



Weekly Update
Friday 22nd January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this finds you and your loved ones safe and well and navigating the snowy conditions without too much difficulty.

As we complete our second week of Remote Learning, I would like to thank our pupils and families for their enthusiasm, hard work and support in making this new way of working such a success. I have been so impressed by the creativity and determination that our learners have shown, and am also very appreciative of the kind comments and positive feedback that parents and carers have shared. I am extremely proud of the fantastic staff team that we have at St Andrew's and am delighted that their commitment and hard work are being recognised by so many of you. It means a great deal in these challenging times.

In addition to the earlier communication from our executive director, Fiona Robertson, I hope that you find the following information useful in the days ahead.

Joanne Hunter 😊
Acting Leader of Learning

Remote Learning Arrangements:

Following current Scottish Government guidance, most of our pupils will continue to complete their learning at home.

Google Classroom is the main platform used to deliver remote learning to our P1-7 pupils. It is encouraging to see so many of our learners engaging confidently with activities on-line. Should you have difficulty in accessing the Google Classroom, or uploading work, then please contact our school office at the earliest opportunity, so that we are able to offer appropriate support.

General advice for learning at home is to try and have some sort of daily routine, which allows for periods of learning, along with time for breaks and other activities that your child enjoys. Some families prefer to complete home learning in the morning and give their child free time in the afternoon. Others prefer to complete a couple of tasks in the morning, have a longer break, and then complete a further couple of tasks in the afternoon. We would encourage every family to do what works best for them.

Resources and Support:

We are aware that remote learning can be challenging for families, as parents and carers often have to combine this with the demands of working from home themselves, as well as other responsibilities. All staff have tried to be mindful in planning tasks and activities

which can be fitted around family life, and that do not require significant resources or additional materials. There is no expectation for parents and carers to print off learning materials, although you are welcome to do so, if this makes life easier. Where families are finding the demands of technology particularly challenging, we can arrange to provide paper copies of works sheets and jotters in which to complete tasks. These resources will be delivered to families at the beginning of the week by our Home School Practitioner, Elaine Baur, and then completed work collected the following week for marking and feedback.

Live Lessons:

All staff are posting a mixture of video clips and sound tutorials to explain tasks and support pupil learning. **We would strongly advise that your child watches and listens to these clips, even if they complete the follow up task on paper.** The clips provide the teaching input that learners would receive, in class, and will make completing follow up tasks much easier. The clips also give your child the opportunity to feel connected to the familiar sounds and faces of our school community, which may help them engage more readily with learning activities at home.

Google Meets:

We are hoping that our pupils will soon be able to engage in live **Google Meets** with some of our staff and their peers. Staff are currently engaged in preparation and planning to finalise how best to deliver this within our learning community. General information and guidance from Midlothian Council, around this type of learning, can be found on our website. More detailed, school-specific information will be shared with parents and carers once our arrangements are fully in place.

Weekly arrangements for accessing on-line learning tasks are as follows:

Primary 1: Tasks will be prepared by Miss Stewart and posted as a Learning Grid on Twitter, the school website and the P1 Google Classroom. They will be supported by short video/tutorial clips and on-line links, which can be accessed on the Google Classroom. We are aware that P1 parents may not have had experience of remote learning before, so hope that posting on a variety of platforms will make learning more accessible and manageable for all. Mrs Kristoffersen will support Miss Stewart with providing differentiated Phonics and Reading tasks for pupils.

Primary 2: Tasks will be posted on the P2 Google Classroom. These will be managed by Mrs Green, Monday – Wednesday, with support from Mrs Kristoffersen in Phonics and Reading. Miss Prior is part of our Core Team, in school, so the P2 Google Classroom will also be supported by Miss Stewart, Thursday – Friday.

Primary 3: Tasks will be posted on the P3 Google Classroom. These will be managed by Miss Allum, with support from Mrs Kristoffersen in Phonics and Reading.

Primary 4: Tasks will be posted on the P4 Google Classroom. These will be managed by Mrs Burgess, with support from Mrs Kristoffersen in Phonics and Reading. Mrs Burgess is part of

our Core Team, in school, so the Google Classroom will also be supported by Mrs Wiseman and Mrs Valentine. Mrs Green will provide tasks for those P4 pupils who are preparing for the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Primary 5: Tasks will be posted on the P5 Google Classroom. These will be managed by Mrs Wiseman, Monday – Wednesday and Mrs Valentine Thursday – Friday. Mrs Kristoffersen will support in providing Phonics and Reading tasks for some pupils.

Primary 6 and 7: In order to allow Miss Wilkson to be part of our Core Team, in school, she and Mr Paterson have created a P6/7 Google Classroom, and will operate a team-teaching arrangement. Both teachers will liaise closely to ensure that tasks are appropriately differentiated and targeted according to the needs of individual pupils. On occasion, some tasks may be in common for both stages. Mr Paterson will take the lead on managing the Google Classroom, on a day to day basis, with input from Miss Wilkinson where appropriate. Miss Stewart will provide tasks for those P7 pupils who are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Home School Practitioner:

Some parents and carers may already have had contact with our Home School Practitioner, Elaine Baur. Please be aware that Elaine is available to support **all of our families**, and is able to offer advice in a wide range of areas. This may be of a practical nature, relating to financial matters, or more generally with regard to family life and well-being. **Any parent or carer can contact Elaine**, via our main school office, or directly on 07500 125 086. She is happy to receive either calls or texts and can be emailed at: elaine.baur@midlothian.gov.uk

Please note that Elaine's working hours are 8am-4pm Monday – Thursday, during term time.

Sacramental Preparation:

As previously mentioned, our P4 and P7 pupils have begun their preparations for the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation, respectively. Weekly lessons will be posted on the appropriate Google Classroom. We are also now in a position to distribute Sacramental Workbooks to pupils, so that they can use them to complete tasks. We will arrange to deliver these next week – snow permitting of course!

Communication:

Here at St Andrew's, we take pride in the positive relationships that we have built across our school community. We appreciate that these are particularly unusual and challenging times and will endeavour to make weekly phone contact, with all of our pupils and families, in addition to daily communication on either Twitter, SeeSaw, email or Google Classroom.

Please be aware that some of our staff are currently working from home, so the school phone number may not be displayed when your child's teacher calls. Where possible, a message will be sent either on Google Classroom or by email, to let parents and carers know to expect a call that day.

Thank you for your continued support.