January Newsletter

Welcome to our January newsletter.

I hope you and your families had a peaceful and relaxing holiday. The start of my post as headteacher of Scotstoun Primary has certainly been eventful however; the support of the school staff, families and wider community has been really helpful and much appreciated. I managed to visit 15 of the 16 classes before Christmas and hear from the children a little bit about themselves and what they thought and felt about our school. It was a great way to start to get to know everyone and one which I will continue when we are all back in the school building together. I appreciate how difficult a time this is for our families and this newsletter will focus on information which may be of help during this period of remote learning.

If there is any support we can offer, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

E. McGill

Emma McGill

Headteacher

**Home/Remote Learning**

As outlined in our Home/Remote Learning Guidance for Families, we recognise the challenges faced by families at this time. If you have any thoughts around how we can make this process easier for you, please email the school and let us know. Mr Gallagher has been very ably dealing with any technical issues and is happy to help if you contact him on gw13gallagherkevin@glow.sch.uk. There have been a number of local and national issues as these platforms are supporting a much higher volume of users at the moment and therefore some of the issues may be out with our control but we will do what we can to help with that. The staff have worked really hard to move the learning online for our children at speed to provide a wide range of learning experiences and to interact and support the children in their Google Classroom. I am very grateful for their dedication and commitment to doing their best despite their own technical issues. A special well done also goes to our children as well. I have enjoyed seeing the work you have posted and reading your comments in the chat function. Please continue to engage when you can. Jotters, paper, glue sticks and other stationery resources will be available on an on going basis from the Ormiston Avenue entrance. We would ask that families with surnames A-L access the resources from 9-11 am and families with surnames M-Z 1 – 3 pm. Please remember to practise social distancing and stay 2 m apart.

**Wellbeing**

This continues to be a key focus of our curriculum at Scotstoun. Miss McGuire and Mrs Boardley are planning this across the school and are providing each Google Classroom along with the children who are learning in school with a grid of activities under the headings of outdoor learning, resilience and mindfulness. Your class timetable will let you know when health and wellbeing is planned but you can do as many of these activities as you want to across the week. Each week will have a theme as well. Next week’s theme is kindness and the following week is appreciating nature to link in with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch (29th-31st Jan). Details of the resources being used are shown in the useful links section.

**Communication**

We appreciate that communication is really important at the moment to ensure that our families feel as involved as they can be in school life. We also realise that using a variety of methods will help ensure you have the information you need when you need it. Please ensure that we have your current contact details (telephone number and email).

* Group Call – letters and other information such as updated guidance will be sent via email. We have had some feedback about who has been receiving the information in household so will endeavour to send emails to all contacts to ensure everyone receives them. We will also try to not send attachments as they are difficult to open on phones but recognise sometimes there is information which we need to forward in that format.
* Phone Calls – all families within the school will have a regular wellbeing phone call from a member of school staff. As school staff may be making the call from home, this may appear as a private number on your mobile.
* Newsletters – there will be a weekly newsletter. This may be one with a whole school focus such as this one or one which has some information from your child’s class teacher and Google Classroom along with some whole school information.
* Twitter – we will continue to share information around school life and also to highlight resources and links which may be of interest and use to support learning at home for your family. If you don’t already follow us, we can be found @scotstoun .
* Website – we had been planning a refresh of our website however, in the interim we shall work on a COVID-19 section on the current website where we will store all letters, information and guidance. Please bear with us next week as we start to populate it with information.

**Keep Scotland Beautiful Award**

We are delighted to announce that our application for the Keep Scotland Beautiful Award has been successful and we have been awarded the fantastic sum of £3,400. The focus of the bid was on raised beds and associated equipment. Thanks to Mrs Coats and the Outdoor Space Parent Group for their work on this. This is one part of the exciting plans for our outdoor space.

**Parent Council Meeting**

The first Parent Council meeting of 2021 will take place virtually on Tuesday 2nd February at 6pm. Details of how to access the meeting will follow.

**Useful Resources**

Each week we will share some links which will help support learning at home.

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| * Scotland Learns – newsletter for parents and carers. Click [here](https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/a-weekly-newsletter-for-parents-and-carers/).
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| * Resilience Alphabet includes ideas and activities to help your child build inner strength and wellbeing. For each letter there is a definition, something to think about and something positive to say. Click [here](https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/health-and-wellbeing-activities/resilience-alphabet/) to access the resource.
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| * Click [here](https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/?sourcecode=BWMITH0230&channel=paidsearch&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI88_wt4qc7gIVi9_tCh3FAgXCEAAYASAAEgI94vD_BwE) for RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.
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