

**Gowanbank Primary School**

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Head Teacher
Amanda Clubley

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Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you all managed to stay safe and well during these strange and uncertain times. We have very much missed our face to face contact with the children and you, their families but hope that we have managed to regularly stay in contact with you and your child and provided work that has been manageable. We have all had different experiences and juggling home learning alongside working from home, caring for others and just generally supporting each other has been a challenge I know for many of you. I am therefore pleased to be writing to you with our plan for recovery at Gowanbank

I'm sure you'll have read plenty in the media coverage about what schools will look like and how they will operate in August so I wanted to share with you Gowanbank's plans for recovery as quickly as possible, to allow you to plan for childcare and home learning alongside a part time return to school. I will share with you our plan for the moment and keep you updated regularly.

Reports

Firstly, your child's report should have been emailed or posted out to you today. We hope you enjoy reading about the progress in learning your children have made throughout the session. We will send out a link to provide an opportunity for you to give feedback in the current circumstances. This will be emailed out next week.

HMIE

We are delighted that our Inspection Report will finally be published online for you to read on Tuesday 9th June. Please use the link in the letter to log on to find the information. The letter and SIF will be published on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/>.

Online Learning

Over the next two weeks beginning Monday 8th June, we will move to slightly different format for our online learning. Teachers will upload work for the week ahead on the Monday and you can choose which activities you would like to complete with the children. There will be ideas for activities shared with you which support our theme of "Health Fortnight". Although there is a focus on Health, Literacy and Numeracy activities will also be provided. Please continue to take pictures and post then to twitter as we love seeing what the children are doing.

Return to school - June

In June the whole school staff team will be returning to the building to ensure that we organise our classes and areas to ensure that we are following all the guidelines carefully. The hub will continue within Gowanbank in the coming weeks for key worker families. We also hope to have our current Primary 7 pupils in school for the last time before the end of term on Friday 19th June. An invitation with further detail will be issued to all Primary 7 children with more information. The purpose of this visit is to allow the children an opportunity to say goodbye to the staff who have been working with them. I trust that it will offer the children a sense of closure. This transition activity will be brief and will involve very limited numbers of pupils – unfortunately we will not be permitted to allow parents and carers access to the building at these times. We are, of course, aware that the transition activities for all children will be severely restricted due to the current situation, however we'll be looking at

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alternatives that will offer reassurance for your children as they progress to the next stage of school after summer. As I mentioned at assembly my hope would be to email out a short video link for all children so that they could see their teacher and their classroom to alleviate any worries or concerns prior to returning. Should your child have an additional support need and require enhanced transition then please contact the SLT to discuss how we can support.

August

On the theme of August, it has become clear that the new session will start on Tuesday 11 August. At this stage I am unable to confirm whether this is the start date for the pupils or for the staff. This is still being discussed and I'll make sure that I update you when we know what's happening in this regard. We have also been told that pupils will return to school on a part-time basis in August, so we are already putting our minds to how we can make this work on a practical level for everyone. We will, of course, seek to ensure that children in the same family attend school on the same days, and we'll be putting our minds to how best to ensure that we are able to offer a 'blended' model of education, with learning taking place both in school and at home. Above all, we need to think carefully about how we ensure that everyone is kept safe and well, emotionally and physically, when school phases back. Given that these arrangements will be so complex, you'll forgive us for taking our time to ensure that we get it right. We will send out the information including which class your child is in, what days they will be attending school and which gate they will enter and exit school from. This will be either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday. In consultation with the Parent Council we have agreed that the children will return to school and wear school uniform when they return to school in August. Please ensure that your child wears a clean set each day.

During the time when your child will be learning at home, the class teacher will set follow up work for them to complete to reinforce the new learning taught in their school days. Education Scotland are also working on an online curriculum for all children across Scotland, which will be available in August, to support home learning.

I realise that our recovery is not ideal and will be challenging for many to manage but with the current Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council and Public Health advice, it is the safest and best way we can do it...for now.

I hope this explains some of our current planning for our safe return in August. As advice is changing so quickly these plans are obviously subject to change however this is our Gowanbank plan for moving forward at the moment. If things should change significantly I shall of course communicate this to you.

Thank you all in advance for all your patience, support and understanding during this time and I look forward to sharing more information with you in the coming weeks.

With warmest regards,

Amanda

Amanda Clubley
Head Teacher

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