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Our Ref: LMCA/MMcK

Date: 26 May 2020

Dear Loanhead Staff, Parents and Carers

LOANHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We hope that you and your families continue to be safe and well under these current very strange and challenging circumstances. We would both wish to say a huge 'Thank You' to all of you for your outstanding commitment to the support of your young people over the past weeks. You have indeed gone above and beyond in ensuring the wellbeing of your young people, whom we miss so much in our schools and ECCs right now.

As you will be aware, one of the implications of the current lockdown has been the cessation of the construction work at Loanhead PS. We have a team of staff from all areas of the council currently liaising with Ashleigh Construction to ensure we have the most up to date information about the build. Whilst it is anticipated that there will be some activity commencing on-site from the 1st June this is preparation works only in line with the Scottish Government 6 Step Construction Re-Start Guidance that allows contractors to start making adaptations on-site to allow the social distancing of operatives when they return to work. The construction industry as a whole still awaits a final decision from the Scottish Government before actual construction works can commence in accordance with the 6 Step Construction Re-Start Guidance. The consequence is that Loanhead will not now open in August as originally planned, which is already widely anticipated and known.

At this stage, our 'Best Case' Scenario is an opening after the Christmas holiday, but this is in no way certain. Once the First Minister determines when construction sites in Scotland can reopen again, the main contractor will be in a position to draw up a revised programme of works, working in collaboration with the wide range of sub-contractors on site; however, it should be noted that the timescales may be further complicated as one of Ashleigh Constructions main subcontractors, CBC Stone, regrettably went into administration during the lockdown period. It is therefore unlikely that the revised programme and a new proposed date for completion and handover of the site will be known until late June.

At this stage, it is therefore certain that staff and young people will be reporting to Kirkstyle Campus from August and Mrs Milne will be working closely with me to ensure that any staff and pupils who require enhanced access in June can do so as part of the normal transition route to primary school.

Loanhead Early Childhood Centre

The allocation of places for August 2020 is currently on hold for both children returning for their pre-school year and new 3 year old children who start across the academic year. Decisions about reopening all Early Learning and Childcare settings and the pattern of hours to be delivered will be shaped and informed by national guidance and the national public health advice.

Parents who have applied for a place at Loanhead early childhood centre (ECC) will be offered an

alternative place until such times as the new ECC is complete, staff have been recruited and the service is registered with the Care Inspectorate.

General Points

Clearly there are many points of further detail that you will need both information and reassurance on, as part of wider COVID-19 concerns also and please be aware that this further detail will absolutely be forthcoming, but that at this stage, it is felt that it would be helpful to clarify the proposed interim plan for all staff, parents, carers and young people associated with Loanhead PS and ECC. Mrs Milne is arranging a further Parent Council meeting for mid-June also amidst other normal parental updates. Please continue to listen to the Morning Messages going out daily, via the school blog and the School App for Parents for all things related to Loanhead Primary and ECC. Mrs Milne will be happy, as your main point of contact, to provide any support you may need to access the information including the online learning on Teams.

We will be back in touch in due course, as the detail around the arrangements are firmed up in regard to transport and other matters in the coming weeks. Please continue to stay safe and once again, accept our thanks for your amazing work in these circumstances.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda McAulay-Griffiths', followed by a comma.

LINDA McAULAY-GRIFFITHS
Head of Education