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Education Department
Council Offices
211 Main Street
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Dear Parent / Carer

You will no doubt be aware that the Scottish Government has announced plans for children to begin returning to schools and early years establishments over the next few weeks. This letter provides a brief summary of arrangements to be put in place to ensure the safe return of children and young people later this month.

Under the announced plans, we are pleased that from Monday 22nd February all children in early learning and childcare and children in Primary 1-3 can return to their nurseries and schools full-time. Head Teachers will be in touch to provide details particular to each establishment.

In addition, small numbers of pupils in S4-6 will also be able to attend school to undertake practical work that is essential to complete national qualifications. This will be on a part-time basis from the same date and be dependent on the individual subjects. Schools will be in touch to clarify and arrange which pupils require to attend and for which set periods across the week.

You will note that the First Minister also advised that prioritisation for a return to in-person provision will be given to children and young people with significant support needs. We will respond to this welcome news as soon as we are provided with guidance and details from the Scottish Government.

Alongside the in-person learning for these groups of learners, our schools will continue to provide high quality remote learning and make provision for children of key workers and vulnerable families to attend school.

To support the phased return to our schools and nurseries there will be some additional enhanced protection measures including:

- A significant expansion of testing. People who work in schools, early learning and childcare settings attached to schools, and senior phase pupils, will be offered at-home testing twice a week.
- Two metre physical distancing for adults and pupils will continue to be required in secondary schools when in school.



Mark Ratter, Director of Education, East Renfrewshire Offices, 211 Main St, Barrhead G78 1SY

Whilst we are planning for the return of children and young people as outlined above, we must remain vigilant against the virus and therefore the First Minister has indicated that the final decision about the phased return will be confirmed on Tuesday 16 February. This will ensure children and young people begin returning to early years settings and school only when it is safe to do so.

I know that that this period of remote learning has been, and continues to be, extremely challenging. I want to thank you for your continued commitment and support. I would ask for your continued co-operation as we respond to the latest announcements. I am sure you will agree our schools have been very responsive to change and they will continue to do so to ensure that they can welcome back the children and young people in our nurseries and early stages of primary school, along with a select number of our senior phase pupils, whilst still maintaining the high quality remote learning offer for the remaining pupils.

I am sure you will agree that the announcement yesterday is very welcome as a hopeful first step towards all our children and young people returning to school.

Yours sincerely



Mark Ratter
Director of Education

