



Linkwood Primary

18th February 2021

Dear Parents,

Following the Scottish Government announcement this week we are now planning for all P1-3 pupils to return to school from Monday 22nd February.

Thank you all for supporting remote learning these last few weeks. I am acutely aware of the impact of this time on our young folk. Please be assured we are carefully planning their return to school so that they feel safe and in a place where we can begin to build on their learning in a way they can manage and cope with. Many of us have juggled working and supporting our children and know only too well how challenging it has been for everyone so our thank you is most genuine.

As well as planning the return to school from this period of lockdown, your children have the added hurdle and excitement of beginning in a brand new school building. We are very much aware of this too and I hope the following information will give you what you need to prepare for the return. Class teachers will issue/re-issue their new school information Sways with updated information including a link to a virtual tour of the school led by 3 of our budding reporters. Please find the video using this link.

<https://youtu.be/QmkKq2x26Sw>

You'll understand that there's quite a lot for the children to contend with at the moment so we will hold our celebrations for moving into our new building for a time that all classes will be back and we can build our school community together. Boy we are going to enjoy that time, that's for sure!

For our P4-7 children, we will continue to provide remote learning and will offer more Google Meets to connect with them at home including a weekly assembly with myself.

I am delighted to report that Miss Wilson who recently underwent major surgery on her back is home and recovering well. Mrs Wright and Mrs Goodwin are working with P4/5 during her absence.

For our safe return, please take note of the following arrangements. I appreciate these statements are direct but important to ensure the safety and welfare of us all.

P1 Wellbeing Support

If you feel your child would benefit from coming to school slightly later for the first three days in order to become accustomed to the new layout and routine and to be able to comfortably leave you, please take advantage of a flexible drop off time from 8.50am- 9.15am.

Taking advantage of this will also help support the traffic around the school during the first three days while everyone is becoming familiar with the new layout and routine. If your child is having difficulty leaving you and you need to take them to their class door, please do not come into the playground until after 8.55am and ensure you are wearing a mask. Please be reminded that there is no parent parking at the school.

Walking Bus

In order to support our return to school, for those who wish to use it, school staff will meet children being dropped off at Moray Sports Centre car park from 8.30-8.40am each day. They will meet them at the start of the avenue path leading to school and walk the children over to school for the first couple of weeks. We will be leaving sharp at 8.40am to get to school on time. We expect our pupils to adhere to the Linkwood

Way at all times and show respect to those supporting them otherwise they will not be able to use this service.

Thereafter, depending on interest we will look to set up a rota with interested parents to continue this service. This will allow working parents to drop and go and avoid using the school car park. As a school we will be taking part in the WOW - Travel Tracker, please see the attached letter for more details.

Picking up and Dropping off

The access road into school is a ONE WAY loop. If you must drop off at school, please drop either at the drop off bay in the car park (leading to the P1 gate) or the Additional Support Needs spaces at the front of the school, you should be facing east when parking here. For the drop off zones to work, your child must be able to leave the car independently and make their way to the playground gate. They are not for parking for any length of time. Under NO circumstances should parents be performing 3 point turns in the middle of the road.

Please be reminded that the car park is for staff members and visitors for school business. Parents should not use the car park unless by agreement.

The Sports Centre has very kindly offered their car park for our use, which is a short walk from the car park to school. They have a one-way system that must be adhered to. Please respect this offer of support.

Please be considerate to all by driving and parking responsibly.

Entering the playground

Children can enter any gate to the playground but parents should leave their child at the gate. We know this will be difficult, especially to begin with as your child has been at home with you for considerable time but please try to encourage your child to enter on their own. School staff will be on hand to help. Please ensure adults are wearing a mask if they must enter the playground. Please see map attached and line up points marked in red. Class buckets will show the children where to go.

- **P1** children should make their way to the area outside their classrooms.
- **P2, P2/3 and P3** pupils should make their way to the area to the east of the school, beside the Springfield housing compound where they can play before school starts. At line up time P2 will line up at their class door, P2/3 will line up at the stairwell door beside P2 and P3 will line up at the door opposite the sprinkler tank- see map attached in red.
- **P4-7 hub** children can play in the area beside the nursery garden.

Please note anyone arriving after 8.50am should make their way to reception.

PICK UP

Please see map attached for points in green.

From trialling a period of having no parents entering the playground at pick up time, we have found it difficult to ensure children arrive safely with their parent. We have also noticed parents are gathering within 2m of each other due to the limited area to wait. In order to ensure everyone's safety and to allow for safe distancing we have reviewed our pick up arrangements.

Please ensure all adults are wearing masks at pick up time and maintain 2m distancing of adults from adults and adults from children of other families. **Parents must not congregate in the playground or near to school grounds.**

- **P1** pupils will be brought to the front forecourt beside Reception door and dismissed from their class bucket by their teacher. This area is much more open and will allow for safer dismissal and distancing.
- **P2, P2/3 and P3** parents are permitted to enter the playground at the east gate (beside Springfield compound) and wait in the area opposite their child's lining up bucket. The children will be dismissed by their teacher from their bucket. The double gates will be open and we ask that you leave the playground whilst adhering to distancing guidance.
- **P4-7** pupils will be dismissed from their exit door and should leave by the avenue gate unless meeting their family with a younger sibling.

Transport

Primary aged children will be expected to wear face coverings on school transport – all bus pupils should receive 3 Bee Safe in Moray buffs to support this. These are being shared this week for those in hub and on Monday for those not.

Keyworker Childcare Hubs

We are continuing to follow guidance from Moray Council and the Scottish Government regarding childcare hubs. These are to be accessed by Keyworkers who cannot work from home and need to attend their workplace, therefore **if you are at home**, your child should **not attend** school on that day. We are happy to accommodate shifts and changes to working days but please give us notice so we can ensure we have sufficient staffing in place.

Paper copies

For all those children who have received paper copies of class work please return completed work when your child attends school, either on 22nd Feb for P1-3 or when picking up further packs for P4-7.

Lunch

For those families wishing to take their child home for lunch, the following times apply

P1 12-12.45pm

P2-3 12.30-1.15pm

Children taking a school lunch will begin with week 4 of the COVID Hot/ cold lunch menu which Mrs Moore recently sent you.

Uniform

We will continue to offer as much physical activity and outdoor learning time as we can to support your child's return to school. Changing into PE clothes is not advised currently. Please ensure your child is wearing a school sweatshirt and:

- Comfortable bottoms, school sweatshirt, polo shirt
- If you prefer your child to wear school trousers/ skirts they will not then change for outdoors/ PE.
- **Please ensure a change of shoes for indoors.** Outdoor shoes are **not** permitted in the classrooms.
- **A pair of wellie boots** would be very helpful, especially during the muddier months. This will allow us to explore our new area more comfortably.
- If your child has waterproof clothes, they may take these in their school bag to put on when needed.

- We have a selection of pre-loved uniform available. You can request items using this link. We are now in a position to store more clothing if you have some to donate. Thank you in advance for supporting one another.
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKVJyuCusqtdArbvT2XukCwNURU9RRUIKSjZRMzJYMDhYVjBCMFhYREc3Ny4u>
- If your child has outgrown their sweatshirt and you wish to order more, please use the following link. Our supplier also offers fleece/ outdoor jackets at very reasonable cost.
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKSmdU4SbtQNJjaQ03T_UxIJUMjhaUEw5RII5RVdNMVFGVDIHRjFTUUNBMC4u
- We are more than happy to refer you to Moray School Clothing Bank should require support with school uniform.

What to bring to school

Please ensure your child only takes **essential** items to school in their school bag- lunch box (if needed) snack, water bottle, change of clothing (if appropriate).

COVID SYMPTOMS

If your child show any of the signs of having COVID, they must remain at home until you seek further advice.

Hopefully this letter along with your child's class teacher's sway will provide the information you need to prepare for return. If you require any further assistance, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Stevenson
Headteacher