

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, I hope everyone is well. It's a challenging time for everyone and we recognise that some are struggling more than others.

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey. Your responses have helped us plan the way forward for you and your children. We know we can't keep everyone happy all of the time and that opinions, just like the weather, can change. That is why we plan to carry out another survey three weeks from now.

I've attached the sheet with survey results and what this means as we move forward.

Check in

Please ensure your child checks in **daily with us**. If your child doesn't check in two days running, you'll receive an email from the school and on the third day a telephone call. This call may come from an unknown number but we will leave a message. If your child is unwell and would usually be absent that day, please let us know by emailing balloch.primary@highland.gov.uk. If you email the school inbox and don't receive a reply by the afternoon of the next day, please resend the email. We are manning this box and aim to respond to parents as quickly as possible.

Communication with class teachers

If you wish to contact the class teacher(s), please do this through the balloch.primary@highland.gov.uk address.

Assembly

We plan to hold a weekly assembly on a Friday. Similar to school, this will only be available on a Friday although we have extended the time from early morning to late evening. Nursery parents should have received an email today with a link so that their children can join in.

Music licence

Thank you very much to the Parent Council / Balloch Fundraising Group who are purchasing a Fischy Licence for the school so that we can have music for the children at our assemblies. Their fundraising efforts usually mean an enhanced experience for your children at school and now this fundraising is supporting the home learning experience.

Literacy skill

The skill we are focusing on this week is **making connections**. When children are reading, being read to, watching television or looking at pictures they make connections.

They make connections between their own life experiences and the texts, connections between different texts and connections with bigger events / issues in society.

Below is a youtube link to a teacher talking to children about making links to their own life experiences.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDgiZ79KKK0>

In school, we have started developing a very simple coding strategy for children when they are reading. This code can be written on the text, e.g. a newspaper for older children or written as a table on a sheet of paper. This activity can also be completed for television programmes, pausing at regular intervals to discuss orally.

code	meaning	(If you prefer to use a table format, this column can be used for examples from the text .)
*	I knew this already.	
+	I didn't know this.	
!!	Wow	
??	I don't understand	

Children's social interaction

All the staff are missing the children and we are all looking forward to the day when we can be physically all together again. Social interaction for the children is very important and parents may wish to build this into their children's timetable in the form of online meetings with their friends where they can see one another's faces. There are a number of online platforms which can be used for this.

May Day – date for the diary

Finally, a reminder that Friday, 8th May, is May Day and so there will be no check-in and no virtual school. This date was chosen to coincide with the VE Day 75th anniversary commemorations.

Kind regards,

Karen Ross