



Parental Information and Update

21st March 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

Following a further national update on health & safety guidance in schools and clarification upon this by East Renfrewshire Authority, I am very pleased to share the following changes **which come into effect from 19th April 2022.**

Parent/ carers can come back into the playground areas at both the start and end of day to drop-off and to collect their children.

We will continue our 08:40-08:55 'soft-start' for all children in P1-P7 each school day, until the end of this school year in June when this will be re-assessed for next school year.

The staggered end of day exit processes will stop after Friday 1st April. All children in P1-7 will finish school and be allowed to leave for collection at 3pm each day from the 19th April. Those children that have your permission to walk home themselves, ordinarily mostly in P6 and P7, can of course continue to do so.

We are now able to more fully begin planning class trips for the summer term and parents/ carers are now able to support as helpers for school trips with immediate effect.

Our School Street Trial continues on Academy Road until December 2022. The ERC Roads Department will be reviewing these arrangements and deciding upon whether or not they are to be made permanent thereafter. Whilst the trial has supported social distancing during the pandemic, there remain highly important issues concerning road safety, sustainability, health and wellbeing, and our environment which would all be best supported by the continuation of the School Street restrictions, so this will remain an important matter for the school community moving forwards.

Despite these changes, a number of very important practices will remain. For now, adults will continue to wear masks when moving in communal areas of the building. Enhanced hand-hygiene practices will also continue for both children and adults as before. Well ventilated learning areas also remain part of our risk assessments and good practice.

The easing of health & safety restrictions contained within this letter feels highly significant. We are delighted that our families will again be able to be part of the 'physical spaces' of Giffnock Primary and it is cause for celebration, after all that we have endured together. In terms of parents being able to come back within the school buildings, we are also able to begin planning for this in reasonable ways during the summer term. As you will be aware, transmission rates of Covid-19 remain high at this time so we will aim to plan carefully for this in the weeks and months ahead. We do however intend to plan for a range of opportunities when parents can be back inside school in the summer term, for example in terms of transition activities for our new Nursery and Primary 1 children.



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It is of course possible for further changes to this position to be made nationally and, in the longer term, for other changes that might need to be made. For now however, we can collectively enjoy our school community coming closer together again. I would like to thank you all for your continued support, care and mutual respect.

This remains a challenging time, so please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions or concerns that you may have about your child.

Kind regards,

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

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher