

TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

Carrie Lindsay
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Dear Parent/Carer

It's that time of the year again when our children and young people are preparing to enjoy their holidays from school and are looking forward to what the next phase in their life will bring, whether it be moving from nursery to primary, stage to stage, primary to secondary or onto a post school destination.

I'd like to thank you for the support you have given to our schools over the last year, when you were unable to be inside the building or see your child(ren)'s teachers face to face. After the holidays, hopefully things will be more normal and I know you will take every opportunity to be involved in the life of your school once again. Please remember that, if you have any concerns about anything in your school or with your child, their teacher or Headteacher are the first people to contact.

These last 2 years have been tough for all of us, especially our children and young people, and we know, if we all work together, we can support them on the road to full recovery. Next session we want to make sure that every child and young person in our schools and nurseries has the best chance possible to thrive and succeed and we need your help to make sure that happens.

Attending school has never been as important as it is now, as we look at how we can support our children and young people to recover from the impact of the past two years. Supporting your child to attend school daily, whether to nursery, primary, secondary or special school, not only has an impact on their success with education and future employment but can also help to lower stress and create a sense of security through following a routine.

Being in school also helps children and young people build friendships, develop relationships with school staff and create trusting relationships that motivate them to participate in a wide range of activities, including after-school clubs.

Over the summer break you can help your child prepare for returning to school by talking positively about the experiences they have had and looking forward to new experiences in their next class, school or stage. Towards the end of the holidays, it can be helpful to start a good bedtime pattern to ease them into the routines for the first week back.

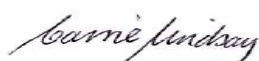
It's important that your child attends on day one of the new term. This is often where initial school friendships, seating and routines are established. Missing the crucial first days can cause many learners to feel anxious and this can impact on future attendance. If problems do emerge, make early contact with your school to look at what can be done to help.

School attendance really matters. If your child has 90% attendance at school that sounds really positive but that means they have missed 19 days of school in the year. If they do that through their school career, they will have missed 209 days. So, it would be like leaving school in 3rd instead of 4th year.

Finally, I want to make you aware of an important change to the school term/holidays for 2022/23, which I am keen to bring to your attention early. The change is to the 2023 Spring/Easter holiday start and end dates. The revised school holiday dates are Friday 31st March 2023 to Friday 14th April 2023 (inclusive). This is to avoid a potential clash with the start of the SQA exams for our senior pupils. The dates on the Fife Council website have been changed to reflect this.

Have a great summer break and we look forward to welcoming all our children and young people back to school in August.

Yours faithfully,



Carrie Lindsay
Executive Director (Education & Children's Services)