



Parental Information and Update

16th August 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

I hope that you and your children have had a wonderful summer together and that you have been able to increasingly catch up with family and friends. The staff team are now back into school and we are all excited at the prospect of getting the new term up and running.

As we approach the beginning of our new school session, I wanted to share a range of information with you here which I hope will make the return to school this week as smooth as possible for all of our families.

Health & Safety: Covid-19 Implications

As you may be aware, there have been further developments in terms of the guidance within which schools in Scotland must operate. It is great to see that some of the restrictions are easing, however a range of measures will remain in place for at least the coming weeks in school. As the First Minister nationally, and then our Director of Education for East Renfrewshire, decide upon further developments I will of course keep you updated.

Attached to this email you will find two documents shared by colleagues in the NHS for both nursery and primary school families, clarifying important aspects relating to the need to self-isolate, and to test and protect guidance generally.

For the first six weeks of term, all schools in East Renfrewshire will begin with largely the same Health & Safety guidelines and risk assessments in place as was the case during June 2021. The following points are important aspects to qualify:

- Primary schools will not now take a lead on self-isolation identification and this will move fully to NHS Test and Protect. Importantly, there will now not be the same expectation that all children in the same class as a confirmed positive test must self-isolate. Please see the attached NHS letter for full detail on this matter
- Adults will now need to socially distance by at least 1 metre (rather than 2)
- Adults will still wear masks in common areas of the school
- Hand hygiene protocols will still be followed as before
- Unfortunately, our risk assessments must still begin with no parents/ carers coming into the playground at the start/ end of day and only coming on to the school site by prior appointment. As in June 2021, if you do need to come to school without an appointment, please wait at the gates and telephone the office, when a member of our staff will be able to help
- Zoning for break/ lunch times and restricted mixing across all classes/ stages will remain in place at the start of session
- Some cross-stage (year group) learning is now permitted, however we are not yet able to hold full school gatherings
- Ventilation requirements will continue as before
- Indoor PE is now fully permitted



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School day arrangements:

In order to support social distancing and also the best start to the day possible for our families, we will continue to have arrangements in place for our 'soft start' to the day. From 08:40, members of the Senior Leadership Team alongside our PSA colleagues will be in the playground to support our children and you are welcome to drop your child off at school at any time between 08:40 and 08:55, when the school day and class learning starts. When the weather is poor, children will be able to go straight into class and are supervised until teaching begins at 08:55.

At the end of day, we will again be staggering the children's exit from school in the same way as was the case in June:

- Nursery – timings as before and use of small area in the playground as before
- P1 – 15:00
- P2 – 15:05
- P3 – 15:10
- P4 – 15:15
- P5 – 15:20
- P6 – 15:25
- P7 – by 15:30

Academy Road

In addition, Academy Road's ['School Street' trial](#) will continue from when we return to school on August 18th.

Learning & Teaching arrangements

From the start of the school term, we will be returning to the provision of a full school curriculum, encompassing all of the areas as was the case prior to the start of the pandemic.

For the start of term, we would again ask that your child does not bring into school a wide range of resources or indeed personal games or toys to share at break times. Our risk assessments still require the staff team to carefully manage the handling of shared resources. All of the materials needed for class (such as pencils, rulers, rubbers, etc.) are provided in class so there is no need to go to the expense of buying all of these for your child's in school learning.



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All of these ongoing guidelines will of course be closely monitored and it is my hope that further easing of these restrictions will come in the not too distant future. For now, thank-you for your ongoing co-operation, mutual respect and care for all members of the school community.

As ever, 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,

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher