

February Update

09/02/21

Dear parents

I am taking a lift from seeing brighter mornings and longer evenings, no need to use my torch to open or lock up anymore. We've got to take the positives where we can, hope you are managing to do the same.

Home-Learning Survey

Thanks to many of you who completed the survey on home-learning. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and it seems you particularly appreciate the physical packs, videos, timetables and support from the class teachers. You also let us know how important visual contact is to your children. We appreciate your suggestions and will endeavour to include them where we can. The comments you made on your personal circumstances just confirmed what we know – this is particularly difficult for most of you as you balance work, schooling and caring. We take our hats off to you and thank you for your very many supportive comments.

Packs

The current pack has activities to take your child up to Tuesday 16 February. The half term holidays are from Wednesday 17 – Friday 19 February, school will be closed and no home-learning activities will be set. I'm sure you'll be glad of the few days away from the kitchen table.

The next pack will be ready for collection on **Monday 15 February 9.30 – 10.30 am**, arrangements as for previous packs. This pack will be for use in the two weeks after half term. We remain hopeful that this may be the last one we need to distribute as that takes us up to 5 March!

Parent Consultations

We plan to hold our parent consultations for P2-P6 parents via telephone in the week beginning 1 March. This is an opportunity to discuss progress made in term 1 and how you feel your child is progressing at home in term 2. It will also support plans for a return to school, so any information you can share regarding this will be helpful. Details on these consultations will follow. SCU pupils and other children with a Statement of Special Education Need will receive their Annual Review meetings via Zoom in March. P1 & P7 parents (who received a telephone consultation in Oct) will receive a short written update, again there will be opportunity for you to provide feedback on how home-learning has gone for your child.

Engagement

Can I just reiterate how important it is you keep in regular contact with the class teacher – it enables us to record your child as engaging in home-learning. If we have no evidence of home-learning DENI requires us to mark a pupil as 'not engaging' which is an unauthorised absence. We just love to see what our pupils are doing; teachers are now used to their phones and iPads pinging away all day as you upload work.

I am beginning to think there might now be an end in sight. Scottish schools plan a phased return in February and our Education Minister said today that NI will also consider this as a potential method of getting pupils safely back in school, in March. Fingers and toes crossed!

Yours sincerely

Barbara Preston