

17 April 2020



Dear Parent / Carer

COVID-19 Information for Midlothian Parents and Carers

Our education staff would like to thank you for all the support you are giving to your children in these unprecedented times. We are delighted to see and read about how well families are embracing home learning activities and a very different daily routine. We also recognize that this has been a very different Easter break for many families but hope that you were able to enjoy time together as a family.

In accordance with national guidance, you will be aware that other than provision for children of key workers our schools and nurseries remain closed. As a result, our Headteachers and teachers have been working together on plans for a virtual summer term, including the continuation of support for your child's education via online learning opportunities. We expect all children and young people to continue to remain focused and working hard on completing the work set by their teachers to support continuity and progression in their learning.

During this summer term we will:

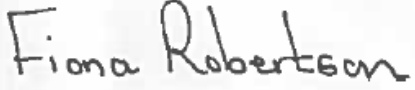
- Ensure children of key workers have continuing access to learning or childcare in our Hub schools and with our Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) funded providers.
- Support vulnerable children who rely on schools for a safe and supportive environment.
- Continue to post learning assignment tasks for children, including active learning opportunities which can be undertaken with families.
- Provide suitable learning opportunities for those who are unable to access technology or the internet.
- Deliver free school meals from our primary school Hubs and secondary pupils and their siblings will continue to receive a BACs payment to purchase food for lunches; and
- provide younger children who were receiving 1140 hours of ELC with the opportunity to receive a meal either delivered by one of our Hubs or in one of our ELC funded providers.

The health and well-being of all our children, young people and our Midlothian families also remains a priority for us. We will continue to offer support from our Educational Psychology Service (EPS) and you can find useful resources for parents on the EPS blog; <https://mideps.edublogs.org> and a telephone helpline operates every Thursday from 10-12 on **0131 270 5615**.

I am sure you will have many questions about aspects of your child's education and our schools will provide you directly with further information on aspects such as arrangements for transition, reporting and SQA and other qualifications at the start of the summer term next week.

I thank you for your understanding and continuing support throughout this challenging period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and 'R'.

Fiona Robertson
Executive Director Children, Young People & Partnerships
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