



# 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/>

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



 @bellsquarryPS

## Newsletter April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we are coming to the end of our 4th week of home learning, we are aware that some children and families are beginning to develop a routine that is working for them and for others it is simply getting more difficult, either emotionally or logistically. Both of these are completely natural as we all have different things going on in our lives. This is why, although learning is important, we encourage you to find a home learning balance which works for you and focuses on the wellbeing of both you and your family. Please do get in touch if we can help you with anything at all or to chat through how we can make your child's home learning more manageable. Please remember that if you need to make contact with us, we are not able to answer the school phone or pick up any voicemails at this time. Please contact us via email or, if you'd prefer to talk, please email us to request a call back. We'll get back to you as soon as we can. Additionally, if your child is finding things difficult and you feel you would benefit from a chat with one of our Educational Psychologists then they have extended their phone lines to 9:00—3:30 Monday to Friday. I have included their flier on page 6 for more info.



Stay safe! Kind regards, Mrs Louise Delargy, Acting Head Teacher

**Primary 7** This week our Primary 7 pupils were due to go on school camp. We know that you will all be very disappointed that this could not happen. We are too! We will be in touch as soon as we have more information about refunds.



This is the first of many activities which would traditionally mark the end of their time in Bellsquarry Primary School. We have no idea when and how we will be able to get together with our Primary 7s to mark the end of their primary school years but we will work hard to ensure the children get a lovely send off, albeit in a manner that we have never seen before.

### Parent Feedback Survey

We will be seeking your feedback very soon in the form of a survey about Bellsquarry Primary School and Nursery. Please look out for this in your emails as your input is very helpful. We are always looking for ways we can improve and this will contribute to our plans for future school improvements.



### Holiday and INSET Day—Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th May

Just a reminder that Monday is a holiday and Tuesday is an in service day, where teachers will be working together online. This means that there will be no work posted on Teams on Monday or Tuesday but we look forward to seeing our pupils back online on Wednesday 6th May.

*Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support*

## P1-3 Story Session

We have started a weekly story session where a member of staff will read a children's story and post this on Online Learning Journals. Last week I read Walter's Wonderful Web. Check out your online Learning Journal on Friday to see whose turn it is this week!

We love seeing you engage with these so remember you can comment below.



## P6 Skiing

We also wanted to pass on that we are aware that a number of our P6 pupils were due to get 2 more skiing lessons. If you signed up for these we will arrange for them to be rescheduled when the children return to school. This may be next session.



## Lack of resources?

We have had a few requests for textbooks to be sent home. As our teachers plan learning activities without pupils needing to use textbooks etc, we do not feel that this is something that needs to be actioned. All of the materials/books etc. your child needs to access were sent home in his/her learning pack on the day of the school closures.

If you are starting to run out of practical materials and need anything please get in touch with the school. We wouldn't want any of our families struggling to engage with work because they have run out of paper, pencils etc.

Similarly if you need to borrow a device from school to allow your child to access home learning online then please get in touch with us and we can arrange for a device to be prepared and set up ready for collection at one of our Hub schools.



## Staffing

We welcomed Mrs Coyle who joined us last week as P3/2 teacher alongside Mrs Gilmour.

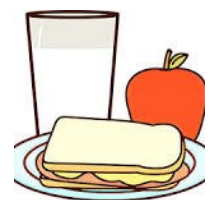
Mrs Coyle shared a video with all of her pupils via their online Learning Journals. If you haven't seen this yet, please log in, watch the video and say hello!

It may surprise you all to know that this year marks the end of Mrs Gaspar's teaching career as she has chosen to take early retirement. I know that Mrs Caspar's departure will be a huge loss to the whole school community. She will of course still be with us until the end of June. I know that we are all disappointed that we are having to spend Mrs Gaspar's final term in this way.



## Free School Meals

All Children Entitled to Free School Meals 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 providing packed lunches. We have a van which waits outside the front of the school with packed lunches between 12:00-12:20, which means no one needs to access the school building. All pupils who usually get a free school meal 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 and sanitary products if required. <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools>



## P1-3 Online Learning Journals

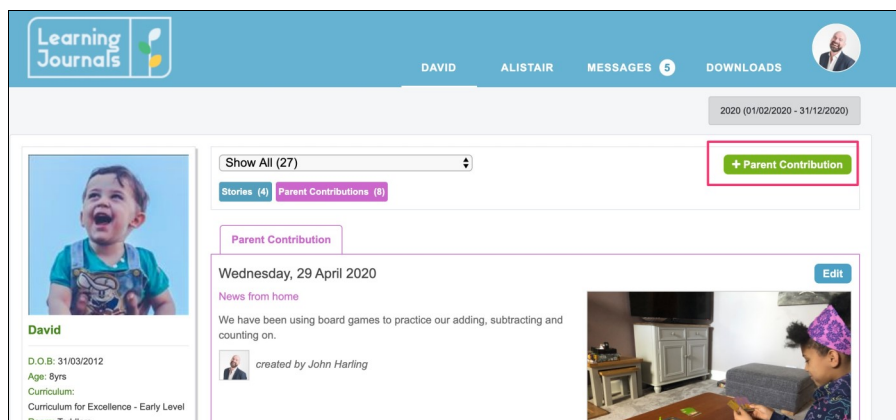


We are delighted that most P1-3 parents have now signed up for online learning journals. We have worked our way through the consent forms received and set everyone up with an account where we have the completed consent form. If you believe you have completed the consent form but are still awaiting your link to access your Learning Journal account, first check your 'junk mail' as sometimes it appears in there. If there is still nothing please email us at [wlbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wlbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk) and we can look to get this for you. Thank you to the parents who have emailed in—we hope we've managed to resolve these issues for you.

We have loved looking through the work submitted through this channel. Please keep these coming whenever you are able as we love seeing how your children are getting on. This can be a task at a time or if you wish to wait and upload lots of things at the end of the week or weekend for example, this is fine too.

You may have noticed Learning Journals has been completing some updates to make the system easier for parents to use and so that all of your posts are showing up on the main page. We like this new feature and hope you do too:

Parents now have access to a button to allow them to add a contribution straight from their main profile:



When creating their contribution, parents can upload up to 4 photos and also attach files. Apologies but parents are unable to upload videos.

If you have not yet had a chance to sign up to online learning journals here is the link again for you to complete the consent form:

Due to these updates there have been some issues with slow loading times and also some comments teachers have made have disappeared. We are in touch with the team at Online Learning Journals to try to resolve this issue. We don't want you thinking we aren't responding to your wonderful work posts! Please bear with us. Thank you also to all of the parents who have submitted a profile photo. We will make our way through these and get them added as soon as possible.

## Nursery

We hope that you are all well and want to thank you for sharing your fun activities that you are doing at home on your Learning Journals. We have loved seeing all the creations, investigations and learning that you have been doing from home. The ladies have enjoyed making videos of story reading, songs, baking and silliness for you all and we are always open to suggestions for stories, songs or any activities that you would like to see. So if you have a favourite book that you would like us to read or a song you enjoy at nursery that you would like to hear, just let us know and we will do our best!



As many of us have found ourselves in our gardens more often, we have spent a lot of time planting seeds and watching them grow, watching flowers bloom and buds blossom on the trees. We would love to see the progress of your seeds and plants so keep us updated with lots of lovely pictures if you can. We have become more aware of the nature that surrounds us. How many new birds have you spotted on your bird feeders? Has anybody had any new creatures visiting their garden? We can also look out for birds on our daily walks. If you can, take a picture of any birds you see and share them with us on your Learners Journal.

The Learners Journals have been a fantastic way for us to keep in touch and we really appreciate all the input you have been giving us. If there are any problems or if you have any suggestions please let us know through the online learning journals and we will get back to you. We have many more fun activities to come so look out for those and don't forget you can use the Early Years Blog <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/snonursery/> for more ideas.

## Nursery –P1 Transition

It is the time of year when we are thinking about the transition from Nursery to Primary 1 for our pre-schoolers. Unfortunately as we are not together this is going to look different from previous years but rest assured we are thinking of ways to make this as smooth as possible for our little ones. More information will follow.



### P1-3 Learning Grids Request

We had a request from a few parents to ask if we could send out the learning grids on a Friday to allow parents to use the weekend to plan the learning for the week ahead.

We are happy to take this on board and learning grids will now go out on a Friday for the following week's learning.

Remember we are also posting daily challenges on the school blog for you to try out and you can post these on your online learning journal too if you give them a try.



### P4-7 Teams Highlights

Our P4-7s have been busy sharing their highlights of online learning so far. We plan to collate these and share them with you. The children have done us really proud and have been engaging well with Teams.

We are keeping track of who has managed to access Teams so that we can help those who might be having difficulties. Please get in touch if you are one of these people.

Remember—we do want our children to be engaging in learning each day but please do so at a pace that suits your child and your family.





# West Lothian Educational Psychology Telephone Service



Telephone consultation service  
during school closure period

For: Parents/carers, school staff,  
young people and other agencies  
seeking support & advice to  
improve the wellbeing and  
educational outcomes for our  
children and young people at this  
difficult time.

**When:**

Monday – Friday: 9.00am to 3.30pm

**Contact:**

Call: 01506 283130 to leave a message  
with your details (name, number, school  
etc.) and one of our psychologists will  
call you back. Or, you can e-mail us at:  
[ed.psych@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:ed.psych@westlothian.gov.uk)

Corona virus – helpful resources can also be found on our webpage:  
<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/50765/Coronavirus-Helpful-Resources>



## Speech and Language HelpLine

**Tuesday and Thursday  
9am -5pm**

**07866 219 181**

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's  
speech , language or communication development and would  
like to speak to a speech and language therapist for general  
advice, please call us on the above!

## West Lothian COVID19 Up- dates

West Lothian Coronavirus  
updates

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

[https://  
www.westlothian.gov.uk/  
coronavirus-schools](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools)

