



Laurencekirk School
Frain Drive
Laurencekirk
Aberdeenshire
AB30 1EG
T: 01561 400640

e: laurencekirk.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
w: <http://laurencekirk.aberdeenshire.sch.uk>

Thursday 28th January 2021

Dear Families

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our families who took the time to complete our two stars and a wish questionnaire this week. We had a huge response to this and were delighted with the positivity and gratitude shown from you all. Your kind words of support and encouragement were just what was needed. I know that all our staff, whether supporting our children at home or in school are steadfastly committed to providing the best education and support they possibly can and their dedication shines through. I was delighted to see this reflected in your responses. Thank you so much.

We know life is a balancing act right now and want to assure you that we do understand that some days you may engage fully in our online offer, complete a Joe Wicks workout and bake a batch of scones all before midday and on other days, well, it just isn't working out! That is OK! Please don't become overwhelmed, do what you can, when you can and know that your best is good enough. If your children are happy, safe and fed (and remember the trusted chicken nuggets and chips ensemble is really not the end of the world!) then you are doing well. You can't pour from an empty cup so please make sure that you take care of yourselves too. (This applies to staff too!)

Remote Learning Update

Each week we meet as a group to discuss our remote learning provision. It is new for us all and it is important that we reflect and adapt. This week I have some adaptations to share with you which I think are really going to enhance our approach:

This Monday, it gives me the greatest pleasure to introduce our very first whole school challenge entitled... "@home with Mrs Honeybone." Mrs Honeybone will pop up in your class team in her very own channel to provide our families with a very special challenge to do together. Mrs Honeybone is on maternity leave and I do hope that baby Freddie will make his debut in our classrooms this week. He will be the star of the show for sure! I know Mrs Honeybone would have loved to have brought Freddie in to school to meet all our boys and girls but that was not to be. This will be the next best thing. I am really looking forward to welcoming Mrs Honeybone back into our online school for this special

guest appearance. I urge you all to check out her channel on Monday and take part in her special challenge. She is really looking forward to hearing from you all.

On Wednesday we welcome a further two special guests who will support us to deliver our curriculum. Miss Leslie works with all our classes on a very important Rights Respecting School topic. She has undertaken some wonderful work in school to date which helps our children to understand the rights that they and others have and the responsibilities they hold as global citizens. It is incredibly important work as we support our children to take their place in the world and I am delighted that she is stepping into our online world to continue delivering this important work each week. This pandemic has really highlighted how inter-connected we are across the world and this work is more important than ever before. Miss Leslie will have her own channel in our classrooms and she will deliver rights based learning each Wednesday. She is so looking forward to resuming this work, albeit remotely for now.

I am also excited to announce that the lovely Mrs Dakers of Mearns Library is joining forces with us. We encourage our children to read regularly for enjoyment and Mrs Dakers is so passionate about all things books, stories and reading. Each Wednesday, she will appear in her own channel in your team to provide learning designed to get our children reading and enjoying books.

Friday will also see some shift. At 11am I will attempt to Link Up Laurencekirk with a live assembly. A link for the meeting will be posted in your class team. If you wish to join in with this, (the more the merrier) please 'join' the meeting from 1050 hours onwards so we are good to go at 11am. Wish me luck. Going live to an audience of 300? What can possibly go wrong!?

As part of our approach to promoting health and wellbeing across our school community, we have decided to launch Screen Free Friday. Our teachers will encourage our children to spend Friday finishing off tasks from the week and enjoying a spell of unplugging, reconnection and screen free joy! This means that aside from the assembly, no new content will be uploaded for submission on Friday and we are sure that will be supportive for you all.

So to summarise the remote learning offer for the week beginning 1st February:

Monday	Literacy Numeracy Whole School Challenge: @home with Mrs Honeybone
Tuesday	Literacy Numeracy Other activity
Wednesday	Rights Respecting Work with Miss Leslie Reading for enjoyment with Mrs Dakers Numeracy
Thursday	Literacy Numeracy Other activity
Friday	Link Up Laurencekirk @11am with Mrs Smith Finishing off Screen Free day

PLEASE NOTE: Assembly and finishing off/Screen Free Friday will begin straight away. (29.1.21)

And Finally...

We eagerly await further information from the Scottish Government on Tuesday 2nd February around the re-opening of our school and when we can resume face to face teaching - which we all miss terribly. I will of course continue to update you all with our plans as the information flows.

Please do take care of each other 😊

Kindest Regards

Jill Smith

Head Teacher