




Bellsquarry Primary School

“Learn, Believe and you will Succeed”

Article 28: Children have the right to learn and to go to school

Our website: <https://bellsquarryprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>



 @bellsquarryPS

Newsletter March/April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your family are safe, well and managing as best you can in these circumstances. As March comes to a close and the Easter holidays are almost upon us we wanted to share some information which we hope you find useful. The Easter break begins from Friday 3rd April until Monday 20th April. While it might feel very different from the traditional Easter holidays it is still important for everyone to give themselves a break. There will not be any work provided between these dates and teachers will not be accessing Teams during the holidays. However, there are links on the following site if you require some activities during this time. <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/51911/Learning-at-home>

School Blog

If your child is having difficulty accessing or completing any of the work set for them, or if they find themselves unable to access Teams for whatever reason (P4-7) we have provided various links and activities you can access with your child on our school blog instead.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/bellsquarrypsblog/>



ONLINE EDUCATION

Feeling Frustrated with Home Learning?

Don't worry, you are not alone. We have had communication from a number of concerned parents to say that some children are struggling to complete all of the activities set and are getting worried about this.



I'd like to reassure all parents and children that there is no obligation or pressure to complete all of the learning tasks provided. These are provided for children to access and complete if they are able to and to ensure there is a variety of tasks available. P4-7 teachers have created a Daily Schedule (on the next page) as a guide but please feel free to create your own schedule to suit your family and dip in and out of tasks as you see fit.

In Microsoft Teams, the way assignments have to be set up, they come with a submission due date and time. If a child uploads their work after this time, it tells them their submission is late. This is OK and please reassure children that although it says this, we don't mind when they submit their tasks. Unfortunately we can't find another way around this. Again, children do not have to complete all assignments either and we will not be chasing children for these at this already challenging time for families. Please tell your child to ignore the 'late submission' message as their teacher does not mind when this is submitted. **Please also note that children cannot access the camera or chat functions on Teams.**

Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support



Bellsquarry Primary School



Suggested Daily Schedule

This was designed for the P4-7 pupils but could easily be adapted for Nursery and P1-3 children.

Below is a daily schedule that you might find helpful. We understand that everyone's circumstances are different and therefore this timetable might not work for you. Teachers will be available on Teams at various points throughout the day. It is extremely important for children to have a break from screens and we have highlighted this in the timetable.

Before 9am	Wake Up	Eat breakfast, make bed, and get dressed.
9.00-9.30	Active Time	Joe Wicks YouTube/Cosmic Kids/Yoga/Outdoor Walk
9.30-10.30	Academic Time 1	Log in to Teams to complete morning task set by your teacher. If you finish your task before Break Time, complete an activity from the choice grid.
10.30-11.00	Break Time	Have a snack and drink. No screens if possible. Get some fresh air if you are able to do so.
11.00-12.00	Academic Time 2	Log in to Teams to complete morning task set by your teacher. If you finish your task before Lunch Time, complete an activity from the choice grid.
12.00-12.30	Lunch	Get involved in making your lunch, with adult support if required. No screens if possible. Enjoy! Get some fresh air if you are able to do so.
12.30-13.00	Help around the house	Ask an adult if there is anything they need help with e.g. hoovering, dusting, tidying etc.
13.00-14.00	Academic Time 3	Log in to Teams to complete task set by your teacher. If you finish your task before Chill Out Time, complete an activity from the choice grid.
14.00-15.00	Chill Out Time	Use this time to relax. You might want to complete a puzzle, read a good book, or practise some mindfulness. No screens if possible.
15.00-15.15	Teacher Check In	Log in to Teams to see your teacher's post.

Remember if you are looking to write comments to your peers, please do so in the 'hidden channel' on the left rather than in your class Teams page. This is to make your learning tasks and instructions from your teachers easier to find. If you are responding to your teacher click 'reply' instead of creating a new comment/conversation.

Where is the work on Teams?



Teachers are aware that some people were struggling to locate tasks in the busy class page and have come up with a solution!

They have created a new 'what's on' channel on the left hand side of your child's class Team page to make it easier to see what the learning tasks are for the day. (this may or may not be called a 'hidden channel') You could get your child to print this what's on info if it makes it easier to have this on paper.

Try not to worry if your child is finding this tricky at the moment. It is early days and as time progresses, children will become more confident in using the different Glow/Teams tools and their digital learning skills will improve. They are already managing really well and you are all doing a great job of supporting your children through a massive change. Thank you!

Remember!

IMPORTANT! Write down a password reminder

As far as we are aware, all children are now able to access Glow and Teams. We ask that parents please now make sure their child makes a note of his/her glow username beginning with wl if they don't already have this written down somewhere. **We also ask that children write a reminder of his/her password somewhere** (not the actual password) but something that will remind them because after 2 weeks off, children may struggle to remember their log in details.

It is really important that children do this **before Friday** as passwords are easily forgotten over holiday periods and although we are happy to provide help to access accounts where there are log in issues, this help could be delayed if large numbers of pupils require passwords reset.

Please remind pupils that when logging into Teams it is their username followed by @glow.sch.uk which will then take them to the glow login page where the child logs in with his/her shorter wl username and password. This has caused some confusion.

How can P1-3 children share their learning with teachers?



We are aware that P4-7 pupils are benefitting from being able to share their learning with their teacher by uploading photos of their work or files via teams and we are keen to provide a way for P1-3 pupils to do the same.

We are therefore in the process of setting up Online Learning Journals for P1-3 pupils. You may be familiar with these as they are traditionally used in nursery to share observations of learning by staff with parents but we would like to use these for parents and children to share their home learning tasks with us. Again, there will still be no pressure to complete everything. It is purely a way for children to share their learning if they are able to and for teachers to be able to view and respond to these during the school closure period.

In order for us to set up an Online Learning Journal Account for your child, we need you to fill out an online consent form. We will send out a separate link with more information and the eform to allow you provide us with the information necessary to set up your child's account.

Once we have set up your child's account you will receive log in details. (this is for the parent and not the child at this stage) We will also send further guidance about how to upload to the online learning journals. We are very excited about this and hope that your child will be proud to share some of their work for their teachers to see. We hope to have this up and running after the Easter Break.

Nursery Children

Our nursery staff continue to pop updates on your child's online learning journey. Remember you can also upload documents using the guidance previously issued (please let us know if you need another reminder sent out).and the nursery staff will be delighted to see these and respond! You can also access the Early Years Blog for additional learning activities: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/snonursery/>



West Lothian COVID19 Updates

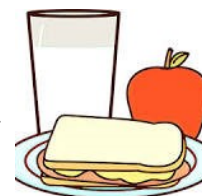
West Lothian Coronavirus updates

You can find the latest information about COVID19 and schools at the following West Lothian Council link:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools>

Free School Meals

All Children Entitled to Free School Meals (including all P1-P3) can collect a packed lunch and a breakfast cereal bar/cereal or pick up a takeaway hot meal at various schools between 12 noon and 1.30pm. Bellsquarry is currently one of the schools offering this service. Children who qualify can go to any of the schools on the list—click the link below to see the most up to date information about schools where you can collect a free school meal. <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools>



Sanitary Products Available

Sanitary products are available for school pupils to collect at all 11 Secondary Schools in West Lothian during opening hours. They are also available from the primary schools that are providing free school meals. They are free and are available to all pupils who need them. Please observe the guidance on Social Distancing. This service is in place for those who that don't have access.



Contacting School We hope that all of the above information provides some reassurance and the guidance you may have been looking for. However if you need to contact the school please be advised that **we cannot currently be contacted via telephone at this time.**

If you need to pass a message to a member of staff or would like to speak to someone **please do so via the school email inbox** wbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk rather than trying to make contact with teachers directly via email. We will arrange for the appropriate person to respond to your query as soon as possible.

I hope you have found all of this information useful but if anything is unclear or you have any further questions, please contact me via the school mailbox. Both Mrs Marra and I are checking this regularly throughout the day on school days and will get back to you as soon as we are able.

Thank you to all of our families for their continued support and for the additional support they are providing our children during this difficult time. We are aware how difficult this new way of living, working and learning will be for you as well as your children. Please take care of yourselves and remember that we are here for you.

Kind regards,

Mrs.Louise Delargy, Acting Head Teacher