Remote Learning, January 2021

7th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I am very sorry not to have been welcoming your children back into school this week; we are missing them, but remain committed to supporting their learning as best we can within the current restrictions.

Today I am writing with information about the learning which Stromness Academy will be providing for our pupils from Monday 11th January 2021.

The overarching aim of the Scottish Government is to reduce the number of pupils and staff attending school in person. The majority of pupils will be learning at home. Below you will find a section for each age group with information about the timetable and how work will be provided. As it currently stands, this will continue until the end of January, but as I am sure you are aware this is very much subject to change if national guidance changes.

Some pupils may be allocated places to be supervised to do the tasks their teachers have set for home learning in the school building, on a school computer; this applies to two categories of pupils:

1) Children of key workers who do not have other childcare available. If you believe you are entitled to a place in school on this basis please see the OIC website for information on how to register if you have not already done so.
2) Children who need particular support for a variety of reasons such as disabilities, home circumstances or internet connectivity issues. Guidance Teachers will be contacting families of pupils we believe are in this category on 8th January to discuss how we can meet these pupils' needs and support them in their learning. If you believe this applies to your child and are not contacted, you are welcome to contact us.

We very much hope that home learning will be a short-term solution to the current increased covid risk and we will be able to welcome all our pupils back into the school building on 1st February. As this is a rapidly-changing situation, please can I encourage parents to ensure they check their email and text messages regularly for updates from the school, and follow our Facebook page. Letters sent to parents by email will also be published on the school website.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

Kind regards

Jane Partridge
Head Teacher

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S1 Pupils

Work will be set online using Microsoft Teams. All pupils have been taught how to access this software and have been using it in some, but not all, of their subjects while in school, so they should be reasonably familiar with how to access and complete work.

Timetable of Work

S1 pupils will be set tasks for 3 subjects per day; please see the table below. Each task is intended to take a maximum of 50 minutes to complete, though pupils will also need some time to organise themselves, find their tasks for the day and submit the work once completed. Pupils are also expected to do:

- 2 sessions of 20 minutes private reading per day (their usual Accelerated Reader session and their home reading session)
- Some physical activity daily. This might be doing a challenge set by PE Staff, which they will find in the PE Team, an online exercise class, or going out for a walk/run/cycle.

It is not expected that pupils follow the school timetable, and deadlines for tasks will be long enough to allow for some flexibility as to when pupils complete them. By 9am on Monday 11th January, pupils will have a message from each subject in their Microsoft Team giving them an overview of when and how that subject will set their work during the week. This will allow pupils and parents to get an overview of the whole week and plan when pupils will work to suit family circumstances. We strongly encourage parents to support their children in planning their week to ensure they pace themselves and do not become overwhelmed.

S1 Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths	English	Maths	English	Maths
Modern Languages	Computing	Business	History	Geography
Science	Art	Music	HE	Technical

Accessing Microsoft Teams

To access Microsoft Teams, pupils use their "Glow" log-in, on the page
https://sts.platform.rmunify.com/account/signin/glow
If your child has forgotten their glow username or password, please contact the school.
The Glow "launch pad" page has a tile to link them directly into Microsoft Teams.
In Microsoft Teams, they will have a "Team" for each subject, plus a Team for
their Guidance class. Schoolwork will arrive either as an "Assignment", or as a "Post" in each Team.

Contacting Teachers

If pupils have queries about their work, they are able to communicate with teachers inside of Microsoft Teams. Many teachers have set up a "Helpline" area within their team where pupils can post questions and other pupils can respond as well as the teacher.
Some teachers also use Glow email to communicate with pupils. This is accessed from the tile on the Glow launchpad. For child protection reasons, pupils should not use personal email addresses or social media to communicate with teachers.

Technology issues

If your child does not have a device on which to do online work, please contact the school. Eligible families may be issued a Chromebook from the Scottish Government to keep for the duration of their child's school career, and others can be loaned a school laptop. If poor internet connectivity is making learning difficult, please discuss with us whether a technological solution can be found, or your child can be brought in to school to complete their work here.

S2 Pupils

Work will be set online using Microsoft Teams. All pupils have been taught how to access this software and have been using it in some, but not all, of their subjects while in school, so they should be reasonably familiar with how to access and complete work.

Timetable of Work

S2 pupils will be set tasks for 3 subjects per day; please see the table below. Each task is intended to take a maximum of 50 minutes to complete, though pupils will also need some time to organise themselves, find their tasks for the day and submit the work once completed. Pupils are also expected to do:

- 2 sessions of 20 minutes private reading per day (their usual Accelerated Reader session and their home reading session)
- Some physical activity daily. This might be doing a challenge set by PE Staff, which they will find in the PE Team, an online exercise class, or going out for a walk/run/cycle.

It is not expected that pupils follow the normal school day; deadlines for tasks will be long enough to allow for some flexibility as to when pupils complete them. By 9am on Monday 11th January, pupils will have a message from each subject in their Microsoft Team giving them an overview of when and how that subject will set their work during the week. This will allow pupils and parents to get an overview of the whole week and plan when pupils will work to suit family circumstances. We strongly encourage parents to support their children in planning their week to ensure they pace themselves and do not become overwhelmed.

S2 Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths	English	Maths	English	Maths
Computing	Business	History	Geography	Modern Languages
Art	Music	HE	Technical	Science

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Contacting Teachers

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S3 Pupils

Work will be set online using Microsoft Teams. All pupils have been taught how to access this software and have been using it in some, but not all, of their subjects while in school, so they should be reasonably familiar with how to access and complete work.

Timetable of Work

S3 pupils will be set tasks for 3 subjects per day; please see the table below. Each task is intended to take a maximum of 50 minutes to complete, though pupils will also need some time to organise themselves, find their tasks for the day and submit the work once completed. Pupils are also expected to do:

- 2 sessions of 20 minutes private reading per day (their usual Accelerated Reader session and their home reading session)
- Some physical activity daily. This might be doing a challenge set by PE Staff, which they will find in the PE Team, an online exercise class, or going out for a walk/run/cycle.

It is not expected that pupils follow the normal school day; deadlines for tasks will be long enough to allow for some flexibility as to when pupils complete them. By 9am on Monday 11th January, pupils will have a message from each subject in their Microsoft Team giving them an overview of when and how that subject will set their work during the week. This will allow pupils and parents to get an overview of the whole week and plan when pupils will work to suit family circumstances. We strongly encourage parents to support their children in planning their week to ensure they pace themselves and do not become overwhelmed.

S3 Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths	English	Maths	English	Maths
Column H	Column C	Modern Languages	Column E	Column J
Column F	Column G	Column D	Column I	

Pupils have different subjects in each column depending on their chosen options. The Column should be included with in the name of the subject "Team" on Microsoft Teams.

Accessing Microsoft Teams

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Technology issues

If your child does not have a device on which to do online work, please contact the school. Eligible families may be issued a Chromebook from the Scottish Government to keep for the duration of their child's school career, and others can be loaned a school laptop. If poor internet connectivity is making learning difficult, please discuss with us whether a technological solution can be found, or your child can be brought in to school to complete their work here.

S4-6 Pupils

Work will be set online using Microsoft Teams. All pupils have been taught how to access this software and have been using it in some, but not all, of their subjects while in school, so they should be reasonably familiar with how to access and complete work.

Timetable of Work

S4-6 pupils will be set work which is intended to take up to the timetabled time for that subject in the normal school week (a maximum of 5 x 50 minutes for each option subject, and 4 x 50 minutes for Maths and English in S4). Work will not be set for the "core" subjects of PSE, PE and RME.

It is not expected that pupils rigidly follow the normal school day timings; deadlines for tasks will be long enough to allow for some flexibility as to when pupils complete them. However, some subjects are planning to deliver some lessons and tutorials "live" online, as the function which allows live meetings in Teams has now been enabled for Orkney Schools. These would generally be done at a time when that subject is normally timetabled for a lesson in school. Keeping to these times avoids any clashes for pupils, but live sessions may be held at other times by agreement with all concerned.

By 9am on Monday 11th January, pupils will have a message from each subject in their Microsoft Team giving them an overview of when and how that subject will set their work during the week, including the timing of any "live" lessons. This will allow pupils and parents to get an overview of the whole week and plan when pupils will work to suit family circumstances.

Orkney College Courses

Currently Orkney College is closed to all pupils and their staff will begin delivering work to pupils from 11th Jan. They will be using the BrightSpace communication platform which your child will have been shown how to use. In tandem with the school, college lecturers will set work on the days when your child would normally visit the college. They will then be available to respond to queries about the work during normal lesson times.

Checkpoint Assessments

The Checkpoint Assessments which were planned to take place in the former Prelim period of 18 – 29th January are on hold for the period of remote learning, since assessments done at home are less useful for submission to SQA as assessments done under exam conditions in school. We will re-consider when checkpoint assessments take place once it is clear when pupils can return to school and in line with SQA guidance.

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