



FORFAR ACADEMY

4th February 2021

Pupil, Parent and Carer Update

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

I hope you are all safe and well. I am writing to you following the announcement from the First Minister on Tuesday regarding return to school.

You can find details of the announcement at the following link :

<https://scottishgov-newsroom.prgloo.com/news/back-to-school-1>

The First Minister announced the following :

1. A return to school for early years and primary aged pupils in P1-P3 from 22nd February
2. A limited return for small numbers of senior phase pupils (S4/5/6) to complete essential practical coursework that cannot be completed remotely. This will take place from 22nd February. There should only be 5-8% of a school roll in school at any one time for this purpose and 2 metre physical distancing, face coverings and other mitigations must be in place
3. Home testing kits to be available for school staff and senior phase pupils to allow for regular self testing in order to further reduce risk of transmission in school
4. Schools to continue to provide existing provision for key worker children where all other child care options have been exhausted and to continue to provide provision for pupils with special individual circumstances

We are awaiting further clarification and guidance on points 2 and 3 above and will be in touch as soon as we receive this and have put our plans in place. It is important to note that these arrangements are subject to the government being confident that rates of transmission are at a level which makes this very limited return safe.

All learning in S1-S3 will continue to be delivered remotely and all learning in S4-S6 that can be delivered remotely will also continue to be so. It will only be pupils in the senior phase studying subjects where it is impossible to deliver essential aspects of the course remotely who will come into school for that purpose. This is likely to be subjects such as practical woodworking, practical cookery, practical cake craft and subjects that require access to specialist software unavailable at home or specialist resources. We will need to plan what subjects require pupils to be in school, a model to deliver this including what subjects and pupils will be in on different days at different time slots and how we ensure 2m distancing is in place to keep everyone safe. This will mean reducing class sizes and using additional accommodation and teachers in most cases.

We have not yet received guidance regarding the home testing kits and how they are to be distributed and used but will let you know as soon as we receive this.

Once again we know that this is a difficult and challenging time for our whole school community. The levels of resilience that everyone has been displaying have been incredible.

I will be in touch soon regarding our plans to put in place the provision outlined above. In the meantime stay safe, stay strong and take care.

Yours sincerely

K. Mohamed

Head Teacher