

Education and Learning Directorate

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Dear Parent/Carer

We are looking forward to welcoming our Primary 1-3 pupils back on Monday 22nd February. In order to keep pupils, staff and parents/carers safe, many of the changes we put in place for our return in August 2020 remain. Scottish Government guidance states that there is no requirement for children of this age to maintain social distancing, but we will be keeping them within their class 'bubbles'. It is impossible for us to avoid some crossover of children at the start/end of the school day, during interval and lunch, but with your support we will do everything we can to keep this to a minimum.

Return for pupils

In the hope of reducing congestion at the main entrance, we have staggered the start and finish times for each age group:

	Start time	Finish time
Primary 1	8.40 – 9am	3.00pm
Primary 2	8.50 – 9.10am	3.10pm
Primary 3	9am – 9.15am	3.15pm

On entering the school grounds the children should make their way round to their external classroom doors.

We would like to welcome our **new families** to the school and ask that they come to the school office and a member of the team will show the children to their new classes.

We ask that parents and carers who are dropping off or collecting their child/children remember social distance guidelines and that the wearing of facemasks by adults within the school grounds is required. We also politely request that you stay well back from the main doors to allow staff the space to bring the children out and leave the area as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child/children.

Morning Intervals

The playground will be divided to allow the children to play within their 'bubbles' when they are outside. In the case of inclement weather the children will remain within their classrooms.

Lunch Time

Primary 1-3 pupils are entitled to free school meals. Children can of course bring a packed lunch from home if you would prefer. Lunches will be taken in individual classrooms.

Infection Control

In accordance with guidance regular handwashing will continue to be part of our school routine. Class teachers will ensure handwashing is taking place regularly.

Enhanced cleaning procedures have been put in place which include a focus on high use areas such as handrails and door handles. Rooms will be kept well ventilated and therefore children will be required to dress appropriately (it may be slightly cooler than usual).

Children who are unwell will be removed from class and parents will be contacted to come and collect them. Please ensure that there is someone to collect your child quickly if they become unwell and that we have the most up-to-date emergency contact information.

It is extremely important at this time that parents and carers follow government guidance and keep their children at home if they are unwell or displaying symptoms.

Uniform

School uniform should be worn as usual. Please remember that the ventilation of the rooms may mean that they are slightly cooler than usual.

PE

Following government guidance PE will be outdoors. Arrangements will differ in each class, so individual teachers will be in touch with specific arrangements re: clothing, days etc.

Resources

It isn't unusual for some of our younger boys and girls to have a little "accident" now and again. Please pack a change of clothing for your child (in their school bag) if they are in Primary 1 or 2 – just in case!

Children should not bring toys to school with them.

Some children with high anxiety levels benefit / take comfort from having a small soft toy in their bag. This is fine but it should be kept in their bag unless a specific arrangement relating to additional support needs have been discussed with the class teacher.

Homework

In accordance with guidance, the transfer of items between home and school has to be kept to a minimum. This means that we will be continuing to utilise digital technology where possible.

Contact

We look forward to the day when we can welcome parents and carers back into our building, but at the moment we ask that if you need to speak to your child's class teacher that you phone the school office. Please be aware that if you must come to the school office then the ladies will speak to you through the glass screen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your anticipated support and understanding at this time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A. Macfarlane
Depute Head Teacher

