



Parental Information and Update

17th February 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Following the First Minister's announcement yesterday, confirming that all Nursery to Primary 3 children should return to school full-time from Monday 22nd February, I wanted to write to you to provide more detailed information for you and your family. We have put together guidance on a wide range of aspects concerning our children's return to school, which is also attached to this email and which I hope that you find useful.

Unfortunately, our P4-7 children are not able to return as yet, so that their Remote Learning will continue in exactly the same ways as has been the case. Our engagement in Remote Learning across the school has been fantastic since January 11th, with well over 90% of our children regularly engaging and partaking in Remote Learning activities. We know how much effort and support has gone into this by you and I would like to thank you again for this.

School grounds, start/ end of school day and Academy Road:

Health & Safety and the whole school community's wellbeing will remain our first priority. All of our risk assessments have been reviewed and we are continuing to finalise preparations for our Nursery-P3 return next week. Sadly, it remains the case that parents/ carers will not be able to come onto the school grounds at this time without a specific appointment and that such appointments are restricted to situations of necessity. We thank-you in advance for your support and co-operation in this.

As the First Minister highlighted yesterday in her announcement, it is vital that we do all that we can together to minimise adults congregating and mixing at the 'school gates'. **I would respectively ask again that you plan to minimise the time that you spend near the school at the start and end of day, and that you maintain your 2m social distancing from other adults.** To support this, we will again be operating our 'soft start' from 08:40 each week day morning, when members of our Senior Leadership Team and PSAs will be in the playground, meaning that you do not have to wait on Academy Road at all to support your children. In bad weather, the children will go straight into school and their classrooms from their arrival at 08:40 and after, as was the case during August–December 2020.

At the end of the school day, we will be staggering our children's exiting of the building to further support social distancing. Our Nursery and P1 children will leave the building at 3pm, our P2 children five minutes later, and our P3 children at around 3.10pm. Our P4-7 key worker and vulnerable children will leave at around 3.15pm. This will allow those parents/ carers with no siblings to collect and to leave the area straight away, and should help to further reduce congestion. We have requested police and Community Warden presence and hope that this will continue to be a regular aspect of all our support in the local area.

Both the school and Parent Council remain in communication with the ERC Roads Department in order to try to find the best solutions for the immediate road area. At this



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time, and where at all possible, we would ask that you do not drive down Academy Road at peak times and that you do not 'hover' to let your child out of your car.

All of the staff team are excited about the return of at least part of our school community on Monday. We understand what a challenging time this is for all of our families and thank you for your ongoing co-operation with all of these Health & Safety measures, alongside your ongoing support in getting the best for our children's education. As always, if you have any specific issues that you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Lawson', is positioned below the text 'Kind regards,'.

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher