February – 2021



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our February Newsletter. I hope it finds you all safe and well during what has been a very challenging month for us all. We all hoped that we would be back together now; however, we will have to wait a little bit longer until it is safer for everyone. It is encouraging to see Covid figures lowering and more people being vaccinated but we all have a responsibility to keep following the rules for now. All of the staff at Bankhead School are missing their children and their families so very much and we can't wait until we can all be back in school!

Almost all of our pupils are engaging with our remote learning activities through online learning or are engaging with paper copies. Parents who requested support with access to a device or connectivity to access online learning are being contacted to receive this help. We have been fortunate to receive 117 Social Inclusion ipads, although we did request 187. We have now been able to apply for additional iPads to make up the difference. We are doing everything we can to help every family and if possible, every child to access online learning.

If your child has been allocated an iPad you enter into a contract with GCC and usage is restricted to the online learning platforms and the educational apps which have already been downloaded for this purpose. Mrs Napier has gone above and beyond by ensuring that when your child receives their iPad individual logins/class codes, now including the TEAMs app, will already be installed to enable your child to access their learning immediately. Mrs Napier has been providing individual tutorials with parents and child to support them to be more confident and have a better opportunity when accessing on-line learning.

If you need support with your child’s login details then please call the office and speak to Mr MacLean (Support for Learning Worker) or Mrs Gray (SfLW). Please note that our senior clerical assistant, Mrs Rutherford is working from home and our other clerical assistant, Ms Smith has moved on to work with the Fire Service. We are doing our best to respond to your queries as soon as we are able. The office phone is manned from 9am-3pm unless a SfLW is attending to a parent at the front door. We have contacted the telephone engineers because parents have reported they have had no response to their calls at times when we know staff have been in the office. Hopefully, if there is a fault it will be rectified as soon as possible.

Teachers are working incredibly hard and I have been amazed by their resilience and determination to teach themselves and support each other with new skills like recording voice overs to power points, hosting Teams meetings, feedback voice overs for their pupils. They are really enjoying getting to check in with our pupils each day and see how they are getting on. As adults, they are all at different stages of this new remote learning journey. Teachers are doing their very best for your child and focusing on quality learning experiences.

It is our aim for everyone to engage with online learning. Currently, it is necessary for teachers to prepare both online lessons as well as paper packs of lessons. Online learning allows teachers to record clear oral instructions to support many of our pupils to access learning whereas if a pupil is given a paper copy of the same lesson, it can be more difficult to support understanding. It is impossible to replicate the online lessons. Some families are requesting paper packs of work which they are then uploading to Google Classroom. If you are able to access Google Classroom, please do not request paper packs. Every child should have a jotter where they can complete written work which can then be photographed and uploaded. If you require more resources please collect this from the school or the Co-operative on Alderman Road. Ultimately, we intend to stop preparing paper copies of work as soon as we have all families on line. We will let you know when this is will happen.

Click [here](http://www.bankhead-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/TextList/TextList.aspx?SectionId=1852b1b2-fad7-4a4b-89ed-b874bdaf3697) for the link to Google Classroom tutorials available on the school website. Click [here](http://www.bankhead-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/PlainText/PlainText.aspx?SectionId=7416be24-30ab-4c45-bf2d-ad2a4195a912) to view a video clips on setting up and using Teams.

We appreciate that everyone at the moment has different personal circumstances at home and that many of you are juggling work, caring for others, managing home life and homeschooling. Please remember the health and wellbeing of our whole school community is so important and only do what you can. Many of our staff are also going through the same challenges so we completely understand that there may be days when things are easier than others. There is no pressure for our pupils to complete all the activities online. We are telling you that it is okay to do what you can, when you can and remember we are all here to support you. Keeping our children safe and happy is the most important thing you can do.

We have received some lovely emails from parents and carers throughout the past few weeks thanking the staff for their hard work and this has really helped lift morale during this time. Please contact us through school mail if you have any queries or wish to give us feedback.

Finally I wanted to say a huge thank you to you all for the amazing job you are all doing! Our pupils are so fortunate to have such fantastic parents and carers who want the best for them. You are all doing an incredible job supporting our learners and providing them with the love and care that they need during this difficult time and we are so grateful for everything you do!

Please take care and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs McKinlay

Head Teacher