



Headteacher: Mrs Denise Penman
Telephone: 01259 452319

6th August 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Firstly let me take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this very difficult time. Further to my letter of 24th June, I feel that it is prudent to write to you again with further updates on the school's plans for your child to come back to school. Following the First Minister's announcement last week confirming that children will return to school full time from Wednesday 12th August further planning has taken place over the holidays to ensure their safe return to school. Further meetings have been held with our Health and Safety department to confirm that our plans meet the Scottish Government's guidance. Health and safety will continue to be our top priority for children and staff.

Many of the plans will remain the same, however there have been some changes. Class teachers were allocated to specific classes in June and this will remain the same.

As I wrote before, it is important that only children come into the playground. The area at the trim trail will be cordoned off for parents of younger children to gather however please do not bring your children to school early and once they have arrived I would be obliged if you could leave the area as quickly as possible. The school doors will open at 8.50am as normal and children will make their way to their own individual classroom. Staff will be available in the playground and in the school to support this.

It is important that adults continue to observe the 2 metre distance rule. Please note that the entrance gate closest to the school building will be locked so all children should enter from the two furthest away gates.

The school car park will be closed to cars. Children in Nursery and Primary 1 will gather in this area, each family taking a parking bay and staff will collect children from there. Again, I would be obliged that once your child has been collected that you vacate this area as quickly as possible to allow another family to enter.

It is important that our new Primary 1 children experience a positive and smooth transition into school. Therefore it has been agreed that **children in Primary 1 should attend school on Wednesday 12th August, Thursday 13th August and Friday 14th August from 10.00am – 2.00pm**. This will ensure that staff will be available to support them coming into the building and also leaving and greeting their parents in the car park at the end of the day. From Monday 17th August, Primary 1 children should attend normal school hours i.e. 9.00am – 3.00pm.

At the end of the day, children in Nursery, P1, P2 and P3 will be brought out by their class teacher and handed over to a known adult in line with our school policy, however can I once again request that you maintain the 2 metre distance behind the cordoned area. Children in older classes will be released by their class teacher and asked to leave the playground immediately. If you are picking up an older child please arrange to meet them away from the playground.

If you normally drive to school, I would be obliged, where possible, to consider other ways of getting here i.e. walking, cycling or alternatively, I ask that you park away from the school and walk the short distance.

The school office will be closed to all adults therefore communication with the school will remain via telephone and email contact only. Where there is a requirement to hold a meeting, this will be arranged virtually through Google Meet.

As I wrote last week, it has been agreed to support consistency across the authority and a sense of community that children should wear school uniform. I recognise that for many this is very short notice, however can I ask that children at least wear a school sweatshirt (grey for P1 – P6; black for P7) and appropriate bottoms e.g. dark trousers/ joggers and dark shoes/ trainers. It is important however to ensure that they are dressed for all weather conditions as Outdoor Learning will take place regardless and will only be cancelled in extreme weather conditions.

For the time being, children do not need a PE kit as they will not be asked to change for PE.

When children enter the school building, they will be asked to use the hand sanitizer before they make their way directly to their classroom. Children will stay with their class for the whole day and will not mix with other children from other classes. Playground areas and toilets will be allocated to specific classes.

In class, children will be allocated individual working areas, resources and stationary. Unfortunately we will have to close all of our water fountains therefore it is important that children bring in their own water bottle and their packed lunch. Children who are in receipt of Free School Meals and who are in Primary 1 – 3 will receive a packed lunch from our school kitchens. All other children should be provided with a packed lunch from home in a plastic, wipe-able container or a disposable container. The school can provide disposable paper bags with handles if required. Please ask your child to request these from their class teacher. Lunches and playtimes will be staggered to allow for greater space in the playground during these times. In light of this, therefore we ask that all children remain in school during lunch times and do not go home.

Throughout the day, children will be encouraged to wash their hands and resources, door handles etc. will be regularly wiped down with sanitizing spray.

All of the children's belongings will need to be in the classroom with them, therefore can I please ask that they **do not bring in school bags, pencil cases, toys or any other personal possessions; just their water bottle and lunch.**

The school will be open to staff on Monday 10th August and Tuesday 11th August for in-service days. Children will return to school on Wednesday 12th August.

Breakfast Club will resume on Monday 17th August for those who wish to attend.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Penman
Head Teacher