



# Cornbank St James Primary School

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Head Teacher  
Mrs Laura Cameron

07.01.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! Our Cornbank Team hope that that this email finds our families and community safe and well. Despite further changes and restrictions, we hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and holiday period.

We are just as disappointed as you are not to be starting 2021 altogether in the school building. We know that some of you will have concerns and worries but we want to reassure you that we will do everything we can to support you and your children through the rest of the month of January. It is probably a good time to remember how amazingly well your children adapted to working at home in March and then how enthusiastic and resilient they were on their return to the building in August.

As you will have been aware, Midlothian Council are committed to supporting children of Keyworkers by offering Emergency Childcare. There was a large increase of requests for places this time round and all schools have had to use the same criteria of Category 1 and 2 Keyworkers for allocating a space. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked continuously this week to organise our allocations. At Cornbank, we now have a timetable of core staff who will be supporting childcare in the school building during our normal school hours. This means that feedback in your child's Google Classrooms may be provided by another member of teaching staff on certain days.

Our teaching staff have been continuing to work very hard to plan online learning for our children at home. This may look slightly different to last time, as our technical skills have greatly improved and we have had time to plan ahead. Please do not be worrying or feeling under pressure by the thought of online learning. Every family situation is different; every child is different. Again, we are all here to help and support our children through this. Online learning is not the same as classroom learning and children will vary in their enthusiasm and motivation towards this. We would encourage you to do what works for you and your child. We will continue to keep you updated with information on a regular basis and be able to offer different types of support; check-in calls, emails, Support for Learning and technical support (provided by Mr Drysdale!). We will be sending out separate communication regarding Google Classrooms for P1-P7 and Home Learning activities for ELC. Your children are still 'on holiday' this week and we do not want to overwhelm you with information in the first letter of 2021.

Please say 'Hello' to your child(ren) from us. We cannot wait to have everyone back together soon. We hope everyone continues to keep well and remember to be kind to yourself.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take Care

Laura Cameron

