**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

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**Date: 15th June 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer

As ever I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well in these challenging times.

This has been an exceptionally busy week in relation to planning for schools returning in August.

We have now undertaken all of the necessary health and safety and risk assessment protocols which means that our building is now safe to reopen. We are currently in the process of arranging transition activities for our incoming P7 pupils and these will take place on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th June 2020. Our transition team will be in touch with relevant parents/carers in due course with details.

We are also in the process of reconfiguring our school teaching spaces to comply with national social distancing regulations and this will be ongoing throughout the summer holidays in preparation for all pupils returning in August.

It is looking increasingly likely that North Ayrshire Schools will reopen to pupils on at some point during week beginning Monday 10thth August 2020. Specific dates will be confirmed by senior staff within the education directorate later this week.

We are currently working with two models we could use to reopen schools in August, Plan A our preferred model and Plan B our backup. In doing so we have to take careful consideration of both the space capacity we have and the amount of staff we have available to cover smaller class sizes.

**Plan A – our preferred option**, will involve pupils in S1/2/3 coming into the school building for two days a week. This will be either Monday and Tuesday (group A) **OR** Thursday and Friday (group B. School will be closed for cleaning on a Wednesday. As part of the Blended Learning model pupils will be provided with work to complete at home for the three days they are not in school. *Please note that as far as possible work provided for home will be in paper copy so as to minimise the impact of access to online platforms.*

In this model we are planning for pupils in S4/5/6 to be in school for ***all four days*** in the week that the building is open- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Senior phase pupils will also be given work home for the Wednesday when the building is closed for cleaning.

This model, as you can imagine, involves considerable planning and we hope to have a final decision on whether this is possible by Wednesday 17th June.

**Plan B – our backup plan,** will involve pupils in S1/2/3/4/5/6 coming into the school building for two days a week. This will be either Monday and Tuesday (group A) OR Thursday and Friday (group B. School will be closed for cleaning on a Wednesday. As part of the Blended Learning model all pupils will be provided with work to complete at home for the three days they are not in school. *Again please* *note that as far as possible work provided for home will be in paper copy so as to minimise the impact of access to online platforms.*

We know that this model will work in our school but are keen to explore Plan A as much as possible before settling for Plan B.

Pupils and parents/carers will be advised by the end of Wb 15th June both which model we are going with and which group their child will be in (group A / B). Further details will also be provided on exactly what this model looks like in terms of period allocations and subjects followed etc.

Thinking to the longer term and how we will scale up our school offering when social distancing regulations change we have agreed as a school on the following:

Upscale phase 1 – Implement PLAN A (see above) if not possible at this current time ie) S4/5/6 to return for all four days.

Upscale phase 2- S1 would return to school for four days alongside S4/5/6.

Upscale phase 3 – S2/3 would return to school for four days alongside S1/4/5/6

Upscale phase 4- - S1-6 would all return to our originally planned timetable over the full five days and a normal school week.

There are no timescales for any upscaling and this will be based purely on changes to social distancing regulations issued by the government. Equally it may be possible based on regulations to move through multiple upscale phases at once but at the moment we are completely under the control of social distancing rules and regulations.

I hope you find this information useful and I look forward to sharing with you greater details of our health and safety measures and our model for school reopening this coming week.

As ever, my staff and I are here to help and support you so please do not hesitate to contact us if you require help, support or advice about any aspect of home schooling or returning to school in August.

Take care, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

 

Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy