



Education, Communities & Organisational Development

Moray Council
Elgin Moray IV30 1BX
Telephone: 01343 563374

email: Education@moray.gov.uk
Website: www.moray.gov.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer

As we enter the final week of the first term of session 2020/21 I thank all of you for your patience and understanding as we continue to operate our Schools and Early Learning and Childcare settings in a different way. I fully understand how difficult and frustrating this can be especially for those of you who have children who are new to the school or setting or are used to being able to attend personally with a query or to meet with staff. Each school and setting will be putting in place new processes for how they communicate with you about your child's learning and development which may include electronic methods, by phone or indeed by more traditional methods. This may differ across schools and indeed within schools.

We have been very fortunate that there have been no outbreaks affecting our schools and settings and we thank everyone for their part in this. There are a few reminders I would like to highlight which are causing concern and I call on your support with these.

- **Social distancing** – we remind you that if you are dropping your child(ren) off at school that you must remember to keep 2 m distance between you and other parents.
- **School transport** – if your child travels to school on a school bus or taxi please make sure they have a mask and that they have washed or sanitised their hands prior to getting on the bus. Masks should be washed regularly or disposed of daily if disposable.
- **Remote/blended learning** – if an outbreak occurs between October to December it may be necessary to return to similar arrangements that were in place during lockdown. You may wish to prepare your child in the event that this occurs.
- **Ready for learning** – schools may look different however learning continues and it is especially important that there is minimum disruption to learning for all. It is essential that children come to school properly prepared. This includes any materials for learning and packed lunches if required. Please remember that in order to reduce footfall to our schools and as a preventative measure, parents will continue to be unable to drop items off at the school office during the school day.
- **Dropping your child(ren) off at school** – once the new term starts can we remind you to drop your child(ren) off as close to the starting time as possible. This is especially important when the weather is poor.

Our overall aim in Education is to improve outcomes for our young people in Moray which includes building their skills for learning, life and work, attainment, achievement and ensuring they maintain a healthy physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Considering others as well as self is vitally important and so I urge all children to consider their actions and the impact this has on others. Some children are finding time in school particularly challenging

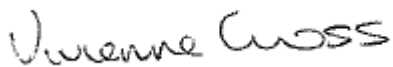
and as such, your child(ren) may notice additional adults in their classroom supporting learning and wellbeing.

The holiday period is nearly upon us and this provides time to rest and relax and prepare for the term ahead leading up to the Christmas break. As we move in to the winter season we are also mindful that it is normal for colds and flu symptoms to be prevalent and so I remind everyone of the particular Covid-19 Symptoms as per NHS guidance which can be accessed [here](#). The period from late October to December can be pretty dark and dreary – please remember to get outdoors for fresh air and to enjoy whatever daylight there is.

At the start of the session I sent you a parent guide and learner top tips and I include a link to these on the Moray Council Website under [Back to School 2020](#). It would be good if you could remind your child(ren) of these as we will be returning to the same processes and procedures for a further term.

My sincere thanks to you all, please look after yourselves in the hope you remain safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Vivienne Cross
Head of Education (Chief Education Officer)