



**Rosshall Academy**  
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**Head Teacher**  
Ms Alison Mitchell BA, MEd

23 September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

### **\*\*Attendance at School\*\***

I hope you and your families are all well. As we look forward to the holiday weekend, I would like to reinforce the importance of good attendance to support all of our young people to maximise their learning and their potential.

We are continuing our strong focus on attendance in light of the disruption over the last two sessions. While we recognise and understand there is still disruption to many families due to COVID, we ask for the support of all parents and carers to ensure, where possible, your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Our current attendance figure is currently under 90% (not including COVID related absences) and while this is not dissimilar to many other schools, it is an area that we are looking to address in collaboration with you.

If your child is not in school, they are not being taught, and we want to maximise the potential every child has to attain and achieve highly. The tables below highlight the impact that absence has on missed schooling. For example, while one day of absence a fortnight doesn't seem like much and produces what appears like a high attendance figure of 90%, over the course of your child's 13 years of schooling, this amounts to almost 1½ years of school missed. Latecoming also impacts on your child's learning, as well as interrupting learning of other pupils if your child arrives late to class. As such I would ask that you please support us by:

- Contacting the school if you have any COVID related concerns or queries about attendance. We know the guidance can sometimes appear complex. Please also see [this link](#) to an important letter for parents and carers from the National Clinical Director, Professor Jason Leitch.
- Ensuring your child attends school, on time, every day unless they are unwell.
- [Reporting the absence](#) before 9.30am if your child is unwell.
- Not arranging family holidays or other events that would take your child out of school during term time.
- Working with the school to address any concerns within school or out of school that may cause your child to miss school.

As a school we will continue to communicate with you and support all parents and carers to address any concerns. When a child is unwell, we continue to support their learning out of school until they are able to return. Please see the link on page two to our home learning hub and online classes. Thank you very much for your cooperation with this important aspect of school.

### Attendance Matters: Every Day Counts

If you miss...	That equals ...	Which is ...	And over 13 years of schooling, that's...
1 day every 2 weeks <b>90% attendance</b>	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week <b>80% attendance</b>	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days per week <b>60% attendance</b>	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years

### Punctuality Matters: Every Minute Counts

If you are ...	That equals ...	Which is ...	And over 13 years of schooling, that's...
10 minutes late per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year
20 minutes late per day	100 minutes per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes late per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years

### \*\*Home Learning\*\*

We are continuing to provide learning for our pupils to complete at home. This has been especially useful as we are continuing to have a number of pupils requiring to self-isolate. This will usually be communicated via email from the class teacher however can we remind you of the Rosshall Learning Hub which can be accessed at: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/rosshall/> Here you can find a variety of resources to support learning at home.

A recent addition is a bank of excellent resources from the West Partnership. This has to be accessed via GLOW accounts. Below is a link to the video which shows how to do this:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/rosshall/homelearning/bgehomelearning/>

## **\*\*School Uniform: PE Kit\*\***

A reminder that from **Tuesday 28 September** all pupils should wear full school uniform even on the days when they have PE when full changing facilities will be back in operation. This means, no pupil should arrive in PE kit. If pupils have PE last period in the day, they may leave school in their PE kit if they wish. Thank you for your patience during this settling period.

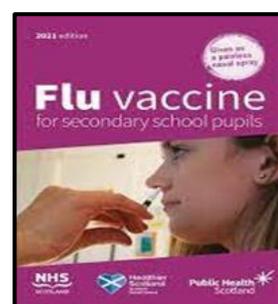
## **\*\*Flu Vaccine\*\***

NHS Scotland recommends that you get your flu vaccine this year. This is for three reasons:

1. Flu can be serious, even for healthy people.
2. To reduce the risk of spreading flu to friends and family.
3. To help prevent the flu virus putting extra strain on our NHS services this winter.

Our Flu Vaccine programme will take place in school for all young people and staff on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Consent forms have been given to everyone this week. Completed forms should be returned and handed in to our school office.

Further information about the vaccine can be found [here](#).



## **\*\*Scottish Government Guidance: Face Coverings\*\***

The Scottish Government has updated their guidance on reducing the risks in schools. Please see [this link to the latest guidance](#) and note that **the wearing of face coverings will now continue until at least the October break**. We are looking for your support to ensure every young person arrives at school with a face mask and a spare. To date, we have given out over 2000 masks since the start of term. While we appreciate that we can all forget on occasion, we find ourselves repeatedly giving masks to many young people every day. Thank you very much for your cooperation. On a positive note, once pupils are in the school building, they have been exceptionally good at following the guidelines to keep each other safe.



## **\*\*Rosshall Breakfast Club\*\***

All pupils (S1-S6) are welcome to join us at Breakfast Club. There will be a range of hot and cold food as well as the opportunity to listen to music, chat with friends and prepare for the day ahead. The club will take place every day from 8am in the Conference Room starting **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**.

For more information, please contact [Mrs Hamilton](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

## **\*\*Free School Meals – October Holiday Payment Eligibility\*\***

Please see a letter from the director of educations regarding Free School Meals (October Holiday Payment Eligibility) at the end of this update letter.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to phone the school on 0141 582 0200, email your child's Pastoral Care teacher, or contact me on: [Headteacher@rosshallacademy.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:Headteacher@rosshallacademy.glasgow.sch.uk)

I wish you and your family a lovely holiday weekend. School stops today at 3.05pm and returns on Tuesday 28 September at 8.45am.

Yours sincerely



Alison Mitchell  
Head Teacher



Executive Director of  
Education  
Maureen McKenna  
Building

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Glasgow City Council  
City Chambers East  
40 John Street  
Glasgow G1 1JL

Our Ref MMcK/SMcC  
Date 13 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### Free School Meals – October Holiday Payment Eligibility

It is not long until the schools break for the October holiday and I wanted to inform parents and carers with P1 – S6 children and young people, who currently meet the eligibility criteria for free school meals, that they will receive an additional one-off October holiday payment of £172.50 per child from Friday 8 October 2021.

This is part of the Scottish Government's on-going pandemic financial support.

You **do not need** to contact us or make a new application if your family is already in receipt of free school meals and if you have received previous free school meal holiday payments in the last 18 months.

The money will automatically be paid directly into your bank account by 8 October.

All P1 to P4 pupils receive the universal meal at school however only the families eligible on financial grounds will receive this additional payment.

New applicants who apply before 24 September 2021 and meet the eligibility criteria will be paid the £172.50 additional October holiday payment and will receive this from 8 October.

New applications received between 25 September – 10 October and meet the eligibility criteria will be paid by 12 November.

Unfortunately, applications received after 10 October and meet the criteria will only receive free school meals payment and not the additional October holiday payment.

If you think that your family might qualify for free school meals please visit our website to find out more details on the eligibility criteria and fill out an application at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning> - there's also a list of frequently asked questions which may help with any enquiry you have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Maureen McKenna'.

**MAUREEN McKENNA**  
Executive Director of Education Services