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Education and Families
Head Teacher (Acting)
Mrs M Reid
**New Monkland Primary School
& Nursery Class**
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Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted that we will be returning to school and nursery and we are really looking forward to seeing all our children. We hope you have enjoyed your summer as much as you can and are ready for the return to school/nursery. Things will look considerably different to what we had previously but please try not to worry we will make sure the children are well looked after and I will continue to update you as and when any new guidance is issued.

As you will now be aware NLC have sent out a letter regarding arrangements for a return to school/nursery. The letter was sent out in a text today to all our parents/carers across the school/nursery. The letter can also be accessed on the NLC webpage: <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=35006> the letter is also displayed on the homepage of our school website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/newmonklandps/2020/08/04/nlc-update-letter-for-the-reopening-of-schools-nurseries/>

Arrangements for first week back 12, 13, 14 August 2020 - Primary School

- Wednesday 12 August: Primary 1, 2 and 3 will be in school,
- Thursday 13 August: Primary 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7 will be in school,
- From Friday 14 August, **ALL** pupils will be in school.

On 12, 13 and 14 August Primary 1 ONLY will start at 9:30am and finish at 2:30pm. The P1 class teacher will be outside in the playground to greet you and your child for 9:30am (please do not come before this time) and they will take you to the P1 classroom where you can take a picture of your child. We can only allow 1 family in at a time to do this due to social distancing procedures. Please when you are waiting to go into the class with your child you must respect social distancing. Sanitisation stations are available and hands should be sanitised on entry and exit. Please remember the Scottish Government advice: FACTS. We want to still try and give you the opportunity to accompany your child on their first day at school so please work with us to make sure we are keeping everyone safe. When your child is dismissed at home time the class teacher will bring the children to the main gate of the school and dismiss them from there at 2:30pm. From week beginning 17 August specific times are identified below.

The Government guidance makes it clear that schools must have clear plans for the arrival and departure of pupils therefore:



- All children from P1 to P3 should be in the school playground for no later than 8.45am and will be dismissed at the second bell 3pm,
- All children from P4 to P7 should be in the playground for no later than 8.50am and will be dismissed at the first bell 2.55pm,
- All children who are late (**school starts at 8.55am**) will be required to enter through the main entrance where a member of staff will be waiting to take them to their class. If your child is late and you are bringing them you **MUST** leave them at the school gate as you cannot enter the premises,
- We would urge all our children to be on time for school and we would urge all parents/carers to take this opportunity to foster independence across our middle/upper school children by allowing them to make their own way to and from school (if feasible).

****Your child's class teacher will accompany the children to the main gate and dismiss them from there. Our P4 to P7 children will be dismissed first at 2:55pm (first bell) followed by our P1 to P3 children who will be dismissed at 3pm (second bell)****

Movement around the Building

The children do not require to socially distance however when moving around the building they will be guided by their class teacher as there are certain procedures that need to be followed. There will be a keep left system put in place. Staff will continue to maintain 2m social distance from each other and where possible from the children. Staff are not required to wear masks, however if they wish to do so they can, so you might see staff with masks on.

Breakfast Club/After school clubs

I am awaiting an update from NLC regarding Breakfast clubs, therefore there will be no Breakfast club offered on our return but I will let you know if this changes. There will be no after school clubs offered at all this term, if this changes I will let you know.

Lunch and Break Times

Children will eat their packed lunches in their classroom and school dinners will eat in the hall. We would ask that the children stay at school for lunch for the health and safety of everyone. We will make the decision on staggered break lunchtimes once the children are back as we need to have everyone in the building to decide this. For now we will go with normal break/lunchtimes and if this works well we will continue with it.

Uniform/Personal Belongings

- Children to wear their full uniform and appropriate school footwear, children will not be changing their shoes,
- Children can bring a school bag and their packed lunch bag (if required) which will be kept inside their school bags and a disposable water bottle that has been filled,
- Absolutely **NO** other personal belongings to be brought into the school, we will provide everything the children require (Children should **NOT** be coming to school with football colours or football names on personal belongings that includes bags/lunch bags).

Classes/Teaching Areas

- Classrooms are set up to facilitate teaching and learning keeping in mind that the adult needs to remain 2m from the children,
- Cleaning will be ongoing throughout the school day, there will be a day cleaner,
- Classroom management procedures are in place to minimise movement (a more digitalised way of operating the school day),

- We intend to maximise the outdoor space that we have, so if it is inclement weather please dress the children appropriately,
- All children will be provided with individual resource packs.

Zoning of areas

All signage is now in place externally and we will familiarise the children with this once we start back. Signage will also be displayed throughout the inside of the school building.

Hygiene Protocols

There will be hand sanitisation stations throughout the building. There will also be enhanced cleaning routines ensuring additional emphasis is placed on touch zones. All measures have been put in place to allow us to facilitate enhanced hygiene procedures and staff will be responsible for ensuring effective hygiene within their own classes. You can also support us with this by reinforcing hand washing at home.

Arrangements for the return of our Nursery children

Those attending nursery classes at a primary school will return on Wednesday 12 August. A letter was sent out to all our nursery parents regarding the return to nursery along with a text message with personalised information regarding your child's sessions on 23.6.20, it was also sent out again today on 4.8.20. I have provided the link to the letter which can be found on our school/nursery website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/public/newmonklandps/uploads/sites/26237/2020/06/23030630/Nursery-Update-23.6.20.pdf> When bringing your child to nursery there are arrows on the ground outside that you must follow and a member of staff will be at the bottom of the ramp to greet your child. No parents will be allowed in the nursery once we start back. It will be appointment only meetings and you will need to phone the nursery to arrange this.

Remember your child is still being offered 600hrs and when they are in nursery on their specified days they will be in for full day sessions from 8.30am – 3pm. Snack and lunch will be provided throughout the day for the children.

The nursery children are returning based on the recovery model which is detailed in the link to the letter above until 1140hrs is implemented which we are hoping will be soon. As you will be aware NLC have made a pledge to implement 1140hrs by some point in September. Therefore, I will be in touch when 1140hrs is ready to start.

If your child is new to the nursery you will have received a text message today detailing a day and time when you can come along to the nursery with your child for a short transition visit. Paul Cairns our new Lead Practitioner and Ann Mair will be facilitating this and they both look forward to welcoming you and your child to the nursery.

Appointment ONLY meetings

Absolutely **NO** parents/carers will be allowed into the school grounds at all, that means under no circumstances can you come beyond the school gate. Staff will man the playgrounds along with myself. If a parent/carer wishes to speak to a member of staff this will be facilitated by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. You will need to phone the school and arrange an appointment. There is absolutely no give and take with this it is a **MUST**. If you are attending an appointment we would ask that you wear a face covering.

Health and Wellbeing

Our prime focus during the first few days will be on health and wellbeing, and re-establishing relationships. We are aware that children and young people have missed the day to day routine of school/nursery life, but we also need to help them deal with issues that they might find challenging about returning to school/nursery. A video has been created by NLC for the children to help them understand the new routines and procedures. Children will watch the video on their return.

Please also be mindful that we **DO NOT** have a lot of space outside the school gate, so please can I ask that if you are dropping your child off that you do so and then leave otherwise we will be faced with congestion at the gate and if we are to socially distance then that cannot happen. If you are bringing your child to school in the car I would urge you to drop them off and allow them to make their own way into the school (siblings can support with the younger children), staff will be on hand at the gate and across the playgrounds.

I am fully aware that this is a lot of information to digest and fully appreciate that you will have your own worries and concerns but I'm also aware that our children need to return to school and nursery and we can't wait to welcome them all back. You all know how nurturing we are as a school/nursery and we will continue to be like that, if your child falls we will help them, if they are sick we will help them, if they need a hug they will get one and if we need to contact you we will. I'm sure once the children are back and we all get into a routine; then over time, things will become easier.

Finally, can I reiterate that staff health and safety is of the upmost importance also and I have a duty of care to my staff. I've mentioned previously we also have our own families and our own concerns but if we all work together and support each other with the **SAFE** return to school/nursery and everyone follows the guidelines then hopefully in the future we can start to welcome you all back again. Until then stay safe and well and if you need anything at all then just drop me an email, I'll be only too happy to help.

Kind Regards

Mrs Reid

Head Teacher (Acting)