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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Your Ref:

Our Ref: AMcC

If telephoning please call: 01294 324413

29 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We know this has been a challenging time for everyone. Over the past couple of months, you have supported us to deliver learning to your children and we are extremely grateful for all you have done. We know that it will not have been an easy task at times.

We understand that young people will have wanted to see their friends and take advantage of all the opportunities for social interaction that attending school would normally offer. We have regularly reminded our staff that learning at home is very different from learning at school and that parents and carers have been managing life in very challenging circumstances during this pandemic.

We would like to thank our head teachers, our teachers and our support staff who have been working hard delivering learning remotely and providing support to children and families through our childcare hubs since our establishments closed on 20 March.

Following the First Minister's announcement about the re-opening of schools and early years centres, we are working on our plans to enable your child to return to a safe and welcoming educational setting. We know that you will have questions about what school education is going to look like from August and throughout June your child's Head Teacher will contact you to consult with you and provide you with information and advice.

The Scottish Government recently announced that children and young people will return to school and early learning and childcare settings on 11 August as long as it is safe to do so. We are working hard to make our buildings available for staff in the month of June to prepare for the return of your children in August.

Each school and early years centre is working on a recovery plan for their establishment guided by North Ayrshire's Education Recovery Plan. From August, education will be delivered through a blended model, with all children spending some time learning in school and some time learning at home. Children will attend in smaller groups to assist with physical distancing measures and start and finish times may be staggered. We have already taken steps to procure additional digital devices to ensure that more of our children and young people have access to online learning. In our plans, health and safety is paramount and as such our teams are developing robust risk assessments and control measures, including signage.

We hope this offers some reassurance that our plans are progressing well and we will be in touch very soon with more details about your child's return to school in August.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Amos
Head of Service (Education)

Andrew McClelland
Head of Service (Education)