



January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Downfield Primary School Pupils Home Learning Plan 2021

I hope this letter finds you and your family and friends well in what are continuing to be challenging times for everyone.

I am writing today to set out our plans for supporting all our children's learning in line with new government guidance recently issued.

Our school has reopened on Thursday 7th January 2021 for childcare and wellbeing support for children whose parents/carers are key workers and who have no other means of supporting their children, as well as children who have been invited in by school staff due to vulnerabilities. School has reopened from 9am-3.15pm. As previously shared, children should enter the building via usual doors and entrances and follow the usual hygiene routines on entry. Breakfast club and After school club is open as usual for those who already have a place and are also keyworkers children or invited pupils.

As has been our practice, we ask that parents of EY children only enter the playground at pick up and drop off if possible and that everyone (unless medically exempt) should wear a face covering and observe strict 2m social distancing. Please remember to observe the one-way systems in place and can I remind families that we are limiting one adult per family at drop off and pick up. This is to reduce footfall around the school. At the moment we are limiting visitors to our school and all issues should be dealt with either over the phone or by email in the first instance. We are also holding many meetings with parents virtually if this is an option for you.

Dundee City Council decided that children of key workers who were granted places at hubs during the last lock down will continue to have their place if their circumstances are the same. Any further requests for keyworker places should be made to the school. Please note that both parents/carers should be keyworkers to meet criteria for a place.

As you know the school has been preparing for the eventuality of either blended or remote home learning since our return in August. During inset days and training sessions staff have been working on digital learning strategies to support home learners. Unfortunately, all schools have recently lost access to Class Dojo due to data protections issues. This decision was made by Dundee City Council to protect our parents' data and information. Information will be sent out via email next week regarding a new **Xpressions** app. We will be asking parents to download this app so that we can reopen easy communication between school and our families. Parents and carers who have secondary age pupils may already have the app. Please watch this space for further info.

If you have trouble understanding English please contact the address below

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ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇੰਗلیش ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਠਿਨਾਈ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਡਿਊਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਰਾ ਸਿੱਧੇ ਪਤੇ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Jezeli masz trudności w zrozumieniu języka angielskiego, skontaktuj się na poniżej podany adres:

如果你對英語理解有困難，請聯絡以下地址:

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P1-3 pupils:

All home learning for P1-3 children will be emailed out to parents using email address we have on our system. Teachers will be in school on a split week basis – one teacher at the start of the week, the other at the end of the week with one day jointly planning and delivering in school and home learning.

- Learning inputs and tasks will be sent to parents 3 times a week in three blocks:
1. Monday and Tuesday, 2. Wednesday and Thursday, 3. Friday.
- Engagement via online platforms, Sumdog, Study Ladder or Oxford Owl, or via email will be expected daily. Activities will be short and some lessons will need adult support, with other activities being more independent in nature e.g. listening to stories etc.
- We ask that parents/carers please email us to let us know how the children are getting on with the tasks. We are also happy to look at pictures of work completed to give children feedback. If sending a few things grouping them together would be preferable. Once Xpressions is up and running this will be a good way to keep in touch to let us know how home learning is progressing.
- Please email class teacher with any questions – we are still here, just looking a little different at the moment! There will always be one of the teachers on 'home learning' duty, with the other teaching the children we have in school. We may include some of the pictures and comments in our weekly assemblies and shout outs.

Teachers will be working a regular school day, so if you wish to complete the tasks during the evening and send questions or comments, staff will pick these up and respond the following morning. Staff working from home are entitled to their normal breaks and teachers are also entitled to their non-class contact preparation time. They also in many cases have their own children to home school so may not be able to respond to questions instantly. Please support our staff by being understanding and patient.

We are tracking pupil engagement with home learning, so please let us know how things are going. If we haven't heard from you we will contact you to see how things are going and offer you help. It is vital that children do something. We are posting new learning and if your child does not engage, they will be behind their peers when school resumes as normal. We ask that children complete the basic Literacy, Numeracy and curricular tasks. We have worked to make things as easy as we can – lots of lessons to watch and learn alongside your child, but.....Please remember, we are here to help if anything doesn't make sense or you get stuck!

P4-7 pupils:

All home learning for P4-7 children will be shared via Microsoft TEAMS. Teachers will be in school alternate weeks. This means that one teacher will teach the children in school from each cohort whilst the other teaches the children at home from their home (or school)

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online. Please email your child's teacher if you have any TEAMS access issues, but I am reliably informed the children have log in details and know what to do!

- Learning inputs and tasks will be posted daily.
- Teachers will email you on Monday so you have their email address for contact purposes
- All classes will be providing 3 online lessons a day (maths, literacy and another curricular area). It is essential that these tasks are completed each day.
- Other optional tasks will be shared. These are extension or supplementary in nature.
- All resources and lessons will be allocated to each child with an explanation of what to do.
- There will be a live Q and A at the end of each day for any children needing further input from the day's lessons. The teachers assigned to home learning for their cohort will be online throughout the day to answer questions on teams or by email. Times of cohort online Q and A:
 - **P4 – 2:20pm P6 – 2:40pm**
 - **P5 – 2:30pm P7 – 2.50pm**

These times may run on a little longer if required, however, we wanted to stagger the times to allow siblings the opportunity to meet with their classmates and teachers if sharing devices.

Following feedback from parents during the last lockdown, we have ensured the following features are part of our home learning delivery this time round:

- Some 'live' or recorded lessons on SWAY or Powerpoint, so that children can learn new learning as if they are actually in classroom.
- Teachers will provide some feedback on aspects of the week's learning.
- Lots of opportunities to seek help and advice is offered, either via email from parents/carers or directly by the children through Q&A sessions and plenaries.
- Opportunities for TEAMS Meets for all P4-7 children– a chance for the kids to catch up as a whole class with their teacher to discuss the learning and check in with each other.
- Online assemblies were well received last time round and will continue!

We have a stock of stationery items – jotters, pencils etc., available from our school office. Please pop by and pick anything up that you need. These are in boxes at the front entrance. Packs are named, so please take the one for you child. If there's something you need that isn't in the packs, just let us know. There is hand sanitiser beside the boxes for you to use before and after collection of the packs.

Kind regards,



Mrs Karen Emmett
Head Teacher

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