

Loanhead Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Amanda Milne (Acting)

Email: amanda.milne@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

5th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the recent communication from the Head of Education, I'm delighted to share with you the specific arrangements in regard to your child's return to Loanhead. The whole staff team absolutely share the sentiment of being delighted to welcome pupils back to school.

Date of Return of Pupils

We are undertaking a soft-start as per the communication issued from dates 12-14th August. This will take the following format:-

Date	Pupils to attend
Wednesday 12 th August	All pupils in P1a, P1b, P4 & P7
Thursday 13 th August	All pupils in P2, P4/3 & P6/5
Friday 14 th August	All pupils in P3, P5 & P6

Given this planned partial attendance of pupils, we would ask that any families for whom this causes significant difficulty, to please telephone the school and we will try to support this. **All pupils will be attending full-time from Monday 17th August**, other than young people with ongoing health issues, quarantining or self-isolating.

Wellbeing and Learning

Your child's wellbeing will always be our prime concern and staff are ready to welcome your child back to school in a positive way that links to our ongoing work on relationships across all of our schools. The soft return will ensure we have helped the children settle into a slightly changed building and familiarise themselves with the changes in routine that they experience. If there is any information you feel that we should know regarding the children and their wellbeing over the time away from school, no matter how small, please email it to amanda.milne@east-ayrshire.gov.uk or telephone the school on 01563 522938. This information will be shared with the relevant staff.

Transport and Arrival of Pupils

As always your children's safety is paramount to us all and I'm sure you will agree that especially now, it is important to make sure we work together to ensure every possible step is taken to make it as safe and comfortable as possible for all.

School transport will run as normal and pupils should access their assigned transport in the usual place. Your child does not require a face covering for school transport, but is absolutely welcome to wear a covering should they prefer to do so. Staff working as escorts will be wearing a face covering and we would appreciate you discussing this with your child to reassure them.

Morning Pick up from Loanhead, Dick Road:

We would ask adults dropping off children at the bus to do so and leave immediately to assist with social distancing. The children will have a designated seat on the bus which the bus escorts will direct them to and we would ask that children sit there for the entire journey to school. The buses will leave Dick Road promptly at 8:50a.m.

On Arrival at Kirkstyle Campus:

The children will exit the buses supervised by the teaching staff and escorts. On entry to the school all children will wash or sanitise hands.

P1a, P1b, P2 and P3 will enter the building from the red door at the front of the school. P4/3, P4 and P5 will enter the building from the middle doors at the rear of the school. P6/5, P6 and P7 will enter the building from the red door at the rear of the school.

Should your child be one of those children who are choosing to walk to the school they should line up at the points indicated in the playground by the staff when they arrive in the playground. Children should arrive as close to 8:55a.m. as possible. Please note parents/carers should avoid coming into the playground.

Drop off at the End of the Day:

As there is limited space at Dick Road we would ask for your support in helping this situation. In order to allow for adults to socially distance when collecting their children we would ask that you bear with us and wait patiently whilst we debus the children.

Having taken on board your feedback and with the added measure of social distancing we would appreciate it if you can **stand away from the entire bus bay** waiting in the following designated places in order for us to get the children to you safely.

The bus escort will debus the children and bring them to individual bus areas. We would respectfully ask that you do not come forwards to collect your child from these points until they reach them.

Bus 1 – Parents/Carers should wait on the pavement opposite the bus bay (houses side) and the children will be crossed over the road in a line to reach you.

Bus 2 – Parents/Carers should wait on the pavement (school side) from the gate at the old dining hall end away from the bus bay and the children will be led down to you.

Bus 3 – Parents/Carers should wait on the pathway which runs alongside the school fence line through the grassed area and the children will be led to the end of the pathway to you.

Bus 4 – Parents/Carers should wait on the pavement adjacent to the grassed area from the sign post opposite the corner of Elmbank Street and Dick Road at Academy Apartments and the children will be led to you there.

In this way we hope to spread out the adults, keep social distancing measures in place and provide clear line of sight for staff taking children off the buses making it as safe as possible. We would request that if you are collecting a child you would exit your vehicle to do so, unless you hold a disabled badge, and not ask your child to walk to where you usually park as this has caused a number of difficulties previously. A text will be sent out confirming your child's bus allocation before Friday.

Primary One Children Day One – 12th August 2020

We are really looking forward have you join us at school and although we are not able to welcome parents into the classroom on the first day as we mentioned at the transition visits, we will be able to provide photo opportunities outside school. In tandem with the Thinglink of the pupil classes we will also provide a photo of them in class during their first day at school. We have been able to organise a number of buses to pick up the P1 children with one adult parent/carer each, leaving at 10a.m. from Dick Road on the 12th of August and returning the adults after they have had an opportunity to go with their child to school on the bus and take a photograph of them going into school. We must limited this to one adult per child and would ask that you socially distance on the bus and all adults **must** wear a mask. Hopefully this will allay any fears you may have regarding the children travelling by bus. The children will return at the end of the day on the bus they have been allocated and can be received at the allocated bus points detailed in Transport section.

Where pupils are dropped off at school by car, we respectfully ask that this is at the drop off point next to the roundabout and not directly at school doors to prevent cars other than staff vehicles and those with disabled badges coming into the area in front of the school as the children who are walking require this space to get to the gates safely and to avoid the new fire muster point.

In accordance with government guidelines, parents will not be able to enter the school, and arrangements will be made with you directly should an emergency occur and you are required to come to collect your child.

Ongoing Measures to Protect your Child/Children and Your Family

General Measures

We have reconfigured the school building to minimise the crossing over of various areas and to maximise capacity. This has included zoning of doors, work and play spaces. It also includes an additional fire muster point created in the front area of the school previously part of the car park.

Please be assured your child will continue to have access to the open space in the playground and are still able to play with their friends during breaks.

Handwashing time has been built into the timetable of the day as regular, thorough handwashing is the best. In addition hand sanitiser is available in all classes and at all entryways.

All children have a named kit box where their learning materials, work materials and resources are kept. These include, labelled with their name, pencils, colouring pencils, whiteboards, markers, jotters, textbooks, concrete materials and more.

School bags are not necessary and we are ask that children bring as few items from home as possible (glasses and cases, tissues in a pocket, packed lunch if needed) as we will provide all that they need in school.

Data check forms will be sent home on the first day the children are in school and we would appreciate a return of these before the 20th of August which will allow us to make sure we have the most up to date information for the children as quickly as possible.

School uniform helps to set the ethos of the school and allows children to feel part of our community and therefore should be worn where possible. We have a generous number of pre-loved, high quality uniform available for collection from school in all sizes free of charge. All that is needed is for you to come and collect it this week as advertised on the school blog. You may wish to consider collecting some spare items of uniform to ease the pressure on washing.

PE will be taking place outdoors as much as possible, weather permitting. We would encourage children to wear jogging bottoms/leggings for this should the weather be cool. PE kit will no longer be kept in class and must be taken home for washing and hygiene purposes.

Catering

Maureen and her team are looking forward to welcoming the children back with their excellent school meals and although organised in a different way they will be of their usual high quality. School lunch will be delivered to the children in the classrooms at lunchtime where the tables will be sanitised before eating. We would encourage you to discuss the choice your child would like to make for that day before they attend ordering using the pre selection option on TEAMS. There will be a step by step guide for parents on the blog. However please do not worry if you are unable to do this as it will be available for completion in class in the morning before 9:30a.m. Our menu will be available on the app and in the blog to help you with these discussions. All childrens meals come with prepacked disposable cutlery. Pupils can continue to bring a packed lunch should they prefer in a clearly labelled packed lunch box with their name and class on the outside. All children will eat together in their class irrespective of whether they are a school lunch person or a packed lunch person on that day.

COVID-19 Management

- **Please do not send your child to school or ECC if they, or any of your household, have symptoms of COVID-19, please alert us to this immediately should this occur.**
- **Please arrange to pick your child up from school immediately if you are contacted to advise that they are symptomatic, and follow subsequent medical advice. Schools have to ensure that any child/young person who is symptomatic is taken home as soon as possible.**

Some Practicalities...

In summary, we absolutely appreciate that this will be a return to school involving a huge mixture of both anxiety, but also indeed joy as young people see their friends and staff again. As a final helpful list to parents, can you please support us by:

- Reinforcing hygiene measures and social distancing with your child(ren).
- Having your child bring tissues to school to capture any coughs or sneezes.

- Ensuring your child does not bring unnecessary items to school.
- Working with us in a positive way to find solutions, even if things are difficult, we all want to help.
- Reinforcing positive relationships between children and our staff.
- Using our meal pre-order system and giving your child a break-time snack and breakfast.
- Dropping off children at the bus and then leaving quickly and standing at the designated zone at drop off time.
- Understanding that we are not permitted to allow visitors to school buildings, other than in emergency or other exceptional circumstances.

This is not the usual way of returning and we know it is an anxious time for many but please be reassured that we take your child's health and wellbeing seriously and will work with you to give them the best experience we can provide. Can I end by thanking you all so much again for your support of your child's learning, we simply cannot wait to welcome them back to Loanhead.

Kindest regards,

Amanda Milne
Head Teacher (Acting)