

As we enter a second month of online learning, we would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout this challenging time. To those of you who have emailed the school with very appreciative and positive messages we also say many thanks. These have been saved in a 'Smile File' and will be shared with staff during the upcoming Inset Day. It is so important for us all to continue to try and be as positive as possible and we hope that the First Minister's address earlier today will have brought much needed good news.

Our wonderful, hardworking staff team continue to learn new skills in digital technology as we strive to ensure that the online experience is as beneficial as it can be. This has been hugely challenging as the need for greater reliance on remote learning becomes more and more apparent. To this end, Mrs Waddell is in the process of creating a You Tube channel to support home learning and details for this will be shared shortly. After the February weekend, all upper school classes will be using the assignment function in Teams. This enables children to share work and receive teacher feedback confidentially. We continue to respond on a daily basis to support families in a variety of ways as we aim to achieve the highest possible levels of engagement. Please do not hesitate to contact the school through the Headteacher email address (Headteacher@cardonald-pri.glasgow.sch.uk) if there is anything further you need to help with learning at home including; stationery, jotters or additional advice with strategies and resources. The school website has many links to additional online learning sites and regular updates are also posted there so please continue to visit the school website.

There is a much higher level of engagement online during this lockdown compared to last year with over 90% engagement in many classes either through online work or collecting hard copies of work safely from the school. This is in comparison to an average of 30% level of engagement last year. Recorded welcome messages started this week and from initial feedback received from our teachers using TEAMS, we understand there appears to have been quite a few cases where this has not worked as smoothly as we would all have hoped for. This is an area we are prioritising and hope that the introduction of our own YouTube Channel will help ensure a smoother online experience for every family.

We will be recording and showing our first virtual assembly very shortly and iPads are now available for the small number of children who are required to attend school either as key worker children or children who benefit from being in school, in line with government guidelines. Over the past few weeks, all teachers have contacted or attempted to contact every family by phone and the management team, ELT, are involved where certain families need further support.

As always, we value your thoughts and feedback and invite you to contact the school using the Headteacher email address or by phoning the school. Please be aware that when phoning, there are only two members of the management team in school at any one time for safety reasons. There is also only one office staff member each day from Tuesday to Friday.

I am pleased to inform you that City Building came back several times to complete the addition of high security fencing around the upper playground and car park area after some potential gaps were identified following the initial work last month. It is hoped that this will help protect equipment and school property when we hopefully return to a fully operational school in the near future.

Please remember that this weekend is a holiday weekend and the school building will be closed on Friday 5th February and not reopen until Thursday 11th February for staff and children who are on the current register for attending school in line with government guidelines.

I would like to wish you all a healthy and pleasant holiday weekend.

Best wishes,

Martin Coogan
Headteacher