



# 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

## October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term is absolutely flying in and autumn is upon us already. The children have been very busy learning and exploring across the curriculum both indoors and outdoors. As the weather is getting colder, we ask that you please ensure your children come to school wrapped up with water-proof coats and suitable shoes. They can leave their wellies and change of clothes in a bag on their peg to save them taking these to and from school. A warm Bellsquarry welcome our new families who joined us this month with more to come next week too. Welcome to the Bellsquarry Learning Community.



Kind regards, Louise Delargy

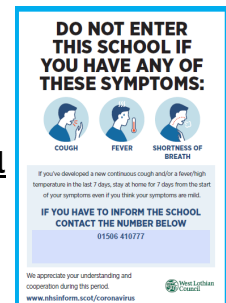
<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/back-to-school>

## Coronavirus Symptoms — Important Information

Thank you to our families for helping us out by sticking to our procedures at drop off and pick up and ensuring that you are following NHS inform advice where required.

We ask all parents to be vigilant. **If your child or anyone else in your household develops any of the symptoms** which are currently:

- ◇ A fever
- ◇ A continuous cough
- ◇ Loss of smell/taste



**Please do not send your child to school.** Follow NHS inform guidelines regarding test & protect and self-isolation periods (where applicable) for your child and other household members.

### **What will happen if your child develops symptoms at school**

If a child develops symptoms during the school day, they will be taken to a dedicated room in the school where a member of staff will keep them reassured. Parents/emergency contacts will then be contacted to collect their child.

You should then follow NHS guidelines regarding test & protect and self-isolation procedures. We will provide you with a leaflet about this when you or another guardian comes to collect your child if this situation occurs.

We understand that the symptoms may not be COVID19 related but we appreciate your understanding and patience with this as we must follow this process to reduce the spread of the virus in line with government guidelines.

Thank you all for your support with this.

*Commitment Achievement Respect Equity Support*

## Meet the Teacher Events & Termly Overviews

We thoroughly enjoyed having so many parents join us for our virtual meet the teacher events where the teachers shared a little bit about what the children will experience in their new stage. If you didn't manage to make it along, don't worry. You can access the termly overview as well as the meet the teacher slides as these are now available on the school website & blog.

<https://bellsquarryprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/52464/School-Blog>

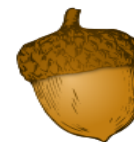
In the meantime, the children have written their own blurbs to let you know what they have been enjoying learning recently.

### Primary 1



In Numeracy and Maths we have been learning lots about counting to 20 and counting backwards. We have also been learning about 2D shapes.

One of our favourite ways to learn numeracy skills is counting objects inside and outside. In Literacy we have been enjoying learning letters and sounds as well as learning how to form our letters. We have also been exploring autumn and looking at leaves, squirrels, hedgehogs, acorns and apples.



### Primary 2

In Literacy we have been learning how to make sentences. A sentence is a group of words that make sense. It needs a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop.

In Numeracy and Maths we have been learning lots about adding numbers to make 20. We use number lines, fingers, and cubes to help us.



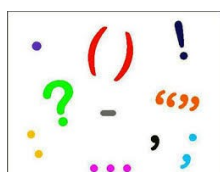
In other areas of the curriculum we have been exploring living/non living things in Science. In Art we have been painting with primary colours.



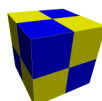
An interesting fact we have learned recently is that the berries on the bush in the playground are living. The ones on the ground are not living.

### Primary 3

In Literacy we have been learning how to write a successful recount and remembering where capital letters and full stops go in sentences. We have been talking about the need to be confident and to try new things.



In Numeracy and Mathematics we have been learning lots about 3D shapes and how many sides and corners they have. We have learned lots about place value and number names. Something that help us to learn numeracy skills best is to help each other and not be afraid to make mistakes.



In other areas of the curriculum we have been exploring and learning all about birds. We have been discussing the different cogs in Health and Wellbeing such as the orange cog and the green cog. We have also looked at the importance of being truthful in RME. An interesting fact we have learned recently is that the top of an egg is stronger than the side due to its shape!

## Primary 4

### Literacy

In Writing we've been learning about persuasive letters and posters and using persuasive words and techniques.

In Reading we've been using task mats. We've enjoyed: dictionary work, making puppets, being creative, drawing, discussing and reading books together.

We have been focusing on predicting, summarising and clarifying during our reading task mats.



### Numeracy

In Maths we've been learning how to read and use charts including bar charts, tally charts and pictograms

We have been learning about thousands, hundreds, tens and units.

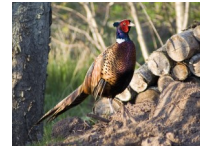
We have been adding and subtracting in the thousands.

In our Number Talks, we've been practising the 'making tens' strategy and we enjoyed our outdoor safari maths.



### Other areas of the Curriculum

We have been drawing pheasants: thinking about shape, line, sketching and looking closely at colour.



We have also been learning about Claude Monet and enjoyed recreating his painting.

We have been learning about the Amazon river and facts about it e.g. why is it so brown as well as learning to name different parts of the river.

## Primary 5

### Literacy

In Literacy we have been learning about inverted commas to show when someone is speaking. We have also been learning about homophones which are words that sound the same but are spelt differently and mean different things.

### Here's a list of common homophones...

eye/I	hear/here	son/sun
bare/bear	knight/night	tail/tale
be/bee	know/no	their/there/they're
break/brake	made/maid	wear/where
by/buy/bye	meat/meet	sale/sail
cell/sell	oar/or	rode/road
dear/deer	won/one	heel/heal/he'll
flour/flower	right/write	ant/ant
for/four	sew/so	blue/blew
hair/hare	stair/stare	do/due/dew



### Numeracy

In Numeracy we have been learning about doubles, near doubles and place value. We have been estimating and checking. We loved our number chains.

### Other Curricular Areas

Our topic is Titanic, we learned about buoyancy then made boats. We are going to do experiments to see which shape and type of boat floats with the most weight inside.

In PE we are learning about the different rules for dodgeball. It's really fun but tricky to stay in!



## Primary 6

### Literacy

We have really enjoyed being able to choose a book from the class library for our own personal reading. We've been working on our spelling activities to learn our spelling patterns.

We have also been writing diary entries. We created our own planets and wrote about them. We also made comic strips.

### Health and Wellbeing

We learned about mistakes using art by turning a mistake on a piece of paper into a wonderful art creation. We explored the difference between equity and equality where everyone got a plaster regardless of their ailment. We also learned about failure and perseverance where we worked as a team to build a tower out of spaghetti.



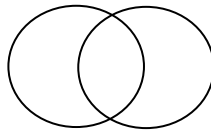
### Numeracy & Mathematics

We have been revising Place Value through worksheets, interactive games, board games and problem solving riddles.

We have been learning more about rounding and estimating and have enjoyed using the interactive learning games and challenge cards.

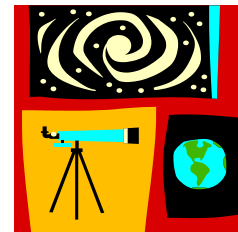
We've also made our own Venn diagrams, measured items in class and recorded data in bar graphs.

We incorporated multiplication into ball games during P.E. We've been practising our mental maths strategies and have enjoyed playing Countdown.



### IDL

When learning about space we created posters about the solar system and learned about the dangers of sun exposure. We discussed moon phases using biscuits, made star constellations using chalk and black paper, and have enjoyed researching our chosen planets and presenting to the class.



## Primary 7

In P7 we have been learning lots of different things over the past few weeks!

In Literacy, we have been learning about the features of a recount and have written our very own fictional recounts on The Blitz and our class novel 'Holes'. We have also started Literacy Circles discussions and have been creating our favourite book covers and blurbs for our reading corner display.

In Numeracy, we have been learning about the rounding and adjusting strategy and how we can use this to help us solve addition and subtraction calculations. We have also been learning about the 8 points of the compass and how to measure angles.

As part of our Health Emotion Works Programme, we have been learning about the orange emotion words cog and the green behaviour cog. In groups, we made a silent movie using behaviours to convey emotion. The audience had to guess how the characters were feeling. We are having lots of fun playing variations of Dodgeball such as: Team Dodgeball and Emperor Dodgeball.

Our WW2 topic is well underway and we have made gas masks from different materials. We have also been researching different topics within WW2 and are presenting our findings in our fact files. The skills we are developing are: researching, note-taking, editing, acknowledging sources and ensuring we have quality presentation.

During Art, we have just completed our class charter (which looks amazing!) and are now starting to design our WW2 planes by using sketching and shading techniques.

The P7 Vice/House Captains have been chosen and the pupils are looking forward to the responsibilities that lie ahead.



# Self Isolating & Continuity of Learning Provision

Where a child is well enough to be at school but is having to self isolate due to either developing symptoms themselves, a family member developing symptoms and awaiting a test result etc. home learning will be arranged.

Part of Mrs Green's role this year is to coordinate digital learning and home learning. She will liaise with your child's class teacher and help to facilitate home learning in the event that this is required. Please contact the school office to arrange this if your child needs to self isolate.



## Home Learning

Our home learning (homework) is now issued on the school blog rather than sending paper copies home. You can access this by visiting:

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

Or on the school website which has a feed directly from the blog and some people find this easier to navigate <https://bellsquarryprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/52464/School-Blog>

**Do I need to send my child's homework in?** No, we are aiming for a fully digital system. At the moment, P1-3 parents should share their child's learning by uploading a photo and/or a blurb of the tasks as a parent contribution. <https://bellsquarry.yourlearningjournals.co.uk/Login.aspx>

If you are having difficulties with this process, please email the school office who will pass on your message and we will help you with this. Information is coming about a new platform called SeeSaw which is being rolled out across West Lothian for P1-3 parents and pupils.

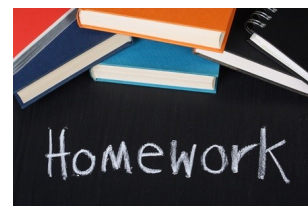
P4-7 pupils will submit their home learning through Teams. Your child will be supported in school to learn how to navigate this system.

## Teams

P4-7 pupils use teams instead of online learning journals because they are learning to become more independent in their use of digital technology. This same system is in use in secondary schools. It was great to see those of you who have pupils in P4-7 who joined us for our Teams parent session. If you weren't able to attend you can still access the slides as well as a copy of the questions and answers from the event at the link at the bottom of the page.

**For more information, about our online digital learning platforms for both P1-3 and P4-7 or to find out how you can sign up for Online Learning Journals, please click the link below:**

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/bellsquarrypsblog/useful-documents/forms/digital-learning-platforms-teams-online-learning-journals/>



## Parent Consultations

We are unable to have face to face meetings but we are exploring a virtual system to enable us to go ahead with our parent consultations planned for November. We recently had some of our parents take part in a trial of a new system. We have fed back to the company and to the council about our experience and are looking forward to finding out if this is the system we will be using.

Following feedback from parents, we have taken into account that parents would like the opportunity to have both teachers present on both evening (where there is a jobshare). To accommodate this, we may have to have some of our appointments the following week for some classes. This is why there are 4 dates indicated below.

Once we hear back from the council about whether or not we are able to go ahead with the system we recently trialled, we will communicate the dates and times available for each stage and when and how you can book an appointment to talk to your child's teacher(s) about his/her progress so far.



### Diary Dates

Friday 9th October	Last day of term for school pupils.
Monday 12th Oct—Monday 19th October	October holidays. School closed, ELC Open to nursery pupils
Tuesday 20th October	In Service Day School closed, ELC Open to nursery pupils
Wednesday 21st October	School pupils resume
Monday 26th October	PTAG meeting
Wednesday 4th Nov	Virtual Parent Consultations (more info to follow about platform, classes and times)
Thursday 5th Nov	Virtual Parent Consultations (more info to follow about platform, classes and times)
Tuesday 10th Nov	Flu Immunisations in school
Wednesday 11th Nov	Virtual Parent Consultations (more info to follow about platform, classes and times)
Thursday 12th Nov	Virtual Parent Consultations (more info to follow about platform, classes and times)

Please get in touch if there is anything you wish to discuss or clarify either via email, telephone or by speaking to a member of the leadership team at the school gate in the morning or at the end of the day. We are always happy to help.

Kind regards, Louise Delargy & The Bellsquarry Team.