

# Parent Update

15 January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

After the bumpy start to Monday's digital learning due to the issues across the country with Teams, students and teachers have begun to settle into a routine on the whole. Support staff have been making contact with families to check how things are going and offer assistance where required and they will continue to do this throughout the period of remote learning. We have issued a large number of laptops for students to use at home and please remember that you can contact us should you require one at any time during the lockdown period.

Our school counselling service, Your Space, have moved to a remote service as they did in March. They will continue to offer support for students and families using this platform for the remainder of the lockdown period.

As I mentioned in last week's update, we will be monitoring students' engagement in home learning and the effectiveness of the various teaching approaches being used. As part of this, parents/carers and students will be asked to complete a short survey next week. The link to the survey will be sent to you and I would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to give us your feedback on what is and isn't working well. The feedback we received from the surveys issued in the summer term and the student focus groups were invaluable in helping us decide on how this period of remote learning could be made more effective.

At the moment we are working with staff on monitoring how much each student is taking part in their subjects and the work being asked of them. This will allow us to get in touch with them and you to discuss any concerns and find a way to support your child in their learning. Could I also ask that you remind your child to complete their register each day. Staff will continue to complete the planned tracking and monitoring of student progress and the programme of reports will also go ahead as planned.

I have included some links at the end of the newsletter to tools that can be used by students who struggle with the volume of written texts they are currently working with and some for students with dyslexia.

Should you have any concerns, please do get in touch either by phone (01506 282155) or email ([wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk)).

Many thanks for your continued support during these challenging times and I hope that you and your families remain safe and well.

Pauline Allison  
Head Teacher

IVONA - MiniReader text-to-speech program can be used by highlighting any amount of text from a word document, pdf document, website and it will read the highlighted text aloud. This should be on the desktop of school laptops but is also available for download if pupils are using their own computers at home.

On the CALL Scotland website it does say that the IVONA MiniReader is only available for download from third party websites so this should be done with parental consent. <https://www.callscotland.org.uk/information/text-to-speech/ivona-minireader/>

### [Ivona MiniReader - CALL Scotland](#)

Ivona MiniReader is a simple text reader which adds a floating toolbar on the screen and can read out text from almost any program such as: Adobe Reader,

[www.callscotland.org.uk](http://www.callscotland.org.uk)

We also have the 'Immersive Reader' feature that is available within Teams. Attached is a pdf with instructions how to access.

The 'Dyslexia Scotland' Facebook page has some good conversations and links.

Dyslexia Scotland have compiled some 'Useful Links during Coronavirus' which can be accessed by the link below

[https://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/useful-links?fbclid=IwAR2Az3SbEPaJyh51GArb5X\\_Y7w7MTvixP3pR36bUmDg4ev8YXR0z0FbQDdE#](https://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/useful-links?fbclid=IwAR2Az3SbEPaJyh51GArb5X_Y7w7MTvixP3pR36bUmDg4ev8YXR0z0FbQDdE#)

## Reminder of Covid 19 Protocols

As you are aware, with the return of our pupils and staff to school, we have put procedures in to place that support all members of the school community if anyone displays symptoms of Covid 19.

A reminder that the symptoms are:

- High temperature or fever
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste

If a pupil displays symptoms, we will contact you to collect your child (please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details). **Pupils over the age of 16 may return home themselves.** The pupil should, if possible, wear a face covering en route and avoid public transport.

You will be asked to follow Test and Protect and we will provide you with a copy of the Test and Protect Leaflet and Step by Step Guide when your child is collected.

Information on the groups of children within the school, **and on school transport**, and the adults that each group of children come in to contact with will be collected. This is to fulfil legal responsibilities for public health and will allow Test and Protect to contact appropriate people in the event of a positive test result.

***If anyone within your household tests positive for Covid 19, please do not send your child to school. Report their absence and the reason for this by calling PSA in the morning.***