



# Cornbank St James Primary School

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Head Teacher  
Mrs Laura Cameron

22.01.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds everyone safe and well. We are coming to the end of week 2 of remote learning and already January feels like a very long month! January is renowned for being a difficult time (Blue Monday) and I am sure the added pressures of the current pandemic, and then the weather, will be not be making things any easier for our families. Remote learning is not easy for children, families or staff. If you or your child are struggling or would benefit from support or advice, then please do use our Midlothian Psychology service. They have a helpline running on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.00pm - 3.00pm and can be contacted on 0131 271 5615.

The fundamental part of a school is the strong relationships and we are all missing these. Many families will be trying to balance home learning, your own work commitments and family life. As always, we would encourage you to do what works for your family. Personally, I have had to adapt my son's 'school week' to evenings and weekends to work round our work commitments; he is actually secretly delighted as it means he can get a long lie! Please do not be worrying if your child is unable to complete all the tasks set or does not appear to be as independent as you had hoped with their learning. Classroom and remote learning are completed in very different environments and learning activities may take pupils different times to complete. Our staff team are continuing to support learning with daily, differentiated activities. Staff have been using a range of technology to stay connected with the children in their class including 'live' teaching such as videos of staff presenting learning and teaching, presentations with voice overs, audio inputs and hosting regular Goggle Meets. Please encourage your child to stay connected by responding to the questions on the Google Stream and 'handing in work'. Our staff are continually providing feedback and using this to plan next steps. I attach a copy of 'What to expect' in Google Classrooms next week. We will continue to update this as this period of remote learning continues.

Midlothian Digital Learning Team have held sessions on using Google Classroom. If you have not been able to attend these sessions then you can find links for these webinars will be added to the 'Covid 19' page of our school website, along with guidance previously shared about accessing Google Classroom.

You may have noticed that our school Twitter page has been slightly quieter than normal. This is based on feedback from last session, that sometimes promoting what other families are doing can cause unnecessary pressure. We love seeing what you are getting up to and celebrating your achievements. Please do keep in touch by sending us pictures or posting your news in the Google Classroom.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be meeting virtually with families of children who have Individual Educational Plan. We will also be continuing to check in with families by phone calls. If you feel you or your child would benefit from a call from a member of the Senior Leadership Team or



your child's teacher at the beginning of the week, please do make contact with us and we will prioritise this.

I would like to thank you again for your support.

Take Care

Laura Cameron