**Bearsden Primary School**

**Accessing learning at home**

Website: [www.bearsden.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](http://www.bearsden.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

@BearsdenPrimary

March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, schools across East Dunbartonshire and beyond are closing temporarily to contain the spread of the coronavirus. We understand that this places huge demands on families at this time as you have many different challenges to balance, including childcare arrangements, home learning and supporting family members who may be more vulnerable to the virus.

**Family Wellbeing**

Your child will be learning from your response to the current situation. It is important for you to stay calm and resilient to help your child/ren cope with the circumstances.

It is vital to maintain structure and routine for your child during the period of school closure. The following 10 tips will help you to maintain the balance of family life, wellbeing and learning.

* Maintain routines and times for getting up and going to bed;
* Have regular meal times;
* Build in time for fresh air and activity as much as possible;
* Structure your child’s day so that they have a variety of activities and break times;
* Create a plan of activities your child can do during the day and give them some choice;
* Share plans with your child the night before so that your child knows what is happening the next day;
* Talk about activities each day – what children have done, what they enjoyed and what learning they have used;
* Make Monday to Friday different from the weekend by organising activities around the timeframe of the school day;
* Decide when and for how long your child will have access to electronic devices and for what purpose;
* Maintain contact with family and friends through technology such as Face Time.

**Home Learning**

Please find a home learning plan attached for each year group, along with ideas for Health & Wellbeing, Technologies and learning through play. We have given all children their GLOW passwords and have set up Teams for every class. Individual teachers will specify with you what platform they are using for their class (GLOW, Class Dojo, Teams) depending on what they feel their class would best respond to. If any issues with logging in please email school office office@bearsden.e-dunbarton.sch.uk as we can resolve these hopefully.

 Please discuss with your child that the ICT policy for school also applies at home. Children should not use this inappropriately eg emailing teachers with non-school related chat! It should also not be used as a social media platform/ chatroom. It is safer to message teachers through the Teams as the email contains all staff and students in Scotland therefore they may message the wrong person.

We will also use our Twitter to promote other resources as they become available.

**Home Learning Plans**

Teachers across stages have worked together to create home learning plans for each year group. These contain curriculum information to support home learning in Literacy and Numeracy, along with websites to support e-learning**.**

**We have asked for these to be added to our website under the Learning tab.**

**Sumdog Numeracy**

All children in the school have access to Sumdog and know how to use it to practice their Numeracy skills. The programme is adaptive, meaning that it is individualised for learners as they use it. Sumdog allows children to play numeracy games with their friends, which is a good way to connect with classmates.

**Children Leading Learning**

Home learning is an ideal opportunity for children to lead their own learning. There’s an opportunity for children to use this time to deep dive into a project they’re really interested in or excited about. This is also a meaningful context for children to apply their skills, such as reading for information, note taking, annotating and creating texts.

**Health and Wellbeing**

It is vital for children to stay as active as possible and this can be integrated into home learning. Here are some suggestions for websites you can use as a family at home…

GoNoodle gonoodle.com

Brain Gym

Joe Wicks Workouts for Kids- PE workouts starting this Monday at 9am.

BBC Jumpstart [www.jumpstartjonny.co.uk](http://www.jumpstartjonny.co.uk)

**Technologies:**

There are many websites and apps that your child can access for free to support their learning across different curricular areas at home. We have also added a comprehensive list to our website of other websites to use.

All Curricular Areas:

* **Hamilton Trust** (<https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk>) – The Hamilton Trust provides access to resources and lessons for Science and Technology. Although some of these activities require an account, many of the resources are free to use, with booklets provided that your child can work through. Just access the website and click the subject area that you wish to look at, choosing the correct stage for your child.
* **BBC Teach** (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/primary/zd7p47h>) – BBC Teach is a website full of resources you can use with your child for different curricular areas. There are suggested videos and activities for all curricular areas which are free to access.
* **BBC Bitesize (**<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>) – BBC Bitesize has videos and activities for all curricular areas and is differentiated for each year group. Ensure that you click on the Scottish Curriculum tab.

Literacy:

* **The Literacy Shed** (<https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html>) – The Literacy Shed is an excellent resource full of animations that pupils can watch and complete activities on. Underneath each video are suggested activities that you can do with your child.
* **Pobble 365 (**<http://www.pobble365.com/>) – This website posts a new picture each day with suggested activities underneath. They are a good resource for encouraging discussion.
* **Coffee Break French** – Coffee Break French is a free French tutorial podcast that goes through basic French vocabulary and gives information about the French culture. You can access the podcast through iTunes, ACAST (Podcast app) or online at <https://radiolingua.com/coffeebreakfrench/>

STEM:

* **Topmarks** (<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>) – Topmarks provides games and links for all curricular areas. In particular the speed challenges and ‘Hit the Button’ are good for developing mental maths skills.
* **Daily Rigour** (<https://www.cdmasterworks.co.uk/the-daily-rigour/>) – Daily Rigour is a website that provides maths challenges and activities for First and Second Level.
* **James Dyson Foundation (**<https://www.jamesdysonfoundation.co.uk/resources/challenge-cards.html>) - These cards are free to download and have suggestions for activities that will help to develop your child’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths skills.
* **Scratch** (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>) - Scratch is online coding platform that will help your child develop coding skills using Visual Processing Language (VPL). There are tutorials available through the Code Club website that your child can follow to learn some basic coding skills (<https://projects.raspberrypi.org/en/codeclub>). You can access Scratch without creating an account, however if you would like to save your child’s work then you will need to create an account (All Primary 7 pupils already have these).
* **Hour of Code** (<https://code.org/learn>) – Hour of Code is a website that provides one hour coding tutorials linked to films, current games and different curricular areas. Pupils can work through the tutorials which are progressive and can be completed in various languages.

Other suggestions for Technology use:

* Create a PowerPoint about a chosen topic
* Create a poster about an aspect of learning using Publisher or Word
* Using search engines, research a famous person and create a fact file about them
* Create your own game using Scratch or Python – both available to use online
* Create a birthday card or Easter card using a Publisher or Word template
* Research the statistics of a chosen subject and create a table on Excel (suggestions include rainfall, temperature, sales of a toy/electronic etc)
* Youtube – How to draw a... – Free step by step tutorials for drawing.

**Learning through Play**

As you will be aware we place a great importance on play at Bearsden Primary. Here are some ideas for play that will lead to rich learning opportunities in numeracy and literacy…

* Join together large sheets of paper or cut out cardboard boxes and create a world with your child. Start by drawing a road or train track and with your child slowly add to the image by adding houses, vehicles, people, animals, plants, physical features such as rivers and forests. While you are creating your world talk about the characters and animals in the image, start to build stories together about these people and the adventures you are having. You could label the features of your world, or try to write or record some of the stories and things the characters are saying. You could then build your world using toys or recyclable materials.
* Construct a den from sheets and chairs. This could be a place you read with your child, a camp site, a castle, a monster’s cave.
* Set up a shop using recyclable materials as the items for sale, talk about prices and money, take turns being a customer and shop assistant.
* Go outside and walk through a favourite story, role play all of the characters and events.
* Create a puppet theatre of favourite stories, you could take it in turns to be the actor and the audience.

Further ideas can be found at <https://abcdoes.com/home-learning/> and of course your child will have plenty ideas of their own!

We wish all our families the best of health and look forward to welcoming you back to school in due course.

Kind regards

Catriona Smith

Head Teacher