



Giffnock Primary School: Parent and Family Guide for Returning to School February 22nd 2021

The following table of information has been drafted to provide key information for our families in preparing to welcome back to school our Nursery to Primary 3 children on Monday 22nd February. From this date and following national guidance, our P4-7 classes will continue to access their Remote Learning through their class Google Classrooms as they have been doing since January.

Whilst this will not be exhaustive information below, we hope that the detail will answer many of the key questions that you may have.

Key area of consideration	Guidance	Further Information
Resources and preparation for school	<p>Uniform All pupils will be expected to wear their school uniform as normal. If children prefer to wear polo shirts more regularly at this time, in particular to support PE changing, this is fine to do so.</p> <p>School Bags and Equipment Pupils may bring their own stationery but will avoid sharing this with other children. School bags can be brought in as normal but pupils should avoid bringing in unnecessary toys or other items from home.</p> <p>Face Coverings Children are not required to wear face coverings in school.</p>	<p>There are no additional requirements for extra cleaning of school uniforms or blazers so pupils are able to wear their school uniform as normal. For PE, all children will continue to experience PE lessons outdoors only at this time. As our teachers will need to socially distance from the children, it is important that our children are able to dress themselves independently. If this is an issue for your child, please continue to support practise at home. For some of our youngest children, changing for PE may just be about a change of footwear. Please make sure all children have suitable PE clothing for winter weather.</p> <p>All children will continue to be given and use individual packs of their own resources and equipment to reduce sharing amongst children, so that they will be provided with all that they need for learning in school.</p> <p>Children are able to wear a face covering if they wish to do so. If desired, children should bring these to school themselves.</p>

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<p>Getting to and from school</p>	<p>To support all these arrangements, we respectfully ask that all of our families walk to school where at all possible. Parking restrictions and signage on Academy Road have been re-painted for clarity and the three parking bays on Academy Road also remain closed. It remains very difficult to drive down Academy Road at 'peak' times and we would ask all families not to stop in the middle of the road to let children out of the car whilst the engine is running, as this presents a significant safety hazard. We have again asked for police and community warden presence to support start and end of days, and we are very grateful to members of the Parent Council who continue to support the sharing of communication at these times.</p> <p>No parents/ carers/ adults will be able to enter the playground, with the exception of nursery parents in the 'holding area' outside the nursery entrance. We will continue to review this in line with government and local guidance.</p> <p>Start of school day: At 08:40, the Senior Leadership Team will open the gates to the playground on Academy Road. At this time, all P1-3 children will be able to enter the playground and supervision by staff will be in place. This 'soft start' to the day will then allow parents/ carers to leave the area straight away, reducing the risk of compromising social distancing.</p> <p>Nursery children's arrangements for start and end of day are different to other children's – please see column to the right.</p>	<p>Parents are encouraged to support children in walking to and from school to reduce the pressure on busy roads around schools. Please do not stand waiting at the school gates for more time than is needed and please remember to maintain social distancing with other families. When collecting pupils at the end of the day, please do not arrive too early as there is limited space for adults to congregate safely around the school. Once you have collected your child(ren) we would ask that you vacate the area as quickly as possible and to not congregate in any groups.</p> <p>For those parents/ carers who have provided details of their medical/ other reasons for requiring use of the school staff car park and who have therefore been given permission, our janitor will be on hand to support the accessing of the area. We know that Academy Road will be very busy with people walking so we would ask for your patience in needing to wait for appropriate times to enter and leave the car park, which may of course necessitate greater waiting time.</p> <p>Nursery: A member of the Nursery team will support entry to the nursery for those children arriving at 8am and for those at 9am each day. Nursery parents can use the holding area inside the black gates, near the climbing posts and tyres, but we would ask you to use this for a short time and only as needed to support your child. The same arrangements will happen at 3pm and then up to 6pm when collecting your child at the end of day. When the weather is very poor, between 08:50 – 09:00 members of staff will support the entry of any of our nursery children into the cloakroom area of the nursery, in order for them to stay dry and to begin changing coats, wellies, etc. The full nursery staffing will then commence learning activities with these children from 09:00 as usual.</p>
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	<p>End of school day: At 3pm, P1-3 children will be brought to the gates at the front of the school in a staggered manner. P1 and our nursery children will be at 3pm, P2 at approximately 3.05pm, and P3 at approximately 3.10pm. Our P4-7 Key Worker/ Vulnerable children will then leave at around 3.15pm. Parents/ carers should collect their children and we would ask that you then leave the area asap. During pickup at the end of the day, please do not arrive early and spend time around the school gates/ Academy Road unnecessarily. Please note that the playground will be unavailable for play at these times. We will of course continue to review in line with guidance as appropriate.</p>	<p>For all children, given the increased focus on outdoor learning and given the need for our children to wait in lines at the end of the day, it is vital that a suitable jacket with hood is available for each child.</p>
<p>Changes to the school day</p>	<p>Assemblies and larger gatherings Schools will continue to limit gatherings of pupils and our children will continue to learn predominantly within their own classes. Again, we will continue to review this in line with government and local guidance.</p> <p>Break times From the 22nd February, our children will have their break time at 10.35-10.50am. This will be reviewed as we progress and is likely to revert to two break times when all of our P4-7 also return to school.</p> <p>Water Coolers Water coolers will be available for pupils to use as usual and will be regularly cleaned throughout the day. Pupils should look to practise good hand hygiene before and after use of the coolers.</p>	<p>Tuck will be available as usual and should be paid for through ParentPay as normal.</p> <p>It is vital that every child comes to school with their own water bottle to use each day.</p>

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	<p>PE Clothing and Changing In order to maximise outdoor PE, we would ask that PE kit comes into school on a Monday and stays all week, going home on Friday to be washed in readiness for the following week.</p> <p>Instrumental Music This will return where possible for limited instruments. No brass or woodwind instruments are allowed to be played at this time and singing should not take place in school. If your child currently accesses the instrumental music service, they will continue to receive tuition remotely through video calls.</p>	<p>Please make sure that suitable, additional clothing layers are provided for outside PE as the weather can be very challenging! We understand that school polo shirts can really help with changing and are very happy for families to make the choice for children to wear these more frequently in these times if this is helpful.</p>
<p>Lunches</p>	<p>School Lunches School Lunches will revert to 12.30–1.20pm whilst we have only our Nursery–P3 children in school. When our P4-7 children return fully, this is likely to revert to two lunch sittings.</p> <p>A normal menu will be available for our children, the details of which will be confirmed by our catering colleagues in due course and through our website. Disposable plates and cutlery will continue to be used.</p> <p>Free School Meals All P1-P3s and those entitled to free school meals will continue to receive these in school.</p>	<p>Children accessing full days in our nursery should bring a packed lunch each day of attendance.</p>

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	<p>Packed Lunches Pupils will be able to continue to bring in their own food to eat in school if they wish to do so. All packed lunch boxes and materials will be kept separately in/ near classrooms and children should open and use only their own.</p> <p>Out of school for Lunch We would advise, where possible and appropriate for our children, to stay in school for lunch. Children can however continue to go home for lunch in line with existing arrangements. Appropriate hygiene measures will require to be taken when they return to school.</p>	<p>We would actively discourage pupils from going out of school for lunch; if however they do, there is a requirement to adhere to social-distancing requirements and manage proper hand-hygiene.</p>
<p>During the day</p>	<p>Arrangements for learning & teaching will of course vary somewhat from classroom to classroom in order to support the age and needs of our individual children. All schools will be prioritising the safety of all pupils and Health & Wellbeing will remain our first consideration.</p> <p>Setup of the Playroom / Classroom Depending on the space, learning environments will continue to be set up differently than usual and staff will be making sure this is done safely.</p> <p>Outdoor Learning There will remain a greater emphasis on the use of the outdoors for learning (weather permitting). Teachers will continue to look at how best to use the outdoor spaces available in the school.</p>	<p>This will vary depending on the space and furniture available, however will conform to the risk assessments which have been undertaken across every school. Nursery, P1 and P2 will continue to follow a play based approach to learning, with modifications being made to the learning environment as needed. Teachers and staff will manage this following specific government guidance.</p> <p>There is less risk of transmission in outdoor spaces and therefore teachers will look to reasonably maximise the amount of time that children spend outside. Please ensure children come to school each day with appropriate outdoor waterproof jackets and footwear.</p>

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	<p>Groups and Classes To reduce any risks, nurseries and schools will be looking to minimise the mixing of pupils in different classes and groups where possible and collaborative learning across stages will not be planned at this time.</p> <p>Interrupted Learning and Curriculum focuses Our first priority will be to assess the social and emotional wellbeing of our children as they return to school. Assessment of progress, in particular in areas of Literacy and Numeracy will then also remain a key priority. Class teachers will assess progress and plan learning taking school closures into account.</p>	
<p>Out of School arrangements</p>	<p>Out of School Care The Education Department is working with out of school care providers to support provision being in place for schools. Individual providers will be able to advise on the availability of places for children.</p> <p>Access to the School Building There will be limited access to the school building for parents and pupils outside of school hours due to the need for enhanced cleaning to take place and in order to support social distancing. If you wish to speak with a member of staff about your child, you should phone the school in the first instance to make an appointment. Our Friday morning Leadership Team drop-in session for parents cannot be offered at this time.</p>	<p>Both Primary Playcare and Off Grid are offering services and you should get in touch with them directly as usual to make any arrangements for your child.</p>

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	<p>School Clubs School clubs will not be running at this time and it may not be possible to run these clubs as usual for the near future. We will of course keep all families updated on this.</p> <p>Interrupted learning and consolidation Schools will plan for learning in school and out of school to address the interruption to learning caused during school closures. This may include additional homework and study support balanced with some activities which will support health and wellbeing.</p>	
<p>Cleaning & Hygiene</p>	<p>There will remain an enhanced cleaning regime across all schools, with additional attention in particular on frequent 'touch points', for example, on door handles and hand rails. Additional signage is in place and our teachers will be spending time during the school day in supporting our children's understanding of the need for personal hygiene.</p> <p>Hand Hygiene All staff will be encouraging greater hand hygiene amongst children with pupils being expected to wash / sanitise their hands on entering the school, before and after breaks times.</p> <p>Cleaning workstations and desks Wipes will be available in classrooms to wipe down work areas, though the enhanced cleaning put in place during the day will already comply with our risk assessments and safety regulations. To begin with, the children will again not be using our ICT suite but rather designated mobile devices which will be assigned to each class/ stage. These devices</p>	<p>Additional day cleaning staff/ hours will continue to be deployed in schools to support cleaning throughout the school day. This is in addition to the regular school cleaning teams.</p> <p>Hand sanitiser will be available for pupils at entrances to the school. In classrooms, pupils will be able to use soap and water to clean their hands, with hand sanitisers also available throughout the school.</p> <p>Appropriate cleaning materials will be available for pupils to use. Children should not bring in their own additional cleaning materials for wiping down resources.</p>

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	<p>will then be wiped down around use of them each time. Our school library and the use/ sharing of books usually lent out will remain restricted at this time.</p>	
<p>What if my child has COVID symptoms?</p>	<p>Out of School Any child displaying symptoms when not at school should not attend school. You should remain at home and follow the guidance on NHS Inform and Test and Protect.</p> <p>If your child has been in school, you should advise the school that your child is displaying symptoms and that they will be off school to follow the guidance around testing and isolation as necessary.</p> <p>In School If your child develops symptoms when in school, you will be requested to collect them as soon as possible and take them home. You should, as above, follow the guidance on NHS Inform and Test and Protect.</p> <p>Family Members If someone in the household starts displaying symptoms, your family should follow the guidance on NHS Inform. You should advise the school of your child's absence and the reason for this absence.</p>	<p>It is important that schools have an accurate record of pupil sickness and the reasons for absence. This is especially important as a means of tracking any potential outbreaks and we will continue to work closely with the NHS to monitor this.</p> <p>If your child tests positive, the Health Protection Team will request information on close contacts and then advise these individuals as appropriate. Please do not speculate with individuals on whether they may have to self-isolate.</p> <p>If your child develops symptoms in school, they will be accommodated in an identified room within the school until they are collected. These rooms have been specifically set up with appropriate measures to reduce transmission. If your child is young or requires adult supervision while waiting, a member of staff in appropriate PPE will be able to stay with them until they are collected.</p>
<p>What if cases of Covid are confirmed in the school?</p>	<p>Outbreak An outbreak of COVID is where there are multiple cases within a school in a 14 day period. This will be monitored closely to inform the NHS if appropriate. In the event of an outbreak, East Renfrewshire Council will be led by and work</p>	<p>There is a recognition that in the months ahead there will be pupils and staff absent for a range of different issues and it is important there is not speculation which may cause alarm amongst parents.</p>



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	<p>closely with the NHS Health Protection Team to determine the actions required to protect the health and wellbeing of all children and staff in the school.</p> <p>Test and Protect Contact Tracers will be in touch with those deemed to have been in close contact of those who have tested positive and will provide advice on the need to self-isolate or take any additional steps, as set out in the guidance.</p> <p>School Closure In the event of a partial or whole school closure, each school has detailed contingency arrangements in place and will work with pupils to ensure that learning is able to continue out of school.</p> <p>Shielding and Vulnerable Pupils In the event of an outbreak, the school will be in touch to discuss whether any additional precautions may have to be taken to support your child. This will include revising any risk assessments or supporting out of school learning. This will be undertaken on a case by case basis and be informed by clinical staff.</p>	<p>In the event of an outbreak it is important that the guidance is followed closely. If you or your child are not contacted by a Contact Tracer through the Test and Protect scheme, there is no requirement for self-isolation.</p> <p>Information on accessing out of school learning will be made available to pupils and families as appropriate, to ensure everyone is prepared in the event of any outbreak. It is important that we have up to date emergency contact details for every child / young person.</p> <p>Shielding stopped from August 2020, with an expectation that all children who were previously shielding return to school with their peers.</p>
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