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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Your Ref: Our Ref: CA/LB

If telephoning please call: 01294 324416

22 June 2020

Dear Parent and Carers

We have now finalised the model for North Ayrshire Council's early learning and childcare settings. We are grateful for your patience in this matter – important information for recovery of early learning and childcare was received only recently from the Scottish Government.

The health, safety and wellbeing of our children and staff is our highest priority. In order to ensure this, our planning has been based on current guidance produced by the Scottish Government. Due to the requirements for physical distancing, children will spend part of the week learning in their early years class or centre, and part of the week learning at home.

You have already registered your child at an ELC establishment of your choice and received confirmation of a place for your child before lockdown in March. This offer of a place remains however some changes are required to the days and hours of attendance previously offered.

As with our model for primary and secondary provision, our aim is to maximise the amount of face to face early learning and childcare (ELC) for children. In line with the model across primary schools, as a minimum, all children will attend their ELC provision for the equivalent of two full day sessions per week, aligned to the school operating hours.

Children will be placed in two groups. Group A will attend on a Monday and Tuesday and Group B will attend on Thursday and Friday.

Where possible schools and early years establishments will align family groupings across the same days of attendance. As part of each session, your child will receive a free lunch.

On Wednesdays, time will be spent in developing resources and new ways of reinforcing and extending the learning in a home context.

Facilities Management are developing an excellent cleaning regime and although cleaning will be carried out every day throughout the week, Wednesdays will allow additional input to this very important safety measure.

We are currently working with our Funded Providers to agree what they can provide for those families whose children will attend these settings.

Your child's Head Teacher or Funded Provider will write to you this week to give you specific details about your child's days and times of attendance, as there may be some variations, for example to enable staggered start and finish times.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Amos
Head of Service (Education)