



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 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are well and that your family has managed to enjoy the lovely weather this weekend as well as the opportunity to see some family members or friends again as a result of phase one being introduced.



On Friday we shared the news that Ms McMaster is on the road to recovery and that she has decided to take a year-long secondment, taking on a different role at another primary school in West Lothian. In the letter I forwarded to you on her behalf on Friday, Ms McMaster explains the reasons for this difficult decision and I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Ms McMaster a speedy recovery.

I am delighted to stay on at Bellsquarry as Acting Head Teacher for as long as is required. I am looking forward to supporting and working with you, your family, the staff and our partners to continue to make Bellsquarry Primary school a place where our children are supported to learn, achieve and succeed. Thank you for all of your continued support, particularly during this difficult period.

Kind regards, Mrs Louise Delargy, Acting Head Teacher

2019—20 Parent Feedback Survey

We are aware that you have been asked to complete a number of surveys from West Lothian Council as well as our own. We also know that there are a lot of pressures on families with many of you having to work from home but we would really appreciate your feedback in the following surveys to inform our evaluations and improvements for next session if you are able:



[Please click here to complete our Nursery 2019/20 Survey](#)

[Please click here to complete our School 2019/20 Survey](#)

As always, your feedback is valued as it helps us to improve and meet the needs of Bellsquarry families. Thank you.

Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support

Remote Learning—Parent Feedback Survey

Thank you to all of the parents who managed to complete our recent parent survey about remote learning. We really value your feedback. We are working on this and will continue to make any adjustments we can to meet the needs of our families.



Almost all parents were happy with the home learning that is taking place. The feedback did show us that lots of families and children prefer different approaches. Most feel that the amount of learning is just right but there is a small number of families who feel it is too much as well as a similar number of families who feel that there is not enough. We will continue to try to get an appropriate balance.

For those who feel there is too much we would like to stress again that you should complete only what works for you as a family.

If you are looking for additional tasks to complete with your child, we have some activity suggestions on our school blog.

The teachers have, wherever possible, begun to increase the amount of audio/visual contact with pupils via story sessions for P1 -3, and increased online live 'meets' P4-7 via teams. We know from feedback that children find these sessions very valuable as they can visually see their teachers and this helps them to engage more with home learning.

We also have had feedback that learning which requires printing is proving tricky for some families so we will look for ways to combat this in the coming weeks.



As a result of feedback, we are also setting up times for families to collect materials such as jotters, pencils etc. from the school to make home learning easier and more accessible. Mrs Delargy will make resources available at the school on Monday 1st June and Thursday 4th June from 10am until 12:45pm.

Where there are individual issues rather than trends reported within the feedback we will endeavour to make contact with families where necessary.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any support or have any questions, no matter how big or small and we will do our best to help as quickly as we can! Wbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk

P1-3 Online Learning Journals



We have loved looking through the work submitted through the online learning journals. We hope you have been enjoying our weekly story sessions. We know this is not the same as seeing a teacher all of the time but we hope it goes some way to helping your child see a friendly and familiar face, that it lets them know we are still here for them and available to see and comment on their work. 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.

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:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKUNb9FKKQ6FLiyDnXf6QmrxUQTUORE4wRkJTNINTWFUzNzIIV1VGUUE1Ny4u>

I can't get Online Learning Journals to Work

We know that getting your head round how to work a new system can be tricky. Mrs Smith has created a 'how to' video to help you get started and to demonstrate how to upload a photo to your child's online learning journal. [Click here to view](#)

I can't get both of my Nursery-P3 children on the same log in

This has been an issue for some of our families but we have found a fix! If you have more than one child and would like to be able to view both with the same log in, please get in touch with us and we will be able to help you at wlbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk

THE BELLSQUARRY ROCKS CHALLENGE!

We would love you all to create a piece of school artwork that makes people feel happy and that will remind us of this time when we weren't at school but were still a school community.

1. When you are out and about in your garden or out for your daily exercise try to find a rock to decorate (remember to wash the rock and your hands!)
2. Decorate it any way you like - with a rainbow, colours you like, a lockdown message, it's entirely up to you!
3. When you are finished you can place your rock in the area around the bottom of the flagpole in the front playground. Make sure you social distance and don't touch any of the other rocks when you place yours down. Here are some of the stones our children have decorated and dropped off so far!



Home Learning Updates

Primary 1

Primary One pupils are all home learning superstars! Even though doing school work at home is different and sometimes a bit difficult, they have not given up! Each week Primary One pupils have been looking at different stories, which have taken us on lots of adventures! Primary One have been to the moon, they have written letters to their friends and have found out lots of fun and interesting facts about bumble bees. In numeracy we have continued working on numbers to 10 and numbers to 20 with lots of work on doubles and near doubles. With the beautiful weather we have had, Primary One pupils have been able to take their learning outside. They even managed to create beautiful pieces of art work using things that they found on their daily walks. Miss Ward has been blown away by their hard work and determination! Miss Ward & Mrs Gaspar



Primary 2

We have been focusing on mental maths skills from 10 – 1000 using a variety of tasks, strategies and games all differentiated for choice. We have also been measuring length and volume using non-standard units. We are continuing with our spelling and grammar programme. Literacy tasks will almost always include reading, writing and listening/talking. Some children have been making solar towers and keeping moon diaries in our Sun and Moon/Day and Night interdisciplinary studies. We are now onto mini-beasts which is perfect for this time of year! In every plan, the goal is to have something fun, interesting and relaxing to do in health and wellbeing as well as across other areas of the curriculum. I hope that you are all safe, well and remember, we can all only do our best. Mrs Gaspar



Primary 3/2 In P3/2 we have been learning about the ancient Romans. We have made our own armour and dressed up as Roman soldiers. We have also been thinking about timelines and making our own timelines for our lives so far. In literacy, we created our own Roman soldier characters and wrote detailed descriptions about them. We have also been reading and writing instructions. In numeracy, we have been learning about how to collect and display data in tally charts, pictograms and bar charts. We have also been practising our number bonds, doubles and times tables. In science we have been learning about materials and their properties. We have also used our technology skills to make birds nests and marble runs! Mrs Gilmour & Mrs Coyle



Primary 3 Primary 3 pupils have been confidently using a range of skills in their home learning activities. They have been finding out about the Ancient Egyptians and have used different methods to present their findings including fact files about Egyptian gods, PowerPoints and art and craft. They have also been doing some super writing. They practised writing instructions for their own pizza and some children even went on to create their pizza. They used their imagination in designing a fairground ride and their initiative by watching virtual fairground rides online as a stimulus for their writing. There were some fantastic names for the rides! Oxford Owls has provided a library of e books to choose from and means that Primary 3 have been able to keep up with reading. In Maths, we have been practising our times tables, addition and subtraction and data handling and in Science, practical experiments have been undertaken at home involving forces. The continued lovely weather also means that there have been lots of outdoor activities both in the garden such as creating obstacle courses, workouts for the whole family and daily walks. Mrs Roy & Mrs Gregory



Home Learning Updates Continued...

Primary 4

P4 have been having a brilliant time learning online! We have been practising our multiplication, division and measuring in Maths – we have some very talented cooks and bakers who helped make a recipe by measuring out the correct weights of ingredients. In Literacy, we have been learning the skills we need to write a newspaper article for Bellsquarry News. We really enjoyed interviewing people and gathering quotes for our articles and Inventor's Challenge. We are learning about the Vikings in Interdisciplinary and are creating our own projects about them using our research, note making and design skills. We have been learning about Ramadan and Eid al-fitr in RME and discovering lots of fascinating facts in Science on the Glasgow Science Centre website! Mrs Green



Primary 5

P5 have loved learning online – we have been so busy! We have been improving our multiplication, division and measuring skills in Numeracy and Maths and played a variety of games to learn. In Literacy we have been learning skills for creating effective descriptions and using these to write adventure stories and fairy tales. We have really been enjoying this and giving ourselves and others feedback on how we can improve. We are learning about the Titanic in Interdisciplinary Learning and have been researching, creating sketches, using our note taking and comprehension skills to create lots of different pieces of work. We have been learning about Ramadan and Eid al-fitr in RME and discovering lots of fascinating facts in Science on the Glasgow Science Centre and BBC website! P5 especially love their ICT lessons and are fantastic at testing out their new digital skills. Miss Beestone



Primary 6

P6 pupils have been confidently applying their ICT skills to make the most of all of their online learning activities! We have been looking at sequences and patterns in maths and using this to help us to solve different problems. In Literacy we have started imaginative writing and have used video clips and images to inspire our story writing. We have just started our Natural Disasters social studies topic and have been learning about volcanoes and what causes them to erupt. We drew labelled diagrams to display what we had learned. In our Topical Science investigation, 'Destination Mars', we have been working our way through different missions to make sure we're all set to go to Mars. We've looked at the pros and cons of being a Martian Astronaut as well as investigating the conditions there once we arrive and what we will need to do in order to survive. We've also written persuasive arguments about how to spend the money it is going to cost to send people to Mars, £4.3 billion pounds. Should we be spending it on a mission to Mars or should we spend it on our own planet given the current restrictions in which we are living in? Mrs McElhinney & Mr Hunter



Home Learning Updates Continued...

Primary 7

P7 pupils have risen beautifully to the challenge of online learning! We have been identifying, measuring and drawing angles in Maths. In Literacy, we have been planning and writing our own adventure stories using descriptive words and techniques to build atmosphere. As well as writing adventure stories, we have started to write our reflective paragraphs full of memories over the BQPS years for our yearbook. We are learning about India in Interdisciplinary and have created our own PowerPoints about Indian tourist attractions, food and animals using our research, note making and presentation skills. In RME, we learned about Ramadan and then designed engaging and informative posters. We have started to engage in some discussions about transition to high school and have been sharing our top tips and advice to help one another. P7 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed learning new digital skills in ICT!



Classes for Next Year

We recently sent a letter to all of our new P1s to introduce them to their new class teachers:

Mrs Smith (Mon Tues) and Mrs Gilmour (Wed Thurs Fri)

At the moment we are not yet in a position to be able to confirm the class teachers for other stages as there are a couple of staffing elements still to be confirmed. We will share this news as soon as this is finalised.

What I can currently share is that due to a drop in roll (we have a large cohort of P7s leaving and a small intake of P1s) we have had the news from West Lothian Council that we will be moving to a 7 class structure next year. This means that, assuming nothing changes between now and summer, we are expecting to have no composite classes next session. We will have one class at each stage: P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7.

This means that if your child was in a composite this year, they will move into a single stage class next session. If you are unsure about what this means for your child, please get in touch.

A TEACHER
OPENS MINDS
AND TOUCHES
HEARTS ❤️

Returning to School Buildings

I understand that you will all be very keen to find out what the plans are for the return to school following the Scottish government's recent announcement. Although I don't have any information about this to share at the moment, I can tell you that all schools are working closely with West Lothian Council to come up with systems and processes for returning to school.

Work is currently underway to plan for the return of children to school buildings. I will be in touch as soon as possible once these plans are formalised to share what this means for you and your family. I thank you for your patience and understanding regarding this. Kind regards, Mrs Delargy

