

Dear Parent / Carer,

We're now five weeks into term and family situations may have changed so, as previously communicated, we will be emailing a survey similar to the one we issued earlier in the term. This survey will come to your email address in the form of a link on Monday morning. This will be a very short survey and should take no longer than 5 minutes to do. Please complete this by 9 a.m. next Thursday. It will help us to plan the way forward that best suits our families at the present time.

We are presently drawing up a survey for parents of children in nursery and hope to share this the following week.

Thank you very much to parents for sticking with us through this. Schools are closed to everyone, including all staff, which means we do not have access to school resources electronically or in paper form as these are stored on the school network. Your support is very much valued as we know this isn't easy for you either and we all want to be back in school as soon as it is safe to do so.

### **Google group social call**

Below is a table of the times staff are offering Google Meet group social calls in their classes next week. We're going to try with cameras on so more children can be included in a call. We know that this isn't for everyone and that some children / parents don't want to be included. That's absolutely fine. Instructions on how to set up a Google Meet were attached to last week's communication. Teachers will put a message on their streams in relation to this on Monday morning and call slots will be filled on a first come basis.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
P1	11.00 a.m.			11.30 a.m.	11.30 a.m.
P2/1	11.00 a.m. 11.30 a.m.				10.00a.m.
P3/2		12.30 p.m.	12 noon	12 noon	
P4/3	11.15 a.m.			12 noon 12.30 p.m.	
P5/4	11 a.m.	10 a.m. 10.30 a.m.			
P5	11 a.m.	11 a.m.	11 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	
P6	11a.m. 11.30am	11 a.m.		11 a.m.	
P7/6		10:30 a.m. 11 a.m.	10.30 P6		10 a.m.
P7	11.30 a.m. 1.30 p.m.			11 a.m.	

## **Literacy skill**

Our literacy strategy for the next three weeks is questioning.

One of the things teachers are guilty of is not giving children enough thinking time when we ask them a question. Children require 6 – 10 seconds thinking time once a higher order question is asked and it can be so tempting to jump in with cues or a rephrase of the question.

It's also very important that children are given the opportunity to compose their own questions. Good readers ask purposeful questions about the text in order to understand what they are reading.

Below is a link to a youtube video. The use of 'I wonder' questions allows children the freedom to share their thoughts and understand that there isn't always only one answer. These 'I wonder' questions could take the form of 'I wonder why ...' or 'I wonder what ...'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6mLFxGRFI4>

Stop the video at 4 seconds, 18 seconds, 42seconds, 1 minute 10 seconds, 1minute 22 seconds and 1 minute 57 seconds and have some fun making up your own 'I wonder' questions about what is happening or what might happen next. Once you've watched the video with the pauses, watch again without pausing. This is an exercise that can be carried out whilst watching videos or reading a book.

## **Chrome books**

Our Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils have been issued with Chrome books by Highland Council and the expectation is that they use these to engage with their learning. If a younger sibling is struggling to access their virtual classroom then their older brother or sister should be sharing.

## **Assembly**

Our song for assembly next week is 'Check it'. Parents can give their children access to the video before assembly so that they can practise the song. Instructions to access Fischy Music were included in last week's communication.

Thank you for continuing to send photographs. Any photographs received by 3 p.m. on the Wednesday will be used that week, with later photographs being held over for the following week's assembly.

The weather was certainly interesting last weekend – a bit of snow, hailstones and even some sunshine in between. Let's hope the sun comes out for us all this weekend. Take care and look after yourselves.

Kind regards,

Karen Ross

Emma Patience

Clare Petrie

Head Teacher

Acting Head Teacher

Depute Head Teacher