 27th October** at their usual staggered starting time. Thank you.

Joanne Hunter 😊

Acting Leader of Learning

As always, we have some updates and information that we hope you will find useful.

Health and Safety – Face Coverings:

Many of you may have noticed an increase in the number of staff wearing face coverings in and around the school grounds. This is in response to updated guidance following Scottish Government's announcement, last week, which encourages the use of face coverings in shared and public spaces. We would hope that this provides reassurance to parents and carers, as we continue to prioritise the safety and well-being of your children.

Parent/Carer Consultations:

Parent/Carer Consultations are due to take place on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th November between 3:30 and 6:30. I can confirm that consultations will take place by phone, with a 10 minute appointment arranged to discuss each pupil. We will endeavour to allocate sibling appointments as closely together as possible. Appointment times will be issued week beginning 27th October, along with an overview of topics for discussion.

School Meals:

All P1-3 pupils will continue to be provided with a packed lunch, from our school kitchen, following the October break. We appreciate that some children may prefer to continue bringing their own packed lunch, from home, and this is fine. A new menu will be issued to P1-3 pupils after the holiday. This will include a hot food option as part of the daily choice. The new menu will be served as of Monday 2nd November.

P4 -7 pupils should continue to bring a packed lunch from home. Those families entitled to free school meals will continue to receive BACs payments directly into their bank account. Further information can be found on the school and Midlothian Council websites. Please note that free school meals and payments are not provided during the October break.

Digital Passports:

All pupils should now have received a paper copy of their up to date user names and passwords for GLOW and other platforms/websites. A copy of these Digital Passports will also be emailed to families as a back-up. We would encourage that the information be kept in a safe place, so that pupils can access it, should they need to engage with in-home learning tasks in the future. We would ask that pupils avoid changing their passwords, unless absolutely necessary, as we often require them to access key resources and websites in school. It can be frustrating for pupils if they are keen to engage with their learning, but can't remember their passwords. Thank you for your support.

Communication:

As always, we are keen to keep in regular contact with you, regarding the progress and well-being of your child. Please feel free to contact the school office, either by phone or email, if there is something that you would like to discuss, and a member of staff will be in touch at the earliest opportunity.

Please note that our school office will close today at 12 noon and reopen on Tuesday 27th October at 8:30. Thank you.