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Loanhead Primary School

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3rd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Loanhead PS and Early Childhood Centre (ECC) Progress Update

I hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well in the circumstances.

It has been a difficult time, particularly with schools currently open to only a small number of children. Hopefully, following the First Minister's announcement yesterday, there is some light at the end of the tunnel, with the potential start of a planned, phased return to school of primary 1 – 3 pupils from 22nd February. This will not be confirmed until the 16th of February.

As we see plans for the first tentative steps out of the current lockdown, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on progress of the works at the school. Ashleigh Construction has advised that, as a result of on-going Covid-related issues, there has been a further short delay which will see the refurbishment works to the primary school and building of the new Early Childhood Centre completed by 19th March with the children moving back to the Loanhead building after the spring break. As is normal practice, East Ayrshire Council will ask the Scottish Government for permission to close the primary school for four days: two days to allow staff to pack up resources at Kirkstyle Primary School and two days for staff to unpack resources and set up classrooms for the return of the children to Loanhead Primary School.

In consultation with the Head Teacher and Strategic Education Manager (Early Intervention), the following timescales have been agreed (subject to the agreement of the Scottish Government):

Close for the children at Kirkstyle PS	Tuesday 30 March 2021
Staff pack up (Kirkstyle)	Wednesday 31 March & Thursday 1 April 2021
Staff set up (Loanhead)	Monday 19 & Tuesday 20 April 2021
Children return to Loanhead	Wednesday 21 st April 2021

The ECC is a new early learning and childcare setting for children aged 2 to 5 years old and as such requires registration with the Care Inspectorate.

All registration requirements will need to be met before the ECC can open to children, it is anticipated this will be Monday 26 April 2021.

For children who were previously registered to attend Loanhead ECC in session 2020 -21 and who:

- took up the offer of an alternative ECC,
- chose not to take up the offer of an alternative place or
- remained at an ECC they were already attending.

Parents will be contacted to arrange individual start dates. Please do not bring your child on the 26th April unless you have been informed that this is your child's start date.

For parents wishing to make application for a child not already registered at Loanhead ECC, please apply through the online ECC application available on the Council website from 18th February to 12th March.

2 year old places will be available from August 2021, the eligibility criteria and application forms are available at: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/twoyearolds>

I appreciate this has meant a longer than anticipated delay to the refurbishment of the school and new ECC extension, however, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going patience and support which has been greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

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