



11.1.21

Dear Parents and carers

Well, I hope you all survived your first day of home learning, I'm sure I'm not the only one who needs a lie down in a dark room away from all devices! As you will be aware, there were some difficulties with Microsoft Teams this morning nationally which will hopefully be addressed over the coming days. Lairdsland staff, including myself, are still engaging in 'continued professional development' in the use of TEAMS so please bear with us as we develop and extend our skills. Staff have been working incredibly hard over the last week adapting their approaches to teaching and learning and we are already reflecting on some things that are proving to be successful and those which are not.

Some things we have picked up on today and hope to address going forward:

- Attending the live meeting is not as straightforward from an ipad/tablet as a laptop, staff will try to schedule the meeting in a different format or paste a meeting link into the chat that should allow mobile users to 'join' easier.
- The Teams system may be busier in the mornings so if you can, it may be more successful to wait until late morning to log on and download resources.
- Staff may move to uploading assignments the night before to allow parents to access them in advance (this may not happen for all classes this week but will be reviewed going forward).
- Some parent emails that reply to a groupcall message are being missed due to the way the office email account stores them. Please email the office with a new email rather than reply to a groupcall so we don't miss any important queries.

Please find attached the East Dunbartonshire Council '**Protocol for Pupils and Parents in the Provision of Digital Learning as part of Remote Learning**'. Although teachers in Lairdsland Primary will not be 'teaching live' in the sense of live lesson input at set times daily, the protocols set out in this document for parents and pupils apply for the live 'check-in' sessions we have scheduled. We are happy for cameras to be turned on for pupils to see one another if you are happy to allow this for your child.

### Daily Check-Ins

You will have seen from Friday's correspondence that 'check-in times' for classes have been staggered to ensure parents have a degree of flexibility, especially if there is more than one child in the family. Please do not worry if your child cannot make specific sessions, as these are not learning times.

The very important purpose of these 'check-ins' will be to:

- ✓ **Ensure an ongoing sense of Community** – Regular opportunities to interact with classmates and staff will maintain their sense of belonging.
- ✓ **Enhance Pupil Health & Wellbeing** – chats with Class Teachers, on various subjects, a chance to share news from home
- ✓ **Ensure Pupil Engagement** – class discussions, quizzes, reading of stories etc

## Learning & Teaching

One of the main differences during this current lockdown is that Class teachers will be delivering new Learning & Teaching, ensuring that children are progressing in their learning. Class Teachers will deliver Learning & Teaching using a variety of methods, some examples include:

- ✓ **Pre-recorded videos**
- ✓ **Downloaded videos from established teaching websites**
- ✓ **Voiced-over PowerPoints**
- ✓ **Links to websites**

These, and other teaching methods, will then be uploaded onto your child's Class Team. The huge advantage of progressing learning using the above examples, is that these 'teaching resources' will be available for your child to view as many times as they wish. This will allow parents to reinforce/consolidate learning for their child.

Please remember that all assignments can be handed in 'late'. Submission dates are being set for the end of each day as this best suits the organisation of the week for class teachers however it will not be looked upon unfavourably if tasks are submitted late as we appreciate some families are juggling many things at once.

Class Teachers will continually monitor the engagement of children in their class with TEAMS and the tasks provided. If Class Teachers identify any children who are not engaging they will send parents an email to offer help or support to ensure children are accessing the learning.

Although we may have some bumps in the road as we adapt to this new way of life, I am optimistic this way of working will become easier as the days goes on!

As always, if you need any support or advice please do not hesitate to contact the school. The school office will be manned 9.00am – 3.00pm every day and there will always be a member of the School Management Team on hand where required.

Kind regards

Fiona Donaghey  
Head Teacher

#TeamLairdsland – working together to grow our school