

Parental Information and Update 26th June 2020



Dear Parent/ Carer

Further to my letter on 24th June and following the Deputy First Minister's announcement to the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday afternoon, I hope that the following letter will help to clarify important aspects of our current position on the last day of school session.

August school return:

To reiterate, we welcome the Scottish Government's announcement **to aim for all pupils to return to school after the summer break**. Across East Renfrewshire, we will very much look forward to welcoming back all our children on **Wednesday 12th August** and will now prepare and plan for this.

All the work carried out to prepare for Blended Learning and social distancing will continue to be valuable as contingency plans and if we are required to move to this model at a later date.

East Renfrewshire have also now confirmed that Key Worker families will not be supported in school on the 10th and 11th August, but rather out with schools.

Health & Safety:

Our risk assessments and planned systems to support this will remain in place. Hand sanitiser stations at all entry points, hand-hygiene protocols and adult to adult social distancing will still be adhered to as planned. The significant, provisional change is that children are expected to not have to socially distance from one another within the school grounds.

This means that the 'zoning' of the school grounds, the changes to lunchtimes and breaks, and other aspects of planning will not be needed. Given that all our children will be able to come into school at the same time as normal, we will not of course need to use the church premises either.

Start and end of day arrangements:

Given the proposed return of all our children on the 12th August, we have made significant amendments to these arrangements which I would like to explain here.

As per our risk assessments and given that adults are expected to still need to socially distance, **we have been advised to maintain the plan to not have parents/ carers/ other adults in the school playground**. With this in mind:



Parental Information and Update 26th June 2020

Start of day:

The start of school day for all children will be 08:55.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will staff the school playground areas from 08:40 and we will open the gates to the school to allow children to begin coming to school from this time. This will enable parents to drop their children off and leave the area as quickly as possible, thereby aiming to reduce congestion of people. We would strongly encourage you to not wait until 08:55 but rather to use the opportunity of a 'soft start' to the day from 08:40. The SLT will remain in the playground to support the children during all of this time, until class teachers take the children in from their lines. We also hope that this will help with working parents' arrangements and for getting to work.

Our Nursery children are an exception to this entry time – please see below.

For the first three days of school (Wednesday 10th/ Thursday 11th/ Friday 12th August), we would invite our Primary 1 children to line up at the double gate at the front of the school with their parents/ carers and they will be met there at 09:10 by the class teachers and a member of the SLT. We hope that this will help them begin their school time in as calm and clear a way as possible.

We will not be closing the staff car park, however it remains the case that only those parents who have been given express permission to use the car park should do so at any time.

End of day:

The end of school day for Primary 1, 2 and 3 will be 15:00. All these children will be brought to the gates at the front of the school by a staff member at this time. For our youngest children, it is always important to see that an appropriate person is collecting them, so we would ask for your patience at this stage.

As per the video we shared in the Sway on Tuesday 23rd June, the double gates at the front of the school will be the exit point for our Primary 1 and 2 children.

Our Primary 3 children will exit via the single black gate closest to the staff car park and not through the staff car park itself.

For our Primary 4 to 7 children, they will be brought to their usual lines at 15:00 by their class teachers but asked to wait there. At 15:15 we will bring these children from their lines to the front gates to exit. In delaying these children this short time, we hope it will ease congestion at the front of the school.

We realise that there will be some families with children in both groups, and that some families may need to wait for the P4 to 7 children to exit, but we feel that this is necessary to ease congestion and thank you for your understanding in advance.



Parental Information and Update 26th June 2020

Police, Community Wardens and Parent Council support:

We have requested that both local police and community warden presence will be available at these times. I would also like to thank the Parent Council for their ongoing support and efforts to arrange some members to also support at these times.

It is vital that we all play our part in maintaining health & safety in the local area to the school. As previously, if at all possible we would ask you to walk to school and to not use cars around start and end of day. Please respect the local road regulations and, if it is indeed necessary to drive, park away from the immediate school area and walk to the school gates. Again as previously mentioned, we do expect that Academy Road will be very full of adults needing to socially distance, and therefore it is highly likely that significant delays in cars would be experienced in any event.

Again, we hope that these comments are not officious sounding but rather are shared in the interests of everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Lunches:

With all our children expected to be returning, our lunch service is expected to resume as normal but with a more limited, initial menu. You can of course have your child continue to bring a packed lunch as normal if you so choose.

Our Nursery Class:

Arrangements for our nursery class are somewhat different. Firstly, if as expected all children are returning to school on 12th August, we will revert to the 1140 model implementation and children should therefore come at their originally allocated times (not on the Monday/ Tuesday, Thursday/ Friday model when social distancing of the children would have been required).

This will mean that our nursery class children are arriving at either 08:00 or 09:00, and leaving at 15:00 or 18:00.

At 08:00 and at 09:00, a member of the nursery staff will be available to meet and support our families. Nursery parents may enter by the far black gate (near the climbing posts and tyres) of the playground only, remaining in a 'holding area' which will be sprayed on to the playground floor creating a rectangular area between the black gate and the silver nursery doors. This 'holding area' can be used by nursery parents only at start and end of day, to support our youngest children getting into school. We would ask all adults doing so not to remain there more than is necessary – it is simply to support drop off and pick up times. If an older sibling is also being dropped off/ collected, please then remain on Academy Road to do this.



Parental Information and Update 26th June 2020

At 15:00, a member of the nursery team will also be available to support pick up time. At 18:00, it will be necessary to enter the holding area and press the buzzer at the silver doors to alert a member of staff.

It remains important for all children to bring in their own packed lunch and snacks for throughout the day, as these are not being provided at this time by the authority. Please ensure no nut content as always.

For any necessary medication, on your child's first day please bring along full information to share with the staff team.

Our end of school year:

This has been a unique, challenging period of time. Ordinarily, many of us would have been at the end of year gathering today, celebrating together in person. Whilst this is not possible, I would like to share a few thank-yous here, as I would have done there.

I am very grateful to all of our parents and carers for their support, in particular through these last few months and with our Remote Learning. To our children, thank you for all of your endeavour throughout the year and wonderful attitude. In particular to our Primary 7s moving on, aspire to follow your dreams. Finally, a special thanks to our wonderful staff team for going above and beyond throughout the school year, and for showing such a great deal of resilience and determination throughout this final term.

I wish you all a settled, calm and happy summer and very much look forward to seeing you again in August.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Lawson', written in a cursive style.

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher