

Our ref:

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**Education, Communities &
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Corporate Director: Ruth Binks**

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Dear Parent,

Return to school guidance August 2021

I hope that this letter finds you well and that the summer holidays have been enjoyable for you and your children. We very much looking forward to welcoming the young people back to our schools and Early Years Centres next week.

As you may be aware the Scottish Government has now published revised guidance for the reopening for schools for the academic year 2021/22. This can be found in full at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/overview/>

Essentially the key message is that most of the mitigations that were in place at the end of the previous term should be retained. This position is expected to be in place for up to 6 weeks (until the end of September), to allow the impact of the revised guidance to be monitored.

This means that schools and Early Years Centres will continue with the various mitigations that were in place in June 2021 for the next 6 weeks.

There are a few mitigations that have been removed or revised. These include:

- Contact groups or bubbles will no longer be required. This means that pupils from different classes will be able to mix with one another at points of the day such as interval and lunchtimes. There will be no more bubbles in Early Learning Centres.
- There will no longer be the need for whole groups of pupils to be sent home in response to a positive case. Instead, significant contacts will be contacted by Public Health rather than the school. Please see attached a letter from the Director of Public Health which outlines how Public Health will respond to positive cases in respect of the identification of close contacts.
- Restrictions on music, PE, dance and drama have been removed.
- **School transport:** Primary pupils will not need to wear masks and are not required to socially distance.

Your child's school will write to you before the first day back at school to confirm arrangements that are in place in line with the above.

Yours truly,

Michael Roach

Michael Roach
Head of Education