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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well and coping with what has become our new 'normal', these continue to be very difficult times for everyone and I am very aware of the multitude of challenges that all families are facing during this extended period of Lockdown and school closure. We are missing all of our pupils and being able to share in your experiences and see all of the wonderful work everyone is doing at home via our class Glow email Drop-Boxes has been hugely positive and welcome.

Thank you for all of the effort you are putting in to supporting your children and for encouraging them to share the activities they complete. It is very much appreciated by all of our staff and being able to re-connect with families has been a very positive step forward, but we realise there is more to do and we are determined to push forward with this in the forthcoming weeks and I will be outlining those plans below.

### **Remote Learning**

We have created class email accounts through GLOW and thank you to all parents and carers who have supported their children to engage with this. I understand that some parents have had difficulties accessing the communications that have been sent out detailing this approach. We have spoken with a number of parents and carers individually who had not picked up the emails that were circulated. In response to this we will be contacting any parents and carers who have been unable to access the class emails to offer some additional support and to ensure all families are receiving the information being circulated effectively. We will be contacting you directly by phone and our Principal Teachers (Mr Gary Thomson, Mrs Sharon Lancaster and Ms Melissa Caulfield) will continue to contact families throughout this week and into next week.

We will be looking to develop our Remote Learning approach further and the next step will be to ensure all pupils have full access to GLOW, this is a National Network for schools and pupils. All pupils will be provided with log-in details that give them access to the GLOW site, we have a Hillhead Network Hub set up within GLOW and there are additional materials that can be accessed here once pupils are logged in. The GLOW network provides opportunities for pupils to engage with each other and will provide further scope for Staff to connect with their pupils.

We have already been in contact with all of our Primary 7 parents and carers and we will be circulating your child's GLOW details shortly, the other stages across the school will follow and our hope is to have this rolled out to all pupils within the next two weeks. Melissa Caulfield is our Digital Leader of Learning (DLLO) and she has put together information for parents and pupils that will guide you carefully through the process step by step and allow effective access to the GLOW network.

During our conversations with Parents and Carers we have gathered a range of views related to our Learning Walls, areas that have worked well and areas that could be improved. It was felt that it could be supportive to offer a more structured approach to the weekly tasks in Literacy and Numeracy in particular. This would mean breaking those activities down into smaller more focused and manageable tasks covering one week at a time rather than giving as much choice and spreading it across two weeks. We will be moving to this format at the end of the current two week block and our new learning wall format will be available from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

I know that all of you are working very hard to provide remote learning for your children and the circumstances from one household to the next can be very different. Please continue to encourage your child to engage with their teacher through the class email accounts and work at a pace that suits you and

your circumstances. If you need additional support with some aspects of your child's learning please don't hesitate to contact Susan Thomson, Karen Barclay, Lois Lurinsky or myself. We would be happy to find ways to support your child; this might be in the form of directing you to useful and supportive information or tasks, liaising with your child's class teacher to offer some additional guidance or challenge or making some physical materials available using whatever options are feasibly possible.

I also understand that many pupils and staff are finding the long period that has passed without seeing or speaking with each other very difficult. The staff who have received videos and photographs of their pupils have very much enjoyed this and thank you for taking the time to share, it means an awfully lot to all of us in school. Full access for all pupils on GLOW and pupil emails available through GLOW, will create opportunities for teachers to share in this way too and we are working hard to facilitate this.

### **The Re-opening of Schools and Recovery**

As I'm sure many of you are now aware the First Minister outlined the Scottish Government's plans for Phase 1 of the transition out of Lockdown at her parliamentary address earlier today. The key documents including more detail on each of the four phases and also the 'Strategic Framework for Reopening schools and Early Year Establishments' can be found at the Scottish Government's website <https://www.gov.scot/>

Glasgow is currently undertaking a Citywide scoping exercise to gather the views of all stakeholders on what steps need to be taken when planning for welcoming pupils back to school. This will present a very complex set of issues to be carefully considered and I would urge any parents who would like their views shared to either contact myself directly or contact the Parent Council who will be formulating the views of parents ([hillheadprimaryparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:hillheadprimaryparentcouncil@gmail.com)).

The First Minister has announced that school staff will return in June and we have already begun our planning for this. Once school staff have returned the plans for pupils to return will be stepped up. It has also been announced that pupils will return from August 11 and this will require very detailed planning which will very much focus on ensuring the health and safety of all of our pupils and staff. I will continue to update you once clearer instruction has been presented by Glasgow City Council.

I met 'virtually' with our Parent Council last week and we will be planning another opportunity to do this very soon, please share any questions or queries you might have with Michael Bolton our Parent Council Chair using the email address above and they can be discussed during the next meeting.

### **Reports**

We are currently completing individual pupil reports and these will be distributed to all families in the next 3-4 weeks. We have already begun planning for the most effective way to distribute the reports and more information will be circulated once all reports are completed.

### **May Holiday Weekend**

The May weekend holiday is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May (Inclusive) and we would suggest these are days where pupils wouldn't be expected to engage in their normal remote learning routines. We have asked staff to take this into consideration too.

### **Hub School**

We remain a Hub school supporting the pupils of key workers from seven local schools, we have in excess of 50 pupils registered to attend daily and this is being facilitated by an extensive group of volunteers drawn from all seven of the schools. If you are a key worker and you would require support for you and your child(ren) please don't hesitate to contact the school (339 1365), myself and our Deputes are available every day from 08.30 – 15.30 and we would be happy to speak with you and find the best solution.

Thank you and best wishes,  
Andrew Robson  
Head Teacher