



Shawlands Primary School

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Head Teacher: Theresa Wright

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5th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your families are all well and that you have been able to make the most of the summer- in spite of the weather and Covid 19 restrictions! You may have seen Maureen McKenna's letter to parents in response to last week's government announcement that all children will be returning to school next week. We are delighted that we will have our children back in school again as we have really missed them and we are looking forward to seeing them very soon. I took part yesterday in a head teacher's meeting led by Maureen McKenna which provided us with specific guidance that has informed our updated plan for opening our school and afterwards I met with the school leadership team (SLT) to set out our plans which I will lay out for you here.

There is a lot of detail in this letter, so apologies for sending such a long one, but I think it is important to share as much information as possible at the moment.

As there is no need for children to physically distance at this stage, we are planning for the return of P2-P7 pupils on a full time basis from Wednesday 12th August. However, we are aware that our new Primary 1 pupils have had somewhat limited transition opportunities. As such, we have planned a phased introduction for our P1 pupils and parents as follows:

Wed 12th 9.30am – 12 noon (Enter via main gate and you will be directed to P1 entrance)

Thur 13th 10.00am-2.00 pm (*including first lunch experience)

Friday 14th 10.00am-2.00 pm

Monday 17th 9.00am-3.00pm

All children in P2-P7 will start school at 9.00am on Wednesday 12th August and be in school until 3pm (Please note the change of time) Doors will be open from 8.50am to facilitate a soft start and pupils should not arrive at school prior to doors opening. When they come in they will be able to go straight to class to be supervised by school staff until the teacher arrives in class at 9am. The school leadership team will also be on hand to supervise and support children as they come in.

We are very aware that the return to school may provide challenges for some of our pupils and families, particularly those with Additional Support Needs (ASN), so please contact the school on Monday, 10th or Tuesday 11th August if you feel that your child needs alternative arrangements such as a phased return. We want to make the return to school a positive experience for all our children.

The class plan we shared with you before the summer was designed to allow for 2m social distancing between pupils so children had to be organised into small teaching groups. As this is no longer necessary we are delighted that we have now been able to place pupils in their definitive class for the year. For most children this means that there will be no change to the class or teacher, it simply means that both teaching groups will join together for the whole week as opposed to being in school for the two days we previously advised.

For some year groups, however, we have had to make changes and you will have been contacted if your child's class and/or teacher has been changed. I have included a list of all our classes with teachers, rooms and entrances to be used in the parent information summary sheet which I am also sending today for your information.

Health and Wellbeing is always a key priority in Shawlands Primary School and it features strongly in our School Improvement Plan. There will be an enhanced focus on this at the start of term as we aim to settle all of our children back into school life and re-engage them with their learning and with the school community.

All adults are still required to maintain social distancing, so previous arrangements around entering the school playground still apply. You will find details in the accompanying summary. Details of what children should/ shouldn't bring to school are also included in this.

Parents will not have access to the school building unless arranged previously with SLT when appropriate measures will be put in place in advance of any visit. We will liaise with parents by email and phone and will provide regular updates to all parents through the normal channels.

At the end of the school day, we would encourage parents to make arrangements to pick up pupils around the school area rather than congregating at the school gate at 3pm if at all possible. For parents of P1 and P2 pupils and older vulnerable pupils who need to be picked up from the playground the one way system will still apply and again, details can be found in the accompanying summary.

I have been informed that the school breakfast club will be operational from Wednesday, 12th August, but as yet I don't have final details as to how exactly it will operate. I will forward these to you as soon as I have them.

In order to ease congestion, allow for social distancing of adults and enable additional cleaning to take place in the lunch hall, break times and lunch times will be split for children. This will mean break from 10-10.45 and lunch from 12-12.45 for P1-3 and P4-7 will have their break from 10.45-11 with lunch from 12.45-1.30pm. These times are provisional at the moment, but I will confirm as soon as I can.

All children in P1-4 will still be entitled to a Free School Meal as part of GCC arrangements, as will those children in P5-7 who qualify and whose parents

have successfully applied. We are moving towards a cashless system and a BACS transfer system will be introduced for those who pay for school lunches. Details on this system have yet to be shared with schools but will be passed on to parents as soon as possible.

Parents may, of course, send their children with a packed lunch if they so choose. Only P7 pupils will be allowed to eat their packed lunches in the playground. All other children should eat their in the lunch room.

There will initially be limited choice in the school canteen with 2 choices for a period and then returning to 3 choices. Pupils will make their choice in class and will be given a coloured sticker to identify their choice to help ensure the smooth running of the dinner hall and limit the time queuing.

We also have an increase in our cleaning allocation and this will help facilitate additional cleaning including during the school day to ensure door handles, surfaces and other key areas are regularly cleaned. Hand hygiene and other routines introduced prior to lockdown will still form key aspects of our new routines.

Children should wear their normal school uniform with normal laundering arrangements in place. There is no need for special items or special cleaning measures.

Pupils should not bring in any unnecessary items from home. Classroom resources will be provided, but a pencil case and school bag may be brought in for the child's own use. No toys should be brought from home. Each pupil should bring their own water bottle filled with water. The bottle will not be able to be refilled in school.

Pupils will be regularly accessing the outdoors across curricular areas including PE which will take place in the school playground much of the time. As such, it has never been more important for pupils to dress appropriately for our changeable Scottish weather.

Other than SOOSC, there will be no school lets and no after school clubs until at least September Weekend. We will adapt our practices as government guidance allows.

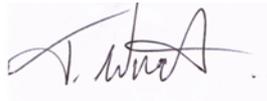
Please do not send your child into school if they are unwell, particularly if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid and follow health guidelines. This is of critical importance as we must all work together to keep everyone safe.

It would be very helpful if you would discuss the content of this letter with your child to help them prepare for what will be a slightly different setting in school. We are all committed to supporting our pupils and families as we settle into the new school year and, as always, please don't hesitate to contact us by email or by telephone should you have particular concerns or queries and we will do our best to respond to these over the coming weeks

Thank you for sticking with me to the end of this very long letter and for your continued support. I look forward to welcoming all your children back to school and I will be in touch with further information as and when it becomes available.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the school holiday and that we see some sunshine soon!

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Wright', enclosed in a light pink rectangular box.

Theresa Wright

Headteacher
Shawlands Primary School