

Our Ref: LM/AM
Date: 19 March 2020



To All Parent/Carer

Dear Parent/Carer,

The First Minister announced yesterday that all schools and Early Learning and Childcare Centres in Scotland are to close on Friday due to the continuing impact of Covid-19 (coronavirus).

We have been planning for this situation over a number of weeks and have been working closely with our headteachers to ensure learning can continue in these circumstances.

I appreciate this is an uncertain time for you and your family and am writing today to explain the approaches we will be taking in West Dunbartonshire to provide education for your children while schools are closed.

Access to learning

Your child's school or Early Learning and Childcare Centre will provide specific details on any work they wish your child to complete while not at school. A text message will be issued to all parents and carers with details of how to access learning resources. This will include use of *ourcloud.buzz*, our virtual learning environment, as well as providing practical activities for children to complete away from a screen.

Alongside the learning resources provided for your child from their school and/or Early Learning and Childcare Centre, there will be more general weekly 'Home Learning Challenges' issued by West Dunbartonshire Council. These will be fun games and activities linked to learning that you can do at home with your children. These will be posted on the WDC website and Facebook page every Monday and Wednesday morning for children 0-3, 3-5 (Nursery), 5-8(P1-P4), 9-11 (P5-P7), and 11 – 14 (S1-S3).

Senior Phase

Senior Phase students will maintain contact with staff google classrooms to complete coursework through *ourcloud.buzz*. A text message will be issued from the school

with further detail on how to access this for your children. Now that the SQA have confirmed that the 2020 examinations will not take place, we will make necessary local arrangements and update parents and carers directly.

Local Support Hubs

14 local support hubs will be operated in schools across West Dunbartonshire to ensure access to lunch and other resources for those entitled to free school meals and also to support children whose parents or primary carers are employed in key worker roles, such as the NHS or emergency services. Further detail of the Hub locations will be issued directly to parents on Monday. The Hubs will be operational by Wednesday.

Wellbeing Support

We know this is a difficult situation for many families in our community, and we want to ensure you are fully supported with any challenges ahead. Our educational psychology team will be available to provide advice, guidance and support during this unprecedented situation. Contact information will be shared through WDC website and Facebook.

My thoughts are with you and your families.

Yours sincerely



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