



Parental Information and Update 29th May 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

On behalf of all of our staff team, may I begin by again sharing our very best wishes and thoughts with all of our Giffnock Family. In these challenging times, our thoughts remain with you all and we hope that your family is safe and well.

During the last week, the Scottish Government has begun to share more information about the planning for recovery and re-engagement into our schools. The key messages focus upon caution and a very measured approach, centring on key principles aimed at protecting health & wellbeing. In connection with this information, East Renfrewshire Authority have then also been providing more clarity this week about next steps for our schools. Some of these things have been shared in national media over the last few days and I therefore felt it helpful to provide a little more clarity here.

August 2020:

The Scottish Government have set a revised date of August 11th 2020 for all schools to begin a fuller re-opening, around a week earlier than would have ordinarily been the case. This will not mean that all children are able to return to school however on that date. It is being confirmed nationally whether or not the 11th/ 12th may in fact be Inservice Days, with the first day that some of our children can begin returning then becoming the 13th August. This will be confirmed in due course.

From the 13th August, parts of classes will return though the exact numbers are yet to be confirmed. What is clear is that 'blended learning' will need to be planned, involving some time for children in school and some learning to continue through remote learning. As the full details of exact numbers and organisation are confirmed we will of course continue to share them in the coming weeks of June.

June 2020:

During June, across East Renfrewshire some of our staff teams will be able to begin accessing school premises in order to plan and organise for the August 2020 re-engagement. Cleaning teams and facilities management will begin accessing all schools from Monday 1st June in order to make the necessary preparations for this during that week, and an enhanced provision for cleaning the school more regularly will continue thereafter.

We will also begin moving our Key Worker families' children who have all been accessing school provision at OLM Primary School/ Glen Family Centre since March 2020, back into Giffnock Primary School during June. More details will be shared of the exact date and arrangements for this with these families at the start of next week.



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Transition arrangements for our pre-school nursery children and current P7 children:

The Scottish Government have also provided scope for limited transition experiences to be put in place safely for some of our children, specifically those moving into both Primary 1 and S1 in August. In connection, we have had confirmation during the last few days that all families have now been advised of places that have been allocated by East Renfrewshire's Admissions Department for August. We have already begun sharing information and planning with other nursery establishments and indeed Woodfarm High School. During the early part of next week, we will therefore be sharing fuller information with our pre-school nursery and P7 families as to the detail of what these transition experiences and processes can now look like.

Finally, given the enormity of this situation and the challenges we face both in recovery and re-engagement in the school, I want us to have a community response to the situation. By this, I mean that it is vital that we all consult and share information, in order to make arrangements work as well as possible. With this in mind, our next Parent Council meeting is planned for 7pm on Monday 1st June so that we can further agree on our collective steps forward.

I am delighted that we can at least begin our measured and safe steps back into Giffnock Primary in June and continue to look forward to the days ahead when we will be able to see more of our families there.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Lawson'.

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher