05/08/20

Dear Parent/Carer

Return to School August 2020

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all pupils and families, with a particularly warm welcome to all our new Primary 1 pupils. We are aware that school will look and feel different for us all, but as always, our priority will be to support the health and wellbeing of all pupils, parents/carers and staff.

You will be aware that Scottish Government have now agreed on a full time return for all pupils by Tuesday 18th August. The full document can be accessed via the following link: https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020/

In line with the advice above and letter of 3 August from Tony McDaid, Executive Director Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council, I write to advise you of our plans for a managed return as per below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Managed Return Arrangements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Inset Day, school closed to all pupils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>P1 pupils and Room 7 and 18 pupils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>P1-3 pupils and Room 9 pupils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>P4-7 pupils and Room 15 pupils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>All pupils from Primary 1-7</td>
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*We have a P3/4 class this year and to allow the whole class to be together, the P3 pupils in this class only will be asked to come in on Friday not Thursday. Staff will contact P3 pupils in this class to confirm days.

*Information regarding start dates and times for our Nursery pupils has been sent out today.

* Pupils in our supported classes will start at 8.50am and leave at 2.50pm each day. They will enter and exit through the main door.

*As mentioned earlier some classes may be different to those allocated for a 50% return model. We will have a class based in our Gym Hall and one in the community wing until our new Mobile Teaching Units (MTUs) arrive next month. More information on this will follow next week.

A Parent Information Sheet which outlines some key information to support the safe return of all pupils will be on the web pages shortly, other information you may find helpful is also included below.
How will children enter/exit the school?

- **P1 pupils** will line up outside their classroom as they did during their visits. Staff will be available to direct you to the area if you are unsure where to go. Primary 1 pupils should arrive at 9am and be collected at 2.50pm. Only 1 adult may accompany their child to school/collect their child each day. In line with Scottish Government and SLC guidance, parents will not be permitted to come into the classroom with their child. Staff will take some photographs of the P1 children throughout the first day and we will make these available to parents/carers as quickly as possible via the school website.

- **P1-3 pupils** will have a designated area to line up either at the side of the building outside Rooms 1 – 6 or at the rear of the building. P1 will exit from the classroom doors and P2& 3 from the main entrance for this week.

- **P4-7 pupils** will line up in the playground at the rear of the building and will exit from the side gate next to the Nursery.

Eating and Playing at school:
A full menu will be on offer for those children having a school lunch and this will be available on our Blog. Primary 1-3 children will be entitled to a free lunch as will those children in P4-7 who are eligible. Your child can bring a packed lunch with them if that is your preference. Children should bring a snack and water bottle (if it is a re-useable bottle, your child’s name should be clearly marked). Our water fountains will not be in use so bottles cannot be refilled in school. Snacks will be stored in your child’s bag until needed. Breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered to allow for physical distancing when eating and when in the playground. P1-3 will have lunchtime from 12noon – 12.45 and P4-7 lunchtime will be from 12.45 -1.30pm. Children should not bring in any toys from home to use in the playground.

Health and Safety:
Please be assured that the school building will be cleaned regularly in line with the government advice. Hand sanitiser will be issued to pupils upon arrival in the morning and handwashing will then take place regularly throughout the day. Unfortunately parents/carers are not, at this time, permitted in the school building but we would encourage you to get in touch by phone or email if you have any concerns or questions. Due to the restrictions, we are unable to have parent helpers, Breakfast Club or extra-curricular activities at this time.
General advice

- All children will be required to wash or sanitise their hands on entry to the school building and to classes.
- There remains the need for 2m social distancing around the school perimeter at all times for parents/carers and any other visiting adults. Where this is difficult, our advice would be to wear a face covering where possible.
- We are required to keep the number of visitors to the school to a minimum, in accordance with national guidance. Any contact with the school should be made by telephone or email to the office in the first instance.
- Additional parent information is also available on the National Parent Forum:

Next week I will issue an updated ‘Parental Guide’ which recaps the doors / gates the children should use to enter and exit school. It also outlines other information which may be helpful. Again, I need to emphasise that these are our initial arrangements. Upon return we will evaluate and may need to change some of these plans. We are looking forward to having all the children back in Newton Farm Primary and Nursery.

Further advice, in line with national and South Lanarkshire Council guidelines, will be issued via our school Blog and Twitter page as it becomes available.

If you have specific questions in relation to these arrangements which is not covered in the advice given, please contact the school office on telephone number 0141 642 0333 or email address office@newtonfarm-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you all next week!

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

Mrs Catherine Meechan
Head Teacher