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Education and Families

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Dear Parents and Carers

We hope everyone has enjoyed the lovely sunny summer and is looking forward to a new school session.

We have now received updated COVID-19 guidance from North Lanarkshire which is based on most current government guidelines. NLC advocate a cautious approach, meaning we return to school with several mitigations still in place.

The staggered entry and exit times **remain** for the time being. **When permitted**, we will revert to everyone in the school starting and finishing together.

We are now able to immediately relax our "bubbles", meaning that children from different classes will have more freedom to mix and that our nursery children can once again enjoy free flow play. We are not yet able to hold events like assemblies but we are optimistic these kind of things will gradually be re-introduced. We will aim to keep you up to date with changes as they occur.

There are no remaining restrictions on PE or the Expressive Arts. Pupils are still discouraged from carrying personal items to and from school, however personal items that are only used by the owner, such as a pencil case and contents, lunch boxes and school bags are permitted. Please ensure everything has a name label on it.

Trips and visits and after school activities can be gradually reintroduced, provided they have been comprehensively risk assessed. Online payments for school meals and school activities will continue.

For the start of term, parents are still encouraged to maintain social distance amongst each other and continue to wear face covering at drop off and collection. Parents are not yet permitted into the school playground or building routinely or in groups. Individual parents may make a pre-arranged appointment if required, provided appropriate test and protect records are completed.

We will continue to maintain good hygiene routines, open windows to ensure ventilation and adults in school will continue to maintain distance from each other, wear face masks in public areas and test twice weekly.

Digital learning resources and communication will continue to be used and their use further developed.



Schools will no longer be involved in identifying close contacts of individual cases of COVID-19. This will be carried out by Test and Protect.

Staff, children or young people who develop symptoms of Covid-19 should seek a PCR test and should self-isolate if the test result is positive. Staff, children and young people are however, strongly encouraged to inform their schools of positive test results.

This will enable us to record absences accurately and contact the Community Assistance Team who can contact you to verify if you are entitled to any Self-Isolation Support Grant. Arrangements will also be made for free meal vouchers to be issued to those in receipt.

Adults who are fully vaccinated (for more than two weeks) and identified by Test and Protect as close contacts should isolate immediately and book a PCR test; if this is negative and they have no symptoms, they can return to work.

Children and young people under the age of 18 that are identified by T&P as close contacts should isolate immediately and book a PCR test; if this is negative and they have no symptoms, they can return to school.

If anyone (adult or child) has had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days then they do not need to seek a further PCR test (unless symptomatic) and do not need to isolate.

Please note, if an adult is identified by Test and Protect as a close contact and has not been vaccinated, or has only had a single dose of the vaccine, then they should:

- Self-isolate immediately for 10 days from symptom onset in the symptomatic person and book a PCR test;
- If the test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate in line with NHS guidance.
- If the test is negative, still continue to self-isolate in line with NHS guidance. This is because a test cannot indicate whether someone is incubating the disease, and therefore may go on to develop it after a test is taken.

More information can be found at

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Scotland | NHS inform](#)

The rest of this letter is a very slightly changed version of the one issued before the holiday. There have been a few changes to staffing over the holidays, but there is no major impact on the class teachers announced in June.

Teaching Staff updates

As well as Mrs Rebecca Savva moving to a new position in another school, Mrs Jasmine Chand has been successful in securing a Digital Pathfinder Post, developing digital learning approaches within our wider cluster. Whilst we will continue to have some contact with Mrs Chand, we will miss both teachers and the contribution they have made to Muirhouse Primary as class teachers. Furthermore, as the result of a falling school roll, these teachers will not be replaced.

We are delighted to have welcomed Mrs Park back from maternity leave in May and Mrs Purdie at the end of last term. Mrs Purdie will return 4 days a week, for now. We also pleased to welcome Mrs Ross back from sick leave.

We welcome a new probationer teacher, Ms Marriyah Naeem, to P4 and we are delighted to have retained Ms Lauren Steele in P5 through the use of our PEF funding allocation.

Further additional staffing comes through Miss McCullough who has also been allocated a shared post between our school and Berryhill Primary. She will start the school session at Berryhill and return to us in late January 2022. If all goes to plan, this additional staffing will allow us to provide more support for learning interventions.

Support staff

As intimated in June, I am unable to say with any certainty what support staff we will continue to have. Our support staff do a wonderful job and we are delighted to have them for now. There are however, likely to be changes as the year progresses.

School classes for August 2021

The class structure outlined below is as shared in June, however it remains subject to change dependent on circumstances. As mentioned above, staggered start, finish and lunchtimes remain for now but we do hope to lift these in due course.

Parents were notified which class their child was in before the end of last session.

Class	Teacher/staff	Base location	Entry and Exit arrangements	Lunch sitting
P1a	Miss L McCallum	Ground floor- Room 3	Pupils only enter at infant gate. Line up at yellow zone markers at infant door at 8.55am. Exit by infant door. Pupils exit by infant door at 2.55 pm and escorted to infant gate to meet parent.	12.15-1pm
P1b	Mrs S Meek	Ground floor- Room 4	Pupils only enter at infant gate. Line up at yellow zone markers at infant door at 8.55am. Exit by infant door. Pupils exit by infant door at 2.55pm and escorted to infant gate to meet parent.	12.15-1pm
P2a	Mrs N Purdie Mrs Murdoch (Fridays)	First floor- Room 7	Pupils only enter at back gate. Line up at red zone markers at senior door at 9am Exit by senior door and escorted to back gate at 3pm	12.30-1.15pm
P2b	Miss E Conlon	First floor- Room 6	Pupils only enter at back gate. Line up at red zone markers at senior door at 9am. Exit by senior door and escorted to back gate at 3pm.	12.30-1.15pm
P3	Mrs L Brown	First floor - Room 8	Pupils only enter at back gate.	12.30-1.15pm

			Line up at blue zone markers at senior door at 9am. Exit by junior door and escorted to back gate at 3pm	
P3/4	Ms S Wiseman Mrs S McPherson	Second floor- Room 12	Pupils only enter at back gate. Line up at blue zone markers at junior door at 8.55am. Exit by junior door and escorted to back gate at 3pm.	12.15-1pm
P4	Miss M Naeem Mrs Smith	Second floor- Room 9	Pupils only enter at back gate. Line up at blue zone markers at junior door at 8.55am Exit by junior door and escorted to back gate at 2.55pm.	12.15-1pm
P5a	Miss L Steele	Second floor- Room 10	Pupils only enter by back gate and line up at blue zone markers just after 8.55am. Exit by junior doors and escorted to back gate just after 2.55pm.	12.30-1.15pm
P5b	Miss G Napier	Starting session in Rm 5 (first floor) Will move to 3 rd floor after works	Pupils only enter by back gate and line up at blue zone markers just after 8.55am. Exit by junior doors and escorted to back gate just after 2.55pm.	12.30-1.15pm
P6	Miss S Finnie	Ground floor- Room 1	Pupils only enter by back gate and line up at blue zone markers at junior door at 8.50am. Exit by senior door at 2.50pm.	12.15-1pm
P6/7	Mrs Cunningham Mrs Park	Third floor- Room 14	Pupils only enter by back gate and line up at red zone markers at senior door just after 8.50am Exit by senior door just after 2.50pm	12.15-1pm
P7	Mrs L Wilson	Third floor- Room 13	Pupils only enter by back gate and line up at red zone markers at senior door at 8.50am. Exit by senior door at 2.50pm.	12.30-1.15pm

Mrs Ross and Mrs McKay will be delivering non-class contact time.

Each class will have an allocated indoor PE time and an outdoor slot at the MUGA at St Brendan's. Although there are no longer restrictions regarding changing, coming ready for PE was helpful. Pupils can continue to come dressed appropriately for PE on their allocated days. The teacher will notify classes of their allocated day very soon.

Whilst children do not routinely change shoes, it is useful for children to have a pair of indoor shoes (such as gym shoes) in their bag or to keep at school. Sometimes feet get wet or muddy and it is useful to have a change available. Gym shoes or trainers are also required for indoor PE. Trainers are required for outdoor PE. (These do not need to be a change if pupils are already wearing trainers).

Mrs Cunningham, Mrs Smith (Acting PT), Mrs McMahon (Acting DHT) will be delivering support and interventions, on a part time basis, during the first term.

School Leadership Team

Mrs G Matthews (Head Teacher)

Mrs F McMahon (Acting Depute Head Teacher)

Mrs L Smith (Acting Principal Teacher)

Current support staff

Classroom Assistant- Mrs J Meek and Mrs L Davies

ASNAs-Mrs L Newby, Mrs D McFarlane, Miss L Dale, Miss L Cowan, Mrs M Cullen

Senior Clerical- Mrs M Clark

Clerical Assistant- Mrs C Redmond

Clerical Assistant- Mrs L Newby

Janitor- Mrs S McGill

Breakfast supervisor-Mrs M Downs

Lunchtime supervisor- Mrs B Blair

Kitchen staff

Cath Ferrie

Pauline Hattie

Lorraine Smith

Roof

You will notice that the work on the roof, planned to start at beginning of the holidays has not yet commenced. This is due to a procurement issue. We await further information about this, but in the meantime, we will continue with plans to keep 2 classes empty on the top floor.

Some general information

First day of term

This is Monday 16th August. P2-7 classes should enter and exit as outlined above.

First day for P1 Groups

For the first day only, P1a should line up the main door at 9.15am where they will be met by the teacher and taken inside. Please observe social distancing. There will be an opportunity for parents to come into foyer for a photo but it will be strictly 3 in and 3 out as quickly as possible to comply with current guidance and to ensure that all children are in before the next class arrive.

P1b should line up at the main door at 9.30am where they will be met by the teacher and taken inside for the same photo opportunity as P1b. Please do not line up at the school gate before 9.30am (or before P1a parents have dispersed).

At this time, we are still not permitted to have large groups of parents entering the school but hope that this photo opportunity goes some way to marking the occasion for both parent and child.

Pupils in P1a will be brought to the infant gate at 2.40pm and P1b will be brought out at 2.55pm.

Thereafter children will follow the instructions in the grid above.

Entry and Exit points

Parents are not permitted to enter the school site at all unless a prior appointment has been made. This will be strictly adhered to so please do not be offended if you are refused entry. Pupils must enter and exit at the correct times and by the entry and exit points specified. Children will not be admitted into the building before their allocated entry time so please ensure that your children are dressed for the weather. The infant gate opens at 8.30 am for nursery children. School children are asked to arrive after 8.40am. The back gate will not open until 8.40am. The breakfast club is available from 8.15am for pupils who need to arrive before this time. Parents and carers are asked to stick to the times allocated. Whilst there is adult supervision from 8.40am, it is limited.

Parents coming to gates to drop off or collect are reminded to observe social distancing amongst themselves.

Uniform

Full school uniform is encouraged. Our uniform is grey trousers, skirt or pinafore with a blue shirt and tie or yellow polo-shirt. Jumpers, cardigans etc. should be royal blue. Branded uniform items are available at several different stockists.

Yellow or blue summer dresses are also permitted.

As said above children could be out in the rain so dressing for the weather is important.

Children should wear PE clothes on PE days. The class teacher will advise which day(s) this is for your child on our return.

Belongings

Pupils are encouraged to bring as few personal belongings as possible. Anything that needs to be brought, including lunches, snack and water bottles should be contained within one small school bag and the bag and all its contents should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

As explained in more detail above, whilst we will not be routinely changing clothes, even for PE, you may wish to include a spare pair of indoor shoes which can be kept in school or in the school bag.

Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

Free school meals will be available to all pupils in P1-4 from August, however **all** parents who think they may be eligible, should apply for free school meals and clothing grant. You will not receive a clothing grant unless you apply for it.

Meals will only be free to pupils in P5-7 if parents meet the criteria and have applied for it.

Further information and an application form can be found at

[Free school meals and clothing grants | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

Breakfast Club

We operate a breakfast service from 8.15am as before. Pupils who are eligible for free school meals do not pay for this service. For those who are required to pay, the charge is £1.

Lunches

Staggered lunch breaks will continue. Pupils can bring their own packed lunch or take a school lunch. The charge for those in P5-7 who are not eligible for free school meals is £3.10 per day. Children will order their own lunch in the morning. Payment is made online.

More information about menus and online payment can be found at:

[Primary school menu | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

[School meal payments | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

We will endeavor to keep you updated if and when further changes occur.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Matthews
Head Teacher