

Dear Parent/Carer,

7th August 2020

Return to school arrangements August 2020

I hope you and your families are all keeping well and looking forward to starting school next week. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued patience throughout the national lockdown and over the past week as we have taken advice from the Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Council and applied this to our own setting.

The following information and operational procedures are designed to support a safe return to school for all pupils, staff and families and will be continually reviewed.

Risk Assessments

The school will be fully risk assessed and plans will adhere to Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Council guidance for the safe reopening of schools. It is expected that all children and young people will be able to return to school unless otherwise advised by a medical professional. If this applies to your child, please contact the school to discuss this with us in the first instance. We understand that some parents will have anxieties surrounding a full school return but the health and wellbeing of our children and staff remains a key priority.

We are working with other partners to ensure resources are in place to support pupils who are particularly anxious. The council has also developed a number of support resources that are available [online](#).

It is very important that no-one - staff or pupil - attends school if they have any of the symptoms of coronavirus (a new cough, a fever, or a change in or loss of taste or smell).

We will work very closely with the public health department of NHS Lanarkshire, who will be responsible for advising schools and the council about what should happen if there is an outbreak of coronavirus.

Social Distancing

The latest advice from the Scottish Government indicates that there is no requirement for primary aged pupils to socially distance when they return to school in August but they should remain physically distanced from staff where possible.

Government guidance recognises that for some young children and children with additional support needs, physical distancing from staff may not always be practical. It is understandable that some of our children may be anxious and need closer contact with staff so if this happens it will be managed appropriately. Staff should still maintain a 2m distance between themselves and other adults, and themselves and pupils, where possible.

Pupils will remain, on the whole, within defined zones- you will hear lots about these over the next few weeks, within the school building and grounds. As far as possible, we will aim to ensure that all pupils are kept in designated groups during the school day. This will enable us to minimise contact across all classes in the school. In line with council advice, we will operate a keep left policy within our corridors and stairways at all times.

Face coverings

Scottish Government guidance sets out that pupils **do not** require to wear face coverings. However, should pupils wish to do so, **they will not** be discouraged from doing so.

Staff will not be required to wear face coverings, providing distance can be maintained from pupils, however **they may choose** to do so. If staff are closer than two metres for 15 minutes or more, staff **will** wear face coverings.

Assemblies and other group activities

At present there will be no school assemblies. Choirs, orchestras, drama and indoor physical education will not be reintroduced until Scottish Government advice allows. In line with council advice, all out of school hours learning activities, whether provided by school staff or third parties, will be paused for the time being.

Clothing and Uniform

Following the most recent advice from the council, I am asking that all children come to school wearing their full uniform. This includes a white shirt, grey trousers/skirt and a grey jumper/cardigan. Children should also wear their school tie. Blazers continue to remain optional. Uniforms should be washed as per normal. As always, please ensure all items of your child's uniform are labelled with their name and class. This helps us greatly to return items of clothing to the correct child.

At present, all children will not need an indoor P.E kit as all physical activity will take place outdoors. Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for all aspects of outdoor learning.

School Equipment

Children may bring a school bag with their own pencil case, snack, packed lunch and a filled water bottle. Children **should not bring any other personal belongings or toys from home** to minimise the risk of infection. The school will provide the equipment necessary for each child to use in class.

Hygiene Arrangements:

An enhanced daily cleaning regime is in place, with a focus on touch points, surfaces and equipment and ventilation. Cleaning staff will focus on touch points during the day as well as at the end of the school day.

Sanitisation stations are available to all pupils and staff. Measures in place will include pupils and staff washing/sanitising their hands for 20 seconds and drying thoroughly, and always when entering/leaving the building, before/after eating and after using the toilet. Additional signage is in place to reinforce these messages throughout the school building.

We will encourage the children to avoid touching their faces, including mouth, eyes and nose; and to use a tissue or elbow to catch a cough or sneeze, and use bins that are emptied regularly for tissue waste.

School Lunches

We are encouraging **all pupils** to remain in school at lunchtime. Menu choices will be reduced. However, there will always be a mixture of packed lunches and a hot food option available. Pupil meals will be pre-ordered daily. Pupils will use sanitised colour bands which will identify their order and they will be directed to the appropriate collection point.

As you know, it is important that as much cash handling as possible is removed from the system. Cashless payment is available through the iPay Impact system which can be signed up for via this link. Parents are encouraged to set up an account.

In line with council advice, there will be a designated entrance and exit point and staggered times for lunch. At present, our proposed time for school lunch is 12.45-1.30pm. This may still be subject to change.

School Transport

School transport will be available as normal to eligible pupils. Transport operators are aware of phased arrangements in the first week of school. Children and young people should wash hands before going on transport and wash their hands when entering the school.

Scottish Government guidance states that school transport should be treated as an extension of school, i.e., that no physical distancing is required. Parents may wish to encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school in keeping with the promotion of active travel.

Please remember that your child should only travel on our school buses if they have been approved to do so by North Lanarkshire Council. Your child is not insured to travel on the bus if they do not appear on our approved transport list. Please remember you are responsible for your child's conduct on the school bus. As always, a good standard of behaviour is always expected to ensure everyone remains safe, secure and protected from harm.

Privilege transport will be available, subject to the usual processes and procedures in September 2020.

To assist the school with our end of day arrangements, please can we ask you to inform the school office of the days your child will use the school bus. Contact details are provided below.

Please note that children who travel to school on our school buses must go straight into the playground where staff are able to provide general supervision to pupils prior to the start of the school day.

Contact with the school

(t) 01236 632110

(e) enquiries@cumbernauld-pri.n-lanark.sch.uk

Please note parents and carers **will not be permitted** to access our school grounds or the school building. All access to the school building will be by prior appointment and confirmed by the school. Unfortunately this includes the parents of our new Primary 1 pupils. We will do everything we can to ensure our pupils are comfortable in their new surroundings.

In-Service Day

There will be one in-service day for teachers on **Tuesday 11 August 2020**

Arrangements for Starting School

Wednesday 12 August: All P1 pupils should attend school. Mrs Hart has issued a letter with the arrangements for these pupils. P2 and P3 pupils should arrive for school starting at 9am. In order to ease congestion and to maximise social distancing for adults, we are able to offer an optional soft start from (9.00am-9.20am). At the end of the school day, P2-P3 pupils will be brought to the gate by their class teacher from 2.50pm to ensure the safe collection of all pupils. We will dismiss P2 pupils first, followed by P3 pupils.

Thursday 13 August: All P1 pupils should attend school. Mrs Hart has issued a letter with the arrangements for these pupils. P4-P7 pupils should arrive for school starting at 9am. In order to ease congestion and maximise social distancing for adults, we are able to offer an optional soft start from (9.00am-9.20am). At the end of the school day, P2-P3 pupils will be brought to the gate by their class teacher from 2.50pm to ensure the safe collection of all pupils. We will dismiss P2 pupils first, followed by P3 pupils. At the end of the school day, P4-P7 pupils will be dismissed by their class teacher using a staggered approach.

Friday 14 August: All P1 pupils should attend school. Mrs Hart has issued a letter with the arrangements for these pupils. P2-P7 pupils should arrive for school starting at 9am. Again, in order to ease congestion and maximise social distancing for adults, we are able to offer an optional soft start from (9.00am-9.30am). P4-P7 pupils will be dismissed by their class teacher using a staggered approach.

It would be really helpful if all parents could agree a designated meeting point with their child to ease collection at the end of the school day.

From week beginning **Monday 17 August:** All pupils will attend school.

I will do my best to inform you of any changes to your child's class teacher before the start of the session, as this may have changed from our previous communication. This will be conveyed to you by an individual email from the school on **Tuesday 11 August**.

Please be assured that I am doing everything I can, within the current guidelines and advice, to ensure your child is fully supported on his/her return to school.

As always, if any matter gives you as a parent/carer cause for concern, please do let me, or a member of the staff team know. Thank you in advance for your continued support and co-operation in all school matters. We look forward to seeing you all next week.

Yours sincerely

Ed Clinton

Head Teacher