



Weekly Update
Friday 5th February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this finds you and your loved ones continuing to stay safe and well.

As we reach the February break, I would like to thank our pupils and families for their continued enthusiasm and hard work over these last few weeks. As a staff team it is heartening to see our whole school community pull together in such challenging times.

Following the First Minister's announcement on Tuesday, you will be aware that there are a number of changes proposed for schools on their return from holiday. In addition to the earlier communication from our executive director, Fiona Robertson, I hope that you find the following information useful.

Joanne Hunter 😊
Acting Leader of Learning

Pupil Holiday:

All of our pupils are now on mid-term holiday up to **and including 15th February**. This is a designated in-service day for staff and there will be **no learning** for pupils, either remotely or in school.

Learning Arrangements 16th – 19th February:

All pupils who have been learning at home, on Google Classroom, SeeSaw or using printed work packs should continue to do so during the above dates. Our Home School Practitioner, Elaine Baur, will collect and deliver work packs as usual on Tuesday 16th February.

Those pupils who have attended in school, over recent weeks, should continue to do so – as discussed with our office admin team.

Nursery, P1, 2, 3 pupil return:

Monday 22nd February has been identified as a **provisional start date** for our youngest pupils. As highlighted in Fiona Robertson's letter, these arrangements will be reviewed by Scottish Government, prior to this date, and further Midlothian guidance for parents and carers will follow.

Arrangements for P4-7 learners, key worker and vulnerable children will also follow at this time.

Home School Practitioner:

Please note that our Home School Practitioner, Elaine Baur, is also on holiday during the February break period. She will return to work on Monday 15th February and can be contacted via our main school office, or directly on 07500 125 086. She is happy to receive either calls or texts and can be emailed at: elaine.baur@midlothian.gov.uk

Please note that Elaine's working hours are 8am-4pm Monday – Thursday, during term time.

MUGA update:

We are very excited to announce that the extension to our astro-surface games area is finally underway! Grounds staff have braved the wintery conditions and are hopeful that the work will be completed by the end of the February break. Fingers crossed that the snow stays away until then!

These changes will make a great difference to our access to outdoor play space - particularly during wet weather. Many thanks to our Parent Council who are making a donation to meet the cost of the works.

Communication:

Here at St Andrew's, we take pride in the positive relationships that we have built across our school community. Thank you to all of our parents and carers who have been able to talk to staff or respond to their messages and emails.

We are very aware that parents and carers have many demands on their time, and do understand that not everyone is able to accept a phone call during the school day. Please do not worry if you see that you have missed a teacher's call. If you are able to drop our school office a short email, to let us know how everyone is doing, then that would be much appreciated. There is also the messaging facility on the Google Classroom which can be used to contact your child's teacher. Remember – we are here to help.

All at St Andrew's wish you a lovely February break.

Thank you for your continued support.

