**St Blane’s Primary**

**11th March 2021**

**Parent Update**

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to report that preparations are almost complete for the re-opening for P4-P7 pupils. Risk assessments have been completed for the whole school – pupils and staff and H&S checks will continue to be completed daily by the Management Team. Please take a moment to read the guidelines below that are in place to ensure the safety of your children and all staff. This is a lengthy update but necessary to ensure you have all the facts for your child’s return so please bear with me!

Staff will continue to wear face coverings when they cannot socially distance two metres from the children. Children will operate again with each class being a contained bubble. These bubbles continue into the dining hall and playground. As transmission is still deemed high by the Scottish Government, we continue to have procedures in place to reduce this throughout the school. Hand washing continues to be a priority for children and ensuring they do not share resources, snacks, drinks etc… Please remind you children of this (they are very kind to each other so sometimes forget). PE will continue outdoors and your class teacher will let you know on Seesaw, which days your child can wear their gym kit to school. As we are coming into Spring this should become more consistent. On other days, children should wear their school uniform to school to help get everyone back into the swing of being prepared for school work. There will be no homework for children until at least after the Easter Holiday. Your homes can return to being places of relaxation, fun and peace. We are very aware that you, as parents also need to put your academic hats away for now. We have a very full curriculum prepared for your children with the main focus being Literacy, Numeracy and Health and wellbeing. Other Curricular areas will be reintroduced also throughout each week. Our management team will be providing comprehensive support for pupils who require it, based of teacher judgement and mini assessments as we move forward.

Mrs Heaney will be supporting P6, P7a, P7b, Mrs McComish will be supporting P3, P4, P5 and Mrs McGreechin will be supporting P1a, P1b, P2, P3/2.

We want to welcome your child back and give them time to readjust to school life and settle in so this will be at the forefront of all teachers’ minds this coming week. Our support for learning workers will help support your children also as pupils return, in small groups and outdoors. Every afternoon P4-P7 pupils will take 15mins outdoors with their teacher for learning and play purposes – allowing additional cleaning at touch points throughout the school and to break up the afternoon for fresh air and reduced contact indoors. (P1-P3 pupils currently experience daily outdoor learning opportunities).

* Children will all begin at 9am daily – Please try to ensure your child is there on time to reduce the flow at the office door.
* Children will enter and exit using their own class door – Just as before lockdown. (The only change here is P3/2 who will continue to use the dining hall door)
* Breakfast club will operate from 8am. You must however contact the school office to let staff know who is coming in (thank you to those of you who have contacted us already) These children will be kept in class bubbles in the dining hall and return to the playground at 8.45 as normal where staff and management will be there to supervise.
* Parents are not allowed in the playground before 9am – staff will be available from 8.45am to supervise your child (ren). In inclement weather please try to drop your child as close to 9am as possible. On severe weather days we will of course take the children directly to their classes.
* P1-P3 parents will again be allowed into the playground from 2.50pm to collect their children – Please remember **2M social distancing** at all times and you **must wear a mask/face covering** if you are dropping or collecting your child.
* P4-P7 parents must **remain outside the school gate** – please arrange with your child the best place for them to meet you in advance. Please remember **2M social distancing** at all times and you **must wear a mask/face covering** if you are dropping or collecting your child.
* Children using the **school bus must have a face mask/covering** to use this transport.
* In the event of a positive case in your child’s class, if your child is a close contact, you will receive a phone call immediately from myself or others in the Management team. A formal letter will then be emailed to the whole school to make you aware test and protect are operating in our school. We will not hide this information in any way although we will not disclose who has tested positive for confidentiality reasons, as per NHS Scotland/Scot Gov guidelines.
* If your child takes unwell in school you will be notified and we have procedures to support your child in suspected Covid cases. (Your child may take unwell for lots of non Covid reasons – you will be notified as normal of this too)
* Please be reminded that we are a no car zone school – no cars should be using Arrochar drive and in particular the school driveway to drop off and collect your children. There can be a lot of movement, particularly with bus children entering and leaving from and to the bus just before or after bells so this is for their safety. **Parent cars are not permitted to use the school driveway**.
* School bags will be allowed for P7 pupils only to transport their Ipads. P7 Pupils should bring their Ipads daily, fully charged. **No other children require a school bag.** If you are in P1-P6 and received an Ipad from school must keep this at home.
* Lunch bag are permitted for all children or you can continue to use disposable bags if you prefer.

If you have made it this far in this update, thank you!!

The whole community of staff at St Blane’s are really looking forward to welcoming P4-P7 children back to school. There is such a positive vibe in the school just now and with the continued news around lockdown restrictions easing and more people being vaccinated we definitely do have reasons to be cheerful!

Thank you once again for your continued support of our school. My staff and I have really appreciated the kind messages of support from many of you and we look forward to building positively to get you all back into our school building again soon too. During this time, this virus has affected many of us in ways that we could not have imagined or prepared for. Even with the children back at school, we are still here to support all of you in any way that we can. Please call and ask for help if you need it and I will contact you completely confidentially.

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to welcoming your children back on Monday morning.

Kindest regards,

Lara McVey

Head Teacher