

Our ref: RB/LM

Your ref:

Date: 21 December 2020

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Dear Parents,

As you are aware, the First Minister made an announcement on Saturday about the arrangements for the start of the term in January 2021. This is because there are significant concerns about the new variant of the Coronavirus.

The arrangements in place for the majority of children are as follows:

- On the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 schools and early years establishments will open to school staff only and pupils will remain on holiday.
- For the week beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 remote learning will be provided. This means the pupils will learn remotely at home.
- From the 18th January 2021 assuming there is confidence that the virus is under control the aim is to reopen schools and early years establishments more fully.

The Scottish Government have issued guidance that the exception to the above is for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. Further clarification is being sought by Directors of Education from the Scottish Government about these arrangements. Details will be sent out about the arrangements in place for children of key workers and vulnerable children tomorrow.

I absolutely appreciate that this news is not what we all wanted to hear, and that families will seek clarification of the arrangements in place. Please be assured that we are working at speed to send out information as soon as it is known.

Yours faithfully,



**Ruth Binks**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Education, Communities & Organisational Development**