



Miss Angela Wells
Head Teacher

Gourdon Primary School
McGill Terrace
Gourdon
Montrose
DD10 0LU

Tel: 01561 400680

Information Line: 0370 054 4999 (School Pin No - 021840)

gourdon.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

www.gourdon.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref: AW/SH

Date: 6th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely festive time with your families.

As you are aware most pupils will start their home schooling on Monday 11th January until Friday 29th January. The Scottish Government will be reviewing the school provision at the end of January and we will continue to follow guidance and update everyone as soon as we have confirmation around any changes.

Attending school:

Some pupils will attend school from Wednesday 6th January. Pupils attending school will be supported to access their online learning whilst at school. Applications are made via Aberdeenshire Council.

Learning in school will look different to what pupils and staff are used to. However, I will continue to ensure that all staff and pupils are as safe as possible. Pupils may be working in different classrooms and will be supported by staff. School lunches are still available for pupils and P1 to P3 school lunches continue to be free. School starting and finishing times are the same, as well as break and lunchtime. We will continue to follow all the safety guidance in school and I thank you for all your support.

An updated Risk Assessment is attached to this email and the changes to our school setting are highlighted in yellow. A copy will also be added to our school website for your information.

Online Learning

All families will receive updated account details for the following online learning platforms by the end of this week to use from Monday 11th January:

See Saw Class App

Education City

SumDog

Nessy (for those pupils who already have an account)

We are very aware that learning from home has its challenges. We are aware that family dynamics have changed and can continue to change very quickly for all of us. Parents are at home trying to juggle work responsibilities as well as care for children. We took feedback from all pupils last term around what home learning was like for them last year. The home learning planned for pupils reflects the feedback given by the pupils. That is why we are working and will continue to work hard to ensure we can make home learning as accessible as possible for pupils and manageable for parent and staff. We will also take feedback and review the online learning planned on a regular basis and continue to look at other ways to engage pupils with their learning.

Each Friday class teachers will post via See Saw the planned learning for the following week. As always, there is no right or wrong way to approach the learning tasks. As each household is different, no one should feel pressure to complete everything and so pupils should engage with what learning they can, when they can and how they can. Learning tasks are planned not to have to be printed out at home and so we are working with the following platforms:

See Saw Class App - this platform is used as the point of reference where online learning is shared with home. See Saw is still the pupil's online profile and so pupils should continue to share their learning via See Saw as well as personal celebrations and achievements. Feedback will be given by class teachers within their normal working hours, but please be mindful that staff are also at home working and supporting their families. Pupils can message through See Saw to ask their teachers questions about their home learning as we have done previously but See Saw should not be used as a means of contacting staff about any other aspects of school. Staff have been instructed not to respond to any questions out with online learning. The school should be either emailed or Groupcall (Expressions App) messaged with any questions. This ensures clear lines of communication and makes the best use of everyone's time.

Education City: This platform is where Literacy and Maths tasks will be located. Each pupil has their own username and password, and tasks are differentiated to suit where individual pupils are in their own learning. The use of a whiteboard to complete some tasks can be helpful rather than printing out worksheets.

SumDog: This platform is used to support Maths and Numeracy through games and consolidation challenges. This platform can also be interactive where you can link with other pupils and race against them. This would obviously need to be supervised and monitored by parents to make sure any links to other pupils are genuine and keep everyone safe whilst online.

Oxford Owl: This is an online, free website hosted by Oxford Reading Tree. This is where reading books, texts etc will be located. Of course, anything a pupil reads is beneficial to their Literacy progress and so please use alternatives, if that helps keeps the peace a little longer!

Resources to support online learning:

Thank you to families who already requested electronic devices to support home learning. Please email or GroupCall (expressions app) the school if you would wish to borrow an electronic device whilst engaging with online learning. We are also happy to loan whiteboards, whiteboard pens and headphones if this helps to engage with online learning. We purchased headsets for all pupils to use in school and so these would be the headsets loaned to families. We would ask that headsets are only used by the pupil for obvious reasons. Any resources will be available from Monday 11th January. Instructions for using electronic devices at home will be shared with families as well as contracts for using electronic devices at home.

Communication:

Due to current Covid-19 guidance, staff are working from home where possible. Therefore, the school office will be manned remotely. Please contact the school either by email or by using the Expressions App. We cannot guarantee phone calls will be answered and we will do our best to respond to any questions as quickly as possible. I thank you again for your understanding and support.

I will continue to update you all as information is available to me and please contact the school if you have questions.

Kind regards,

Miss A Wells
Head Teacher