

# Parents & Carers in Clacks

## Information and Advice

We are here for you - [education@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:education@clacks.gov.uk)



**Clackmannanshire  
Council**

[www.clacks.gov.uk](http://www.clacks.gov.uk)

Comhairle Siorrachd  
Chlach Mhanann



Clackmannanshire Council Education Service is working hard to support families, communities and staff during these unusual times. We are particularly focussed on continuing to support -

**1**

### FOCUS 1

Health and  
Wellbeing

**2**

### FOCUS 2

Progress for  
Learners

**3**

### FOCUS 3

Community and  
Connection

We want all parents and carers to know that the work that they are doing to support their child's learning and well-being whilst adapting to the current circumstances is both recognised and valued and that further support is available to them if it is needed.

Some children (and parents and carers) may have become a bit tired of online learning and it may be that their engagement with learning has declined as a result. However, we have also had some reports where engagement with learning has increased due to familiarity with the IT tools and new activities that have been provided online by our schools. It is



### Educational Psychology Service

Telephone support on wellbeing from 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday on (01259) 226012.



### FLIPClacks.org

Clackmannanshire's digital learning website - children, parents and all stages of learning.



### Scotland Learns

Education Scotland new website for parents & carers - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/>

normal to get fed up doing the same thing all the time and a little change can help with motivation. We ask that parents encourage their children to learn in whatever way suits them and learning does not always have to be online to be beneficial. We are keen to support children and families with 'blended learning' and some teachers will be returning to school in June to work on plans around that.

Stay well, stay positive, stay at home and in the meantime - ask for help if you need it, keep going and know that you are doing a great job!



### **Looking forward to August**

The First Minister's announcement on the 21st of May about the reopening of schools and Early Years establishments from 11th August has been welcomed by Clackmannanshire Council's Education Service. In line with Nicola Sturgeon's announcement, teaching and other education staff in Clackmannanshire will be able to return to work in June to prepare for the start of the new term on 11th of August.

However the return of pupils and staff will take a phased approach and risk assessments will be a crucial part of the work carried out in each education and early years establishment before this takes place. All guidance issued by the Scottish Government will be followed.

Plans by the Service's leadership team for the safe return of pupils and staff are already well advanced and include 6 work streams as follows -

- ▶ Workforce - ensure that we have staff to deliver education to children and appropriate training to deliver 'blended learning'.
- ▶ Health and Safety - a priority to ensure that schools operate safely for children and staff
- ▶ Learning and Teaching - plan a 'blended learning' approach for children which ensure continuity and progression in learning across all curricular areas
- ▶ Digital - continue using online resources and accelerate development
- ▶ Early Learning and Childcare - demand whilst expansion is on hold
- ▶ Getting It Right For Every Child - ensure equity and support for all vulnerable children

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ADVICE**

The Council is working closely with Scottish Government, Public Health and our partners across Forth Valley to monitor and respond to the national situation. In particular, we are focussed on helping to support the most vulnerable in our communities. We have introduced a helpline to assist those most at risk in our communities during the outbreak, so that these vulnerable residents can receive extra help and support. The number is (01259) 452275 or e-mail [CommunitySupport@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:CommunitySupport@clacks.gov.uk) - the service is open from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday. There is lots of information and support available to help you cope or to support others in our community which is available via the CTSi website - [ctsi.org.uk/covid-19/#community](https://ctsi.org.uk/covid-19/#community).



When schools in Clackmannanshire do reopen, pupils will be supported to progress their learning through a “blended” approach which will involve in-school learning, online learning and making use of other resources provided by schools and Early Years establishments.

Schools and Early Years establishments will share information about their learning approach and support via their website or social media channels.



Parents, carers and pupils are reminded to regularly check FLIPClacks at <https://flipclacks.org/> or Clackmannanshire Council’s own website <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/social/coronavirus4/> for the latest updates.

## **The role of parents and carers in learning at home**

The most important thing is to make sure that your children and your family are safe and supported to cope with the challenging circumstances. Your school can support you by providing learning materials, advice and feedback to help parents and carers support their children’s learning at home. This will not be the same as what children learn at school and parents and carers are not expected to deliver ‘lessons’ that their children would receive at school. Parents and carers should use their own judgement to decide how much time their child spends on completing tasks from school. Children may be spending more time online - parents and carers can decide what limits they impose on screen time, and mix it in with offline learning (reading, drawing, painting or crafts etc.), outdoor learning (exercise and sport etc.), play and rest.

### **Digital Learning**

Clackmannanshire Education Service will continue to update online tools to help pupils learn at home. Clackmannanshire has a dedicated online learning website [FLIPClacks.org](https://flipclacks.org/) which is still being developed to make it useful for children of all ages and there is a section to support parents and carers too. We are also working to make sure that while online all children and young people will be safe and protected and that any online tools used by schools are suitable for learning.



Mind Yer Time - designed by children and young people from the Children's Parliament and the Scottish Youth Parliament, Mind Yer Time has been created to support everyone with social media use and screen time. They have positive tips, stories and information for children and young people, to help them use their screen time positively. <https://mindyertime.scot>

### **Supporting all learners and families**

The authority is working to address equity, redeploying equipment from schools or donated equipment to those who do not have access to devices at home. In some cases parents have picked up laptops and tablets from the childcare Hubs in each secondary school or staff have delivered devices to the family home - observing social distancing rules at all times. We are also in the process of purchasing dongles for those who do not have access to wifi. Our aim is to continue to help every child access learning in whatever way we can. This work will continue during term 4.

Examples of this have included -

- working towards providing laptops and tablets to support digital learning at home and arranging a means for some families to get internet access.
- rapid development of [FLIPClacks.org](https://flipclacks.org/) online learning website for learners of all ages and support information for parents.
- schools and teams at the centre sharing ideas and daily activities on social media - for example, @ActiveClacks have daily sports and activity challenges on Twitter.
- schools continuing to use apps and sharing platforms such as Class DoJo as well as phone calls to keep checking in with pupils regularly and setting, fun, educational challenges.

- delivering books, learning materials and craft boxes to children and updating and delivering additional materials as the lockdown continues.
- encouraging parents to focus on activities children enjoy and playing.
- sharing ideas and alternative ways of learning on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Television and Radio, especially BBC Bitesize (iPlayer and Red Button), BBC Sounds (podcasts) and BBC Scotland (morning programmes for primary and secondary children) and BBC4 (evening programmes for young people) have also been launched.

A routine may be helpful, especially if you are trying to work from home yourself, but there is no pressure on you to formally 'homeschool' your child.

## **IMPORTANT TRANSITIONS**

For children and young people who will be moving to different stages of learning such as between Early Years and P1, P7 and S1 or leaving school to go on to work, training, further or higher education, this may be a particularly anxious time.

For term 4, and looking ahead to the next session, schools are providing new and innovative approaches to transition. This will take into account a range of factors, including the challenges faced by young people who have been particularly affected by the coronavirus. This could be due to illness or bereavement, the impact of social isolation or experiencing poverty for the first time. Secondary schools, in particular, have arrangements including virtual tours of the school and other information that will help pupils who will be going there after the summer break.

Contact your child's school or nursery in the first instance. Further information is available on the Clackmannanshire Council website - <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/coronavirus/transitioncv/>

## **CHILDCARE HUBS - SUMMER HUB ARRANGEMENTS**

The Summer Hubs for the children of key workers will operate for **4 weeks** from Monday 6th July until Friday 31 July and they will be open from 9am until 3pm.

The Summer Hub places will be prioritised for families where **both** parents/carers are category 1 key workers who have **no other form of childcare**. As directed by the Scottish Government, we must keep the number of children taking up places to an absolute minimum. Children should continue to stay at home wherever possible.

A letter has been sent out to the parents/carers of children currently using the Hubs. If you would like your child/children to be considered for a Summer Hub place, please complete the form contained within the letter and return it to your current hub no later than Friday 5th June. More info at <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/coronavirus/learningandchildcareinformation/>

## **CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

Children with additional support needs (ASN), their parents, carers, and families may find learning at home particularly challenging. Wherever children can learn at home, they should, however where this is not possible, some children and young people with ASN may be able to access childcare provided at one of the childcare hubs. Each child's needs and circumstances will be different and schools and nurseries will be able to offer further guidance and support to decide if a place in a childcare hub would help your child.



Scottish Autism - <https://www.scottishautism.org/services-support/family-support/advice-line-plus> - has received funding from the Scottish Government to extend the opening hours of their advice line. They can provide reassurance, guidance and support to autistic people and their families. Call (01259) 222022 or e-mail [advice@scottishautism.org](mailto:advice@scottishautism.org). 7 days a week. 8am to 8pm.

## **Exams and SQA**

End of session exams have been cancelled this year for the first time in history. The Scottish Qualifications Authority have issued information to schools about the alternative arrangements that will be in place to ensure pupils get exam results by the 4th of August. Your child's secondary school may have already been in touch about this.

The SQA have a Frequently Asked Questions section on their website that can help parents, carers and pupils with any questions they may have - <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93797.9752.html>. If you have any questions about any awards, please contact your child's school in the first instance.

## **Reporting to Parents Process for Nursery and Primary Schools Session 2019/2020**

Normally at this time of year, Teachers and Early Years Educators are busy preparing written end of term reports. They are currently working hard to provide on-going learning, support and communication with their children and families.

Given that our main priority at this time is to ensure children and families health and wellbeing is supported. We will put the following reporting procedure in place for this session only.

Every Parent/Carer will have the opportunity to request an additional 10 to 15 minute phone call with either their child's class teach or with a member of the senior management team. This is optional as some Parents/Carers may decide that this is not necessary as they are happy with the level of communication already taking place.

For those parents/Carers who request an additional call, the purpose of the call will be to engage with you on:

- How he/she is coping with the changes to their routine and life
- How your child is engaging with their learning at home
- Identify any support you require from your school

It is important to note that teachers will not be in a place to answer questions on plans in place for when schools return. You will be kept fully informed, through the Clackmannanshire Council website, on our plans which will be guided by Scottish Government. The phone calls have begun week beginning **25<sup>th</sup> May 2020**.



### **Free Schools Meals**

We have a system of making payments directly into bank accounts - find out more - <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/coronavirus/freeschoolmealscv/>



### **Child Protection**

Child Protection means protecting the most vulnerable from abuse and neglect. Abuse can be a crime. If you see something, are told something, or something doesn't feel right - you should report it. You can do this by calling:

- **01259 225000 (day time)**
- **01786 470500 (out of hours)**

**1**

### **FOCUS 1**

Support from Wellbeing Workers is available - ask your Head Teacher for contact details.

**2**

### **FOCUS 2**

Most schools have provided Learning Packs and IT equipment if it is needed on an ongoing basis.

**3**

### **FOCUS 3**

Many Parent Councils have continued to meet 'virtually' so you can contact them to share your ideas.

## IMPORTANT LINKS - FURTHER ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND FAMILIES

### **General Information:**

- **Gov.Scot:** The main website for the Scottish Government contains the latest advice for parents, carers and families on a range of important topics including information on learning and school and nursery closures. <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- **Clackmannanshire Council Website:** [www.clacks.gov.uk](http://www.clacks.gov.uk), contains up to date information on schools, nurseries and education in Clackmannanshire and updates on what other Council services are being delivered.
- **Social Media:** Clackmannanshire Council and Clackmannanshire Education Service both have Facebook pages and Twitter feeds to share important news and updates.

### **Health:**

- **Ready Scotland:** Advice on preparing for an emergency and how to access or provide support and assistance for those most in need in our communities. <https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/>
- **NHS Inform:** The latest guidance and advice about COVID-19 from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, including social distancing and stay at home advice. <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>
- **Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH):** For advice on supporting your mental health and well-being during the coronavirus outbreak. <https://www.samh.org.uk/about-mental-health/self-help-and-wellbeing/coronavirus-information-hub>
- **Clear Your Head:** advice, tips and support for mental wellbeing during the coronavirus outbreak <https://clearyourhead.scot>

### **Information and Support for Parents, Carers and Families:**

- **Parent Club Scotland:** The Scottish Government's advice and support service to parents, carers and families. Wide range of advice, hints and tips on social distancing, health information as well as learning at home. [www.parentclub.scot/](http://www.parentclub.scot/)
- **Parentline Scotland:** Open 7 days a week to offer free advice and support to parents and carers. Call 08000 28 22 33 Monday to Friday 9am-9pm, and Saturday-Sunday 9am -12 noon.
- **National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS):** The NPFS has developed a list of activities, wellbeing, and education resources for parents, carers and families which it will continue to update. The website also has parent and carer dedicated information about Scottish Education in their 'In a nutshell' series. <https://www.npfs.org.uk>
- **Parenting Across Scotland:** General parenting advice and support on a range of issues, <https://www.parentingacrossscotland.org/>
- **Connect:** Advice tailored to Parent Councils and support for parents groups and representatives. <https://connect.scot/news/coronavirus-advice-parent-groups>
- **Young Scot:** Advice and support on a range of issues for young people and their families. <https://young.scot/>

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- **Mind Yer Time:** has been created by children and young people for children and young people to support everyone with social media use and screen time and help them use their screen time positively. <https://mindyertime.scot>

### **Education Resources and information:**

- **SQA:** The official website of the Scottish Qualifications Authority contains the latest advice and guidance on qualifications, assessment and awards for learners, parents, carers and families. <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html>
- **Parentzone Scotland:** part of the Education Scotland family of websites, contains a range of learning resources for all ages and is a key source of general advice on learning at home, health and wellbeing and general parenting and family support. <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/>
- **Scotland Learns:** Education Scotland has set up a new website with ideas, hints and tips for parents and carers to support learning at home - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/> - a parent newsletter will be issued every week with new ideas.
- **National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS) Educational Resources:** A list of resources updated regularly for ideas and activities for learning at home. <https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/03/19/school-closures-educational-resources-for-parents-and-families/>
- **BBC TV and Radio:** BBC Bitesize (iPlayer and Red Button), BBC Sounds (podcasts) and BBC Scotland (morning programmes for primary and secondary children) and BBC4 (evening programmes for young people) have also been launched.

### **Additional Support for Learning:**

- **Enquire:** Information and advice and resources for parents, carers and families of children with additional support needs <https://enquire.org.uk/>
- **Pupil Inclusion Network Scotland:** provides advice to parents and carers of vulnerable or excluded children <http://www.pinscotland.org/index.html>
- **Scottish Autism:** advice line for autistic people and their families offering reassurance, guidance and support. Call 01259 222022 or e-mail [advice@scottishautism.org](mailto:advice@scottishautism.org), 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm. <https://www.scottishautism.org/services-support/family-support/advice-line-plus>
- **CALL Scotland:** provides information and resources to help children and young people to overcome barriers to learning. <https://www.callscotland.org.uk/home/>
- **REACH:** provides information, support, and advice about the changes to education due to COVID-19 for young people with additional support needs. <https://reach.scot/get-help/coronavirus/>.