

# Millbank Primary School Newsletter

## If you believe you can achieve



Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020



Good morning everyone. I had not intended to issue a newsletter today, since there are only 2 school days left before the Christmas holidays. However, as I am sure you have realised, the situation has changed significantly over the weekend.

To keep people safe, the First Minister announced tightened restrictions and also set out new plans for the return of schools in the New Year. *'Teachers will return to work as planned and children of key workers and the most vulnerable children will return to schools as planned.'*

*'For the majority of pupils the holiday period will be extended until 11<sup>th</sup> January and learning will begin online from then until at least 18<sup>th</sup> January.'*

Highland Council education managers were meeting yesterday, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> and today, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and I am expecting more detailed information to be issued to us today.

I have clearly stated to all staff that they must ensure that they take a break this Christmas. As I'm sure you will have realised school staff have been working very hard during this Christmas season. Pupils continue to be very well supported in all aspects of their learning and health & wellbeing and, in addition, staff have ensured that events like Christmas parties, the school Christmas lunch, plays and performances, the Talent Show etc have taken place, despite the additional work created by all the restrictions we have to follow.

The Millbank community has done a great job over the last 10 months; our school, whether virtually or physically, has been a safe, secure, happy, healthy and supportive place to be and we should all be very proud of that. It's important that we all take time to rest and relax over the Christmas holidays, ready for the new challenges that will face us in January 2021.

We were very successful in implementing online learning during the lockdown from March – July and I'm confident we will be successful again but it will take time to put measures in place.

In the meantime, I would stress again the importance of us having correct contact details for you. As usual, I will be sending this newsletter by email and also posting on facebook and the school web-site. Also, as I always do, I will be sending a text message to all families to remind them to read the newsletter. All class teachers have been emailing families with a variety of information, including reminders of how to access Google classroom. Please let us know today or tomorrow if you are not receiving emails or if any of your other contact details have changed.

I sincerely hope that you will have a happy and peaceful Christmas and I will keep you fully informed of all arrangements for online learning in January.

Very best wishes,

Mrs McPherson

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