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| **A**im high  **B**e proud  **C**elebrate success  Mrs Judith Mathers  HEAD TEACHER  Telephone: 0131 271 4630  Fax: 0131 271 4631 |  | MAURICEWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL  MUIRHEAD PLACE  PENICUIK  EH26 0LE |

19.01.21

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you and your children are adapting to learning through our Google Classrooms. We have been highly impressed by the way our learners have quickly managed their online learning. They (and you!) have definitely kept up their digital skills! If you are having any issues please let us know either by phone or email. Now we have hopefully dealt with access issues we would like to share some new and existing opportunities for our learners and their families.

This week will see our first live contact between teachers and pupils through Google Meets. We are excited about seeing the children face to face but recognise that not everyone will be able to join every meeting. Please just join in when you can. From week beginning the 25th January there will be 3 opportunities to join live meetings per week. On Monday teachers will introduce learning for the week, on Wednesdays they will host a Health and Wellbeing session and on Thursday or Friday they will review how the week has gone. Details about how and when your child can join their class is attached to this letter. Each stage has their own time so siblings sharing devices can all take part.

We want our live sessions to be a positive experience for everyone and have attached a guide to ensure all our pupils understand that the virtual class has its own expectations of behaviour just as we do in school. We would be grateful if you can go over the rules with your children. Please remember children will need to log into Glow on a device and access their Google Classroom to join the Google Meet. As this is a new addition to our learning there may be teething issues. We will aim to resolve these as quickly as possible. Please use the class Stream to advise class teachers of issues you may experience with Google Meet.

We are responding to national and local advice to set numeracy and literacy on a daily basis. To achieve this we have made some changes to the learning grids from next week (25th Jan). Although the tasks/assignments in literacy and numeracy will be set out for each day, families can decide when it suits them to complete them across the week. There will be 2 assignments which are highlighted as a feedback focus and once your child has ‘handed in’ their completed task through the Google classroom, they will receive individual feedback from their class teacher on their work. They should use the feedback to improve or extend their learning, resubmitting it so they and the teacher can see their progress. This is called the feedback loop and is how the children are used to working within their Mauricewood classrooms. Health and Wellbeing will be a feature in every grid and at least one other curricular area.

The teachers have been looking at how to add video or audio clips to our classes to provide more support for online learning which can be viewed by children at any time. They will focus on providing this for an aspect of numeracy and literacy each week. Please be aware that staff have different levels of confidence as well as different access to technology. Some are home schooling their own children and some are teaching in school as well. It does mean that just like our families, they will need to adapt to suit their circumstances individually. Recordings may come from different class teachers. All recordings of teachers and pupils in the Google Classes are only for the class to use and should not be shared in any other contexts or on social media.

In addition, we can offer support to families finding it hard to access learning. There is always a member of the management team in school happy to discuss this with you. We also have the Support For Learning Google Classroom open to all children so please feel free to have a look at what is on offer. To join, enter the class code: **yjl5i5z**. It includes ideas for supporting children who are feeling anxious. Support For Learning teachers can also provide individual advice for children with Additional Support Needs. At this difficult time families may also have increased financial difficulties and we can offer support in accessing food banks and other financial help. If we cannot help we can often put you in touch with someone who can. You can access any of these supports by emailing [Mauricewood\_PS@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Mauricewood_PS@midlothian.gov.uk) requesting a phone call from Mrs Mathers or Mrs Woodyer.

We look forward to working with our learners in these new and exciting ways. Google Meets will begin this week with a Health and Wellbeing check in so please read the attached information carefully and check your child’s Google classroom for the link. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

The Mauricewood Team