



Stoneferry Primary School

January Newsletter—Week 2



May I start by wishing many of you a belated Happy New Year. I hope that the little bit of time spent together with family on Christmas Day was enjoyed by you all and that you and your children had a lovely time. For myself this was a rare opportunity to spend some quality time with my parents and I was certainly thankful for that.

Unfortunately, the very late news that we would not be opening to all of the children last week has meant a very different start to the new year than any of us expected. Until the Prime Minister's announcement, we were fully prepared for a normal start to term with everyone looking forward to continuing the good work that had taken place in the Autumn, but this was not to be. However, although we have had a few teething problems, mainly with passwords and access, we feel now we are starting to get to grips with Teams much better and that the children are now much more confident with it too. At times this has proved very challenging as teachers and myself have been learning a brand new platform for providing work and we appreciate that we have made changes to things at very short notice sometimes. We feel now we have a much better understanding of how to make using Teams as straightforward as possible for parents and children, and believe it has a lot of potential. This week teachers have started their daily check-ins which have been a good opportunity for your children to see their teacher. As we move forward we will look also at how we can maximize the potential of the software to improve the learning experience of the children further. As always, I thank you for your patience with this and hope that you now feel we are going in a good direction overall.

Mr Raw, Head of School

Interaction with Teams

During the period of lockdown, the government has made it very clear that the children should continue to learn new material and be provided feedback on this. Teachers are setting work that is in line with the national curriculum and are able to respond very quickly to the children's work to support them further too. Unlike the previous lockdown, there is a clear expectation of the amount of work children should be completing each day.

EYFS & KS1 - a minimum of 3 hours learning daily

KS2 - a minimum of 4 hours learning daily

For this reason it is essential that your child is working through the tasks which are being set each day and completing and submitting their work. Teachers will be calling when they see that pupils are not engaging as everyone needs to be working hard.

So far overall our pupil engagement has been very good and we thank you all for your efforts in supporting the children in completing their work. We want to see this engagement continue to rise and staff will be closely tracking this next week and beyond.

Using an Xbox or Playstation to View Work

Earlier in the week I sent a message regarding how an Xbox or Playstation can be used to access Teams. This might be useful to families where devices are at a premium. I have added step by step instructions to the school website to help you with this and can also talk you through how to do this if you give me a call.

Reading

Well I suppose it wouldn't be a newsletter without me talking about Reading. It is such a shame that we are not able to continue our excellent progress with the Reading Rockets, but I must still stress the importance of the children still reading regularly at home. Don't worry about recording this in reading journals but please encourage your child to read as often as possible. Thank you