

People Directorate

Head Teacher: Mr George Docherty



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Our Ref: Your Ref:
Date: 7/01/2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent Update Letter

Happy New Year! As we start this new term I wanted to communicate to you plans for the next few weeks following the announcement from Scottish Government.

7 - 8th January 2021: Extended holiday for the majority of learners. Children of keyworkers (who completed applications and meet the criteria set out by South Ayrshire Council) and vulnerable learners should attend school for childcare purposes.

11th - 29th January 2021: Remote, online learning for the majority of learners. Children of keyworkers (who completed applications and meet the criteria set out by South Ayrshire Council) and vulnerable learners should attend school for childcare purposes and to be supported to access remote learning. School staff have contacted relevant families.

Keyworker Children Applications

Completed applications were sent to Head Teachers on Tuesday and the majority of approval letters have been sent today for those who meet the criteria for accessing childcare. Information on arrangements is included in the letter sent directly to relevant parents and carers. From 11th January, children of keyworkers and vulnerable children will be supported with learning in school by adults supervising but not directly teaching, which is consistent with those children learning remotely from home. At present these arrangements will be in place until at least Friday 29th January.

N5 Key Assessments and Higher/Advanced H Prelims

The First Minister has indicated that remote learning will now be in place until at least Monday 1st February. Therefore, our scheduled Prelims and Key Assessments will not be able to commence as planned. Remote learning for senior students will focus on continuing courses. As the national situation is reviewed, we hope to have a clearer indication if assessments can take place in school in February.

Remote Learning

Staff are currently preparing remote learning materials, building on the positive work undertaken this session. In line with current national guidance, staff who are able to do so are working remotely from home. All students have completed, at the very least, basic training in the use of Teams and the vast majority of students are proficient in the use of GLOW / Teams, making use this platform regularly in school. A comprehensive video support guide can be accessed at www.marr.sayr.sch.uk/digitaldrill and I would encourage students to view this again in preparation for remote learning next week.



Students should log in to MS Teams to access resources and tasks. Students should also check Show My Homework for notifications. Teams can be downloaded to a mobile phone, iPad/Tablet, laptop or desktop PC and can also be accessed via GLOW (this is covered in the support video). You can even access GLOW on an Xbox or PlayStation! We understand that not all students will have access to a tablet, laptop or desktop PC and work can also be completed on paper and a photo uploaded to Teams via a mobile phone.

Class teachers will set work for students which will be a mix of tasks and activities and where possible some live lessons and check-ins (these may be recorded for ease of access). Pupils may wish to use their 'normal' school timetable to help structure their day. Materials will not be provided for S2 and S3 electives, which were due to commence next week and have been replaced by online health and wellbeing sessions, led by our school Librarian.

For senior students, teachers will be providing remote learning that is a continuation of current units of work and/or new learning. Any live introductions, sessions or check-ins will take place (where possible) during one of the usual periods on their timetable to avoid the possibility of sessions clashing.

It is important that all students engage with and keep up to date with tasks as we want to avoid anyone falling behind. Pupil engagement will be monitored using insights (Teams) and submission of tasks. If your child is unable to complete their daily remote learning due to illness, please contact the school to inform us in the usual way.

If you have any particular questions, please phone the school on 01292 690022 and ask to speak to your child's Guidance Teacher or alternatively email Marr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk. A member of staff will be in contact as soon as we can.

The very best wishes for a positive 2021 and thank you as always for all your support.



George Docherty
Head Teacher