

**NEWTONGRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**EDUCATION DIVISION**

Head Teacher  
Miss V Morgan

**Midlothian**

Our Ref:



20.4.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are all well and safe and you have managed to enjoy the nice weather we have had either on your daily exercise or in your garden. It has been a bit of a strange school holiday but from families sharing photos of what they have been up to Twitter, I can see that many of you are certainly keeping busy. I hope you enjoyed seeing what staff have been up to too! Please do keep sharing what you get up to on our school Twitter page @NewtongrangePS.

I want to say a huge thank you to our whole school community and take this time to reassure families that we continue to be here for you during these unprecedented times. Staff are greatly missing the children and I know that teachers really enjoyed connecting with learners through Glow the week before the holidays.

As the Scottish Government have made the decision to extend the lock down period, Newtongrange Primary School will remain closed at the start of the summer term. Teachers will continue to provide learning activities for children to engage with at home. We aim for the learning grids to be uploaded by 9:00am every Monday. We continue to use Glow as the main platform to support learning at home for P1-P7 learners and home learning activities for our nursery children will be shared through Seesaw.

If your child/ren are having difficulty accessing either Glow or Seesaw please contact the school through email and we will provide further support. [Newtongrange\\_ps@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Newtongrange_ps@midlothian.gov.uk)

Midlothian Council have developed a Parent Information page, which has a range of videos to support families in using Glow and Seesaw for accessing online activities.

Click here for Glow support <https://sites.google.com/mc.glow.scot/distancelearning-parentcarer/glow>

Click here for Seesaw support <https://sites.google.com/mc.glow.scot/distancelearning-parentcarer/other-tools/seesaw>

**No ICT equipment at home**

Midlothian Council have a very limited number of Chromebooks to lend to families to support with distance learning. If you would like to request technology, please click on the following link for more information about how to apply for a loan of a Chromebook.

<https://sites.google.com/mc.glow.scot/distancelearning-parentcarer/chromebookloan>

**Online resources**

A number of companies across the UK are also offering free subscriptions for a limited time during this crisis. Our staff team have also compiled a list of further websites to support with a variety of curricular areas such as Health and Wellbeing, Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Outdoor Learning, Project Based Learning, Computing and Coding, Arts and Crafts. These can be found by [clicking here](#).

## Teacher responsibilities

Please remember that in addition to providing home learning activities, teachers will have other commitments during the period of closure. In particular, teachers may be, along with our school staff:

- Working in a local childcare hub to support the children of key workers.
- Providing support for vulnerable families within our local community.
- Assisting the local authority in longer term planning, in the event of an extended closure.

Like everyone else within our community, staff will also have their own personal commitments which may include caring for children, elderly relatives or other vulnerable friends and family.

If your child's class teacher is unable to post home learning activities on a particular day, we will do our best to arrange for another teacher to cover this. It may also take longer than usual for members of the school's admin staff or management team to respond to individual emails or queries. We do ask for your patience and understanding at this time.

## Expectations

Please remember we are not asking you to 'home school' your child, but where possible to support your child with learning activities at home. We understand that many of you are still trying to work from home in these challenging circumstances. Home learning activities have been designed to be as independent as possible, bearing in mind access to technology and children's differing maturity levels. Any support you can provide is welcome and worthwhile but hopefully not always necessary.

Please try and not worry about your child regressing in school. Every child is in the same situation and they will be ok. When we are back in school, we will work hard to meet their needs where they are. Every family's situation is different and the most important things is your and your child/ren's mental wellbeing and health. Do what you can to keep your family happy and safe.

## Want to talk to someone?

We are here to help. Please email [Newtongrange\\_PS@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Newtongrange_PS@midlothian.gov.uk) if you require any support. You can also access our **Psychological Services helpline**. This is open to parents/ carers and professionals to discuss any concerns about a child's learning, social, emotional or behavioural needs. Please telephone 0131 270 5615. Lines are open Thursday 10am-12pm

Finally, across the course of the next few weeks, we will provide further updates with regards to school camp, return of any payments you have made, transition arrangements and further school business.

Take care, keep in touch and stay safe.

Vicky Morgan  
Head Teacher