



Elrick School News

April 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of another term and once again it has been quite a rollercoaster for everyone. We are delighted that all classes were able to return for the final three weeks and are very much looking ahead to a brighter and better Term 4!

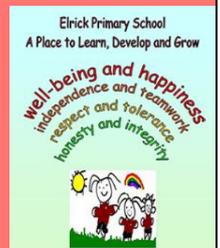
The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with an update on developments from this term and give you an insight into plans for Term 4, the final term of this school session.

We hope you find the information helpful and would encourage you to get in touch if you have any suggestions regarding our newsletter and what you would like to be included.

We continue to be inspired by the support, resilience and creativity displayed throughout our school community and know that these qualities will help our children to learn, develop and grow as we work together throughout this time.

Have a lovely, relaxing, and well-earned Easter break.

Kind Regards
Elrick School SLT



Remote Learning Experience

At the end of January, we asked for parent views on the Remote Learning being offered at Elrick Primary. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed. We had a good response with 163 families answering.

The feedback from this was very positive with some useful points for consideration. This was shared with staff and used to improve the remote learning provision. Below are some of the points included:

- *The daily calls have made it so much easier to motivate learning.*
- *Interaction with their peers and teachers has been invaluable.*
- *Small groups for the live lessons are much better.*
- *The recorded videos are brilliant for P1.*
- *Perfect mix of PowerPoint with work explained worksheets to complete and live sessions to fit around our work.*
- *Printed materials would be welcome to reduce screen time.*
- *Consideration given to the timing of the publication of work to allow parents to prepare in advance.*

Unfortunately, not all requests could be met and although staff would have loved to have been able to support children on an individual basis this was by exception only. We also appreciate that different circumstances meant there was not a 'one size fits all' approach but I hope that families felt there was enough flexibility and support to make it as smooth as possible.

Return to School/Staffing

As already mentioned,

we are delighted to have had all pupils in school for the last three weeks and are incredibly proud of their resilience and patience through what has been a very unsettled year.



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We have had several staff absences and although we have been lucky to secure some cover, there has been a lack of consistency. This has impacted on individual classes and our additional support timetable. We are hopeful that we will have all staff return, fit and well for Term 4. We are also delighted to be welcoming back Miss Rebecca Ford. Miss Ford returns from her maternity leave on Tuesday 4th May and will be working 3 days a week providing additional support to classes.

Connecting Scotland Devices

We are now in Phase 3 of the Connecting Scotland Project and to date we have received 21 Chromebooks and 4 iPads to support some of our pupils in accessing learning through technology. We know that there are learners across our community that have been unable to connect with their learning digitally because they can't access a device easily. If you feel that you are in this situation then please get in touch and let us know so that we can apply to include your child in the scheme.

Playground Games

We have been encouraging positive playground time since returning to school through playing traditional and new playground games in each zone. Children have enjoyed dodgeball, hopscotch, skipping with short and long ropes, Capture the Flag and frisbee play. Teamwork, co-operation and social communication skills have been prioritised after another period of lockdown and children are responding well to the games. We have focused on playing fairly and good sportsmanship, as well as children taking responsibility for looking after equipment.

Reporting to Parents

Our annual school report has been delayed to Term 4 to enable staff to fully evaluate and assess progress with the children back in school. **Reports** will now be issued on **Friday 14th May 2021**. There will also be the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher during **Parent Evenings which are scheduled for the week beginning Monday 24th May 2021**.

Planned School Improvements

As some of you may already be aware, we were scheduled for a replacement roof last year. This work had to be put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions and issues around supply of materials. They are now looking at this work starting in June, with the bulk of the disruption planned for over the Summer holiday period. Unfortunately, we cannot confirm this yet as the surveyor is waiting for confirmation that the appropriate supplies will be available. We appreciate this will cause some disruption but due to the condition of the roof it is necessary that the work goes ahead at the soonest opportunity.

Parental Feedback

We value our partnership with families and the community and we invite you to use the link below to comment on any aspect of school life at the moment or to share a compliment or complaint.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDtzBKC3udY4o1yftHqPUdLWSmiVFUQUdMQiFVTUNGR1hNWEpiWTVNVkQ2ME9SNS4u

This is an anonymous survey to gather views and opinions, so if you would like a response to your feedback then please use the school phone number 01224 472910 or email us at elrick.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk