

Return to School



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are well during this period of online learning. I would like to thank you for the support you are providing at home for your child to continue learning. I know this is a difficult time for everyone and each family will be experiencing different situations and balancing many different things. I appreciate the efforts you are demonstrating to keep engaged with school and for your child to continue to learn. Thank you!

You'll have heard in the news that the Scottish Government announced last week that some children would possibly be returning to school. I am now in a position to give some more detailed information relating to the proposed return to school for Nursery, Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 children. **This information is provisional at the moment until the Scottish Government confirm the return date and this date is provisionally 22nd February. This is likely to be confirmed on Tuesday 16th February.**

For children in P4-7 the current arrangements for online learning using Teams will continue until I have further information to give you.

Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services issued a message on the Fife Council Facebook page with an update for parents outlining some details of the proposed return to school for some children. In this newsletter there are further details regarding how this will look at St Ninian's RC and the updated measures in place to follow and keep everyone safe.

Risk Assessment



A risk assessment has now been updated for St Ninian's and all staff have undertaken training in preparation for returning to school. Please can you discuss with your child the ongoing need to use hand sanitiser on entry/exit from class and the need to stay in a class bubble to keep them safe.

Arrangements for Returning



I have indicated below a number of measures that will be in place that relate specifically to routines and arrangements for children when they return to school that I thought would be helpful for you to know. These arrangements are to keep staff and children safe. Please discuss these with your child so they are prepared for the changes when they arrive back at school, as school will be different.

Arrival and Departure



There will be a staggered arrival and finish at the end of the day in order to ease the congestion on Derran Drive at these times. There will be no access for vehicles, except our neighbours who live in the houses opposite the school. The road will be closed at the school bus area so you are encouraged to park further away and walk to the school. Please ensure you adhere to the time slots so as to ease social congestion and not linger on Derran Drive unnecessarily. Members of the same family will have the same arrival and exit time. Single children will have a class time slot.

9:00 and 3:00 - Siblings Nursery - P3

9:02 and 3:02 - Key Worker

9:04 - and 3:04 - P3

9:06 and 3:06 - P2/3

9:08 and 3:08 - P1

9:10 and 3:10 - Nursery

All children will enter the school from Derran Drive where you are asked to **maintain 2M distancing outside the school**, the class teacher will come out to the gate to bring the class in via the class allocated door, there will be no line. Once inside the building children go straight into their class and place coats on the back of the chair.

The nursery will enter and leave through the doors at the front of the school beside the dining hall. P1 will enter through the playground and use the steps up to the P1 door. P2/3 will enter and leave using the doors at the top playground and P3 will enter and leave using the side door as they previously did prior to the Christmas holidays. The P4-7 Key Worker class will enter via the main front door. Staff will be outside to guide pupils in.

If you choose to put your child on the service bus, **I would like to remind parents that the school is not responsible for children on the school bus and it is parental responsibility.** The bus is currently running the service as usual.

Nursery and P1-3



There will be a change to lunches as we need to alter the number of children in the dining hall. Our lunch hall can accommodate 23 children in one sitting so nursery children will eat in the dining hall and P1 - 3 children will eat in their classroom. After eating, the room will be cleaned and ready for the afternoon session. Those in receipt of free school meals will automatically be provided with a lunch (including all P1-P3 pupils) unless they wish to have their own lunch brought from home.

Milk



Milk should still be provided through the school. I would also expect that this can be ordered and paid for via ipay as there will be no cash handling of money within the school. The janitor will take responsibility for delivering milk cartons to classroom doors.

Children should bring a water bottle to school daily which is filled at home. This will be sent home at the end of each day. Access to water will be available via classroom sinks. Children may also want to bring a snack for break time and a home pack lunch where required. All tools for learning in school will be provided for children's personal use. These will be stored in their own trays.

Break Times



Each area of the playground has now been zoned so that each class has their own area to use for Outdoor Learning, playtime and lunch time. Playtime and lunches will be staggered slightly to ensure there is enough space for the children to play and adhere to distancing guidance to keep each class bubble separate from another class bubble. Two classes will use the bottom playground where the Primary 1 steps are and this will be divided between Primary 1 and Primary 2/3. Two classes will use the top playground where the gate is to enter the playground and this will be divided between Primary 3 and P4-7 Key Worker class. Nursery children will continue to use the nursery garden for Outdoor Learning.

Toilets



The number of toilets that will be available will be reduced during this time. For every toilet open the next cubicle will be closed. Maximum occupancy will apply to each set of toilets. However with a fewer number of children in school this will be plenty and will mean that just one or two children will access the toilet area at a time.

PE KIT



A PE kit will not be required while we are operating with this approach. Health and Wellbeing activities in school will focus on social and emotional wellbeing and physical activity will take place outdoors. The children will engage in lots of outdoor learning but will not require a change of clothes for this. **Children should come appropriately dressed for the weather, this includes a waterproof jacket should it rain.** Please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing as we plan to follow guidance and learn outdoors as much as possible.

Holidays



Next week Wednesday 17th February is an in-service day so school will be closed to pupils. Thursday 18th February and Friday 19th February are school holidays.

Primary 1 Enrolment



If you have a child coming into P1 you will have already have received information about enrolment and there is a reminder of how to here as well.

1. Here is the link to the online form

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/apply-for-a-school-place>

2. The placing request deadline - 15 March 2021

3. If you do not have access to technology at home please contact the school and ask for a paper copy to be sent out.

Staffing Update



There have been some staffing changes that I would like to let you know about. It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to Miss Angela Mitchell who has been a Pupil Support Assistant at St Ninian's for 19 years. I'd like to congratulate Miss Mitchell on securing an Early Years Officer post with Fife Council which she has already settled in to but with sadness as she is not part of St Ninian's. I'd like to thank Miss Mitchell for all the years of dedication to St Ninian's. She will be very much missed within the school but I'm sure she will now enjoy working part time at her new post and they are very lucky to have her as part of their team.

On behalf of everyone at St Ninian's, I would like to thank Miss Mitchell for all she has achieved for our children and wish her the best of luck on the next step of her journey.

In the nursery, we welcome back Mrs Amy Tildesley, who previously worked in our school in the nursery last year and has also worked in Primary 1. Mrs Tildesley will be with us until June 2021 and it is wonderful that she is back with us in the nursery.

Communication



As with previous updates if you have questions, queries or concerns about any of the information included please get in touch and let us know through stniniansrcps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk or facebook St Ninian's RCPS and Nursery

Kind Regards,

Shona Gorman



St Ninian's



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