

Dear Meadowers,

As we approach the February long weekend we wonder and hope that this might be the last one in full lockdown. Wouldn't that be good?

We have come such a long way after 4 weeks of remote learning and we are so grateful to the pupils, parents and staff for all pulling together.

Here are some numbers for you

66 videos made by our staff are now on our private youtube channel of clips which support the children's learning. This doesn't include the multiple PowerPoints with voice overs and films embedded in them.

Over 500 class meetings have taken place.

1380 assignments have been uploaded.

105 parents have given us feedback with lots of positive affirmation.

34 posts on Facebook of support and ideas.

Approx. 98% engagement of pupils each week on Teams and those not engaged have had contact in other ways.

We are so proud of our school community and the effort that has been made during this difficult time. The commitment to our children's learning has been impressive and the attitude by our children outstanding. Several of our children and parents have mentioned about how much more independent the children are becoming. This is an amazing skill that children will have for life. In fact, there are many skills that children will now have because of this lockdown and when they return, we are hoping we will be able to work with the children to help them identify and celebrate these life skills. Unfortunately, our media is regularly reporting on the deficit and negative impact of this time on our children, but we must remember there will also be many positives that come from this. We want our children to hear these messages more than the messages about how they have missed out.

Yesterday Mrs Allen met with the Learning committee for the first time online and they were a credit to their classes. We discussed what was going well and what areas we could improve upon. We discussed assemblies and what they felt would be appropriate whilst remote learning continues. They will now go back and talk to their own classes and then we are hoping to meet again in a couple of weeks to gather more of their thoughts.

As you are aware the Scottish Government announced a potential phased return of children from the 22nd February. We have no details at this point as to what this may look like, but we have started to plan in preparation for this. We also have been evaluating what this means for P4-7 and we are in discussion about how we continue to improve remote learning for the older children.

We have now purchased Bug Club for P1-3. This is an online reading resource which we will use to give access to texts and online books for our younger children. Mrs Gardiner will send out more details about this to the parents of children in these stages.

We are also still exploring what reporting to you will look like in the future and on the in-service day the teaching staff will be examining this further. This is a very complex issue as we won't fully know what children are able to do until they return into school, but we will be working towards how we will gather that information from the children and then how we feed this information to you.

Many of you will know Lesley our Depute Head of our Early Years Centre. Next Friday she will be moving on to pastures new with a new role in East Dunbartonshire Council. Lesley was involved in setting up Lenzie Meadow EYC and many of you will know her from having had children pass through her care. We will miss her hugely but wish her all the very best. Thankfully, she will still be at the end of a phone and will continue to support us from a distance. Please feel free to email any messages into the office and we will pass them on to her.

We are on holiday now for the February weekend. The school including remote learning is now closed until Thursday morning when we look forward to seeing you all again even if this is on a Teams call. Please do try and have a break from the screens if you can. Hopefully, we might see a little snow, but we hope you all have a good time whatever the weather. Take care everyone,
Sheona Allen