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Education and Families
Head Teacher (Acting)
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& Nursery Class**
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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have had a restful summer and the sun definitely shone for us during the month of July. We are returning to school/nursery after another challenging and unprecedented year for everyone but this year we have moved a step closer to some sort of normality which we are delighted about. Following the Scottish Government announcement last week and moving beyond level 0 means that some of our freedoms that we had before COVID19 are starting to slowly return, however as stated by the First Minister for the first 6 weeks back to school/nursery the guidance for wearing face coverings/social distancing for adults remains pretty much the same as before.

See below for a list of what to expect following updated guidance from the Scottish Government and NLC:

Groupings/Bubbles

The revised approach to contact tracing means that bubbles are no longer necessary in schools and Early Years settings. However, schools should continue to avoid large group gatherings and assemblies.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing between adults, and between adults and children and young people, should remain in place at 2m to ensure we take a cautious and protective approach.

Expressive Arts

There are no restrictions in relation to drama, music, PE and dance.

Enhanced Environmental Cleaning

Enhanced cleaning routines will continue with additional day cleans.

Resources

Children should be discouraged from bringing toys from home to school, however if a child brings in a bag/book/pencil case that only they use, this should not increase the risk of indirect spread of the virus. Books and other school resources can go home with pupils and no longer need to be quarantined for 72 hours.

Breaks/Lunch Times

Breaks and lunches should continue to be staggered. Cashless payments and the pre-order app will remain in place to eliminate handling money in school canteens.

Outbreak Management and Self-Isolation



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Schools and establishments are no longer required to risk assess confirmed positive cases. Single cases will be identified by Test and Protect and very close contacts will be identified by them.

Staff, children or young people who develop symptoms of Covid-19 should seek a PCR test and should isolate if the test result is positive.

Close Contacts

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.

Email System

Our Firstclass intranet system that we used across the authority for emailing has now been retired and over the summer we have been merging over to GLOW. That means that the email addresses you had for the school/staff previously will no longer be accessible. If you need to email the school then please email the enquiries mailbox – enquiries-at-newmonkland@northlan.org.uk

On Monday 16 August Primary 1 ONLY will start at 9:30am and finish at 2:30pm. The P1 class teacher will be outside in the front 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. 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 Tuesday 17 August Primary 1 children will be dropped off at the main gate and make their way to their playground for school starting at 8.55am. At home time they will be dismissed at 2.50pm at the main gate, please try not to worry about this as it allows for the children to get into their routine.

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 8.55am and will be dismissed at the first bell 2.50pm,
- All children from P4 to P7 should be in the playground for no later than 8.55am and will be dismissed at the second bell 3pm,
- 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** still leave them at the school gate,
- 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).

With regards to the points above, our children adapted to this very well and are in a routine with coming/going to/from school and we would expect that the children will be fine at continuing with this.

****Your child's class teacher will accompany your child to the main gate and dismiss them from there at home time* (same as before)***

Breakfast Club/After school clubs

Breakfast club will go ahead as normal and children can come from 8.15am onwards where Mrs Henderson will meet them. There will be no after school clubs offered at present however we are hoping that these might resume at some point in the future.

Lunch and Break Times

Children will eat their packed lunches in their classroom and school dinners will eat in the hall.

Reminder P1 to P4 are free school meals when we return. We would ask that the children stay at school for lunch as they have previously been doing.

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 they can also bring their water bottles,
- Children can bring in their own pencil cases but we will also be providing 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)

PE/Outdoor Learning

We will send you a text message over the coming days with your child's PE/outdoor learning days once staff have agreed on their days.

Arrangements for the return of our Nursery children

Children coming to nursery will follow the same guidance as before when being dropped off and picked up and nursery updates are the same as the school updates above. Mr Cairns will update with any further information.789

Appointment ONLY meetings

If you are attending an appointment we would ask that you wear a face covering and remember to socially distance.

We also say goodbye to Mr Ross who is moving on to pastures new at the Rochsolloch/All Saints Campus. We would like to thank Mr Ross for all his hard work over the years as he has been an asset to our team and will be missed by all. Mr Ross's last day with us is today, Thursday 12 August to allow him to do a handover with our new janitor Mr Ben Walker who is coming to us from the Rochsolloch/AllSaints Campus.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming all the children back to school/nursery next week and we are really looking forward to seeing everyone. I hope this update answers any questions you may have before we return next week, but in the meantime, enjoy the last few days of the holidays and we will see you all on Monday 16 August.

Take Care and best wishes

Mrs Reid

Head Teacher (Acting)