

Your Ref:

Our Ref: I:\Schools Services\CoronaVirus  
\Parents and Pupils

4 August 2020

## Education and Learning

Directorate

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Dumfries

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Any enquiries please contact

**Gillian Brydson**

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Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer break, whether at home or having a 'staycation', and that you and your family are well.

I wrote to you before the summer holidays following the announcement from the Deputy First Minister on 23 June on the re-opening of schools in Scotland. At that time, the Deputy First Minister confirmed that he would continue to monitor the national health situation and the balance of risk before announcing the plans for re-start of education in Scotland. As such, we headed into the summer holidays with two well developed plans – Plan A was a full return to education and Plan B was a blended learning model.

Last Thursday (30 July) the First Minister announced that in the context of the greatly improving national health situation, the balance of risk is now viewed as strongly in favour of children and young people returning to school full-time.

With this confirmation, we are now able to plan for the re-opening of our schools full-time in August. In Dumfries and Galloway, we will return to schools week beginning 10 August. Monday, 10 August and Tuesday, 11 August will be in-service days for teachers and staff. **All pupils will return to schools on Wednesday, 12 August.**

Your school will be in touch with information about what will be happening at your child's school.

Over the summer holidays, our teams have been working to prepare our schools and finalise the arrangements so that we are able to reopen our schools safely for everyone.

The school day will look different for us all. The Scottish Government have told us all that this is the 'Recovery phase' and it will be a while before we return to 'normal' in our schools. New personal hygiene practices throughout the day, enhanced cleaning arrangements and complying with physical distancing guidance for time in our classrooms will mean that we will have to adapt to new working practices.

To help/-

To help to prepare your child for the return to school, information on a range of topics has been developed. We would encourage all parents and young people to read this information to understand some of the changes in our schools when staff and pupils return next week:

<https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/article/21014/Re-opening-of-schools>

Also, a comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions has been developed to assist with any queries you may have:

<https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/article/21023/FAQ-s-Re-opening-of-Schools>

Later this week, you will be sent an email with information about the return to school in Dumfries and Galloway. This will help you and your family to prepare for the changes to the school day.

All our staff are looking forward to our schools reopening so that we can welcome all our pupils and young people back into our school communities and start learning again.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Brydson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gillian Brydson  
Director Skills, Education and Learning