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| Tel: 01236 794838E-mail: ht@shawhead.n-lanark.sch.ukDate: 12th August 2021 | Education and FamiliesShawhead Primary School and Nursery ClassH C PatersonHead TeacherNeidpath AvenueShawheadCoatbridge ML5 4NG |

Dear Parent/Carers,

**Covid 19 Updates and Guidance for Returning to School August 2021**

I hope that you and your family are well and have managed to enjoy some time to relax over the summer. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our nursery and school children and parents/carers back to school on Monday 16th August 2021.

I understand fully that as parents/carers you will wish to know about the preventative measures we have taken and will continue to take to mitigate against the spread of the coronavirus. The good news is that there is some relaxation of the measures which can take place from the start of the new school session.

I can advise you that updated national guidance developed by the Scottish Government which is based on current scientific advice is now available: Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on reducing the risks in schools - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)).

This will support a safe return to school for children, young people and staff. The safety and wellbeing of children, young people and staff is paramount and our aim is to continue to provide a safe learning environment for everyone.

I have also set out below some of the key changes that will occur in preparation for our schools and nursery classes re-opening in August.

Scotland moved to ‘Beyond Level 0’ on Monday 9th August 2021 with many of the Covid restrictions removed. However, Scottish Government have kept tighter restrictions for school in place for a period of at least 6 weeks.

You can read the full COVID Guidance for Schools at https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-onreducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/overview/

**Return dates**

Teachers and staff return to school on Thursday, 12 and Friday, 13 August 2021. These are inservice days which provide time for staff to prepare in advance of children and pupils returning to school/nursery. Children and young people return on Monday, 16 August 2021. We are looking forward to welcoming our nursery children into the new nursery building at 9am on the first day back. Nursery children should go to the new nursery door opposite the main gates at the end of Neidpath Avenue and the nursery staff will be welcoming our children back into their own nursery space- we cannot wait! Nursery parents and carers should not come to the main entrance of the school to gain access as per the previous arrangements.

**Return to school:**

Children will be welcomed back to school and nursery from 9.00am on Monday 16th August 2021.

Breakfast Club with Mrs Tennent, will open from 8.30am on this day for our school pupils.

**Our new Primary 1 pupils will join us from 9.30am on this day.**

Children should enter the playground via the top gate at Beauly Place or the gate on the lane in-between the two schools. Staff will be on hand to show the children where to line up.

Base 3- P5/6/7 should line up and enter via the main entrance

Base 2- P3/4 should line up round the back of the school to enter by the back doors into the upper school cloakroom

Base 1- P2 children (first day) should line up via the new entrance at the back of the school next to the new nursery- staff will be on hand to the help the children with this new arrangement next session.

**Please note that the playground is not monitored until 8.50am in the morning. Please do not send your child to school before this time unless they are attending Breakfast club. Please note that parents and carers should not enter the playground. Nursery parents must enter and exit by the gate at the end of Neidpath Avenue only.**

**First Day Arrangements (P1 Pupils)**

Pupils should arrive as close as possible to the starting time of 9.30am.

Only one parent/carer per family should attend for drop off/collection. However, on the first day only, P1 may be accompanied in the morning by 2 parents/carers from the same household. Children should proceed to the main entrance where they will be met by a member of staff. Parents will not be able to come into the classroom with their child.

Once your child has gone inside, we ask that you do not wait. School staff will take some photographs of the children in class and share these online as soon as possible. P1 pupils can be collected from the main entrance at 2.50pm on the first day. Children will be dismissed one at a time to allow the teachers to ensure the children have been collected safely.

**Gates-**

Now that the nursery build has been completed, we will once again open the gate on the side lane for access to the school playground. A member of staff will supervise this gate in the morning and ensure that the children go round to the playground where another member of staff will manage the top gate at Beauly Place and the main playground. The bottom gate at Dunottar Avenue will not be open after the holidays.

Please note that there is very limited parking at the end of Neidpath Avenue and if you are driving to drop off or collect your child, you are advised to park at the flats and walk up the lane or continue to use Beauly Place.

Nursery children should enter by the small gate at the end of Neidpath Avenue, directly opposite the nursery building.

School children will be accompanied to the gates at hometime 3.00pm, by members of staff as per last session. We ask that parents and carers do not enter the playground but wait at the gates.

**Covid Symptoms**

As before, children who display any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school and are advised to take a PCR test.

The most common symptoms are:

• new continuous cough

• fever/high temperature (37.8c or greater) • loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

A new continuous cough is where you:

• have a new cough that’s lasted for an hour

• have had 3 or more episodes of coughing in 24 hours • are coughing more than usual

Parents/carers should follow the most up-to-date advice regarding testing and self-isolation available on NHS Inform website:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-andpoisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

**Previous restrictions that are no longer required.**

 • Classes are no longer required to maintain strict ‘bubbles’ as schools will be less involved in Track and Trace activities.

• Children under 12 are no longer required to wear face coverings on school transport. (NB Private providers may operate their own mitigations).

• Books/jotters returned to school from home no longer need to be quarantined for 72 hours.

**Testing before schools re-open**

All staff and secondary aged pupils are strongly encouraged to restart their twice-weekly at home Lateral Flow Device testing prior to the start of the new term and to enter their results, positive or negative, into the NHS portal.

**Physical Distancing/Bubbles**

Previous arrangements for creating smaller groups in schools commonly known as ‘bubbles’ are no longer required. However, we will continue to encourage appropriate physical distancing, where possible, to further minimise any risk. This means we will avoid bringing children and young people together in large groups and, for example, this means there will be no large assemblies for an initial period. However, children will be able to play across the class bases outside at playtime and lunchtime- this is very welcome news for our school children.

Two metre physical distancing between adults, and between adults and children and young people, is still a requirement in the school estate in NLC.

**Face-coverings**

Face coverings should continue to be worn by adults wherever they cannot keep a 2m distance from other adults and/or children and young people (unless exempt) :-

Adults

• All adults in communal areas of primary schools and early years establishments.

• Parents and other visitors, including parents at drop-off and pick-up.

• Early Learning and Childcare staff do not need to wear face coverings when interacting with nursery children.

Pupils

• All pupils in secondary schools are expected to wear a face-covering during class and in communal areas.

School transport

• In line with the current arrangements for public transport, only young people aged 12 and over and adults are required to wear face-coverings on school transport. (previously aged 5 and above).

**Traffic Management**

* Only staff and people who are visiting the school will be allowed to enter the car parks, along with any authorised vehicles responsible for transporting children to school (such as taxis organised by NLC).

**Access to the Establishment**

* A hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance to the school.
* Parents/carers are asked to phone or email the school, rather than visiting the school office. Entry to the school will be by appointment only for parents/ carers and visiting services. Face coverings will be required and details will be required for Test and Protect.
* All children will enter and exit via their designated doorways
* All staff will enter and exit the school via the main entrance.
* All visitors are asked to sign in and out the building using their own pen. Details need to be left as part of the National Test and Protect policy.

**Safety measures to keep us all safe**

As before, enhanced cleaning routines will continue to be implemented and there will be clear signage throughout school buildings to reinforce the infection prevention and control measures in place.

Parents/carers are still asked to avoid congregating at school gates and continue to wear face masks at drop off and pick times. There are still some restrictions in place in the meantime on entering school buildings, which we realise is not easy, but schools across Scotland are being asked to maintain current arrangements for a while longer.

The Scottish Government will review the position again towards the end of September with an expectation that will be a further relaxation of other Covid-19 mitigation practices

**Movement within the School**

* All classrooms have hand sanitisers fitted and have a supply of tissues and a lidded bin for their disposal.
* Where possible, doors will remain open to reduce contact points.
* The janitor will undertake regular clearing of contact areas, such as door handles.
* The janitor will regularly replenish soap, paper towels and hand sanitiser in communal areas throughout the day.
* Extra cleaning will take place during the school day.

**Dining Hall / Lunchtimes**

* Classes will have a staggered lunchtime within the normal lunch period as per last session and will be supervised by leadership team and support staff.

12.00-12.30pm Nursery Lunches

12.35-12.55pm Base1 and Base 2

12.55-1.20pm- Base 3

* Hand sanitiser will be available at the entry and exit of the dining hall.
* Seats and tables will continue to be sanitised after each child.
* Children may bring a packed lunch box to school, but this should be washed every night.
* Please provide items that your child can open without adult assistance to allow safe social distancing to take place between children and adults
* Where possible, children should be discouraged from going home for lunch.

**School Lunch Menu**

The menu from 16th August 2021 is Week 1. You can download the school lunch menu at:

https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-meals/meal-menus/primary-school-menu

Pupils in P1-4 are eligible for a free school meal from August 2021.

P1-7 pupils pre-order their lunch each morning in class.

**Nursery Lunch Menu**

The menu from 16th August is Week 1. You can download the nursery lunch menu here:

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-meals/meal-menus/nursery-school-menu>

Nursery children will pre order their lunches on arrival at nursery each morning. Please note that we are a Hot Option only nursery.

**Classrooms**

* Children will wash their hands at regular points throughout the day, namely when they enter school, before interval, after interval, before lunch, after lunch and before they go home.
* Windows and doors will remain open, where possible.
* Children can bring school bags etc. to school but they should not bring toys or other non-essential items to school unless agreed with the HT or nursery staff for ASN purposes.
* The janitor will regularly replenish soap, paper towels and hand sanitiser throughout the day.
* Children must bring in their own water bottle, clearly labelled with their name. This should remain on their own desk at all times. This should be bought to school filled at the start of the day.

**Learning and Teaching**

* Children from all stages will experience a lot more learning outdoors regardless of the weather, so please ensure that they dress appropriately for this and bring a waterproof jacket to school every day.

**Uniform**

* Parents are asked to ensure that their child’s uniform is washed regularly. Children should continue full school uniform, however please note that your child will be outside some days for learning so ensure that they have a waterproof jacket. Please ensure that all uniform is labelled with your child’s name.
* Children may wear all items of school uniform as normal, including ties.
* Children **should** bring a change of indoor shoes.

As a result of the survey issued last session with parents/ carers, staff and pupils we have decided that our more streamlined uniform from August 2021 will look like this:

**Our school colours are Royal Blue, Grey and White.**

**School uniform:**

* **White shirt with Shawhead Primary School tie, P7 tie for P7 children (this is gifted by the school to our P7 children)**
* **White polo shirt**
* **Grey school skirt/ grey pinafore dress (of suitable length and style)**
* **Grey trousers**
* **Royal Blue school sweatshirt, Royal Blue Cardigan, Royal Blue v neck jumper**
* **Optional for the summer- girls blue gingham dress, boys grey shorts**

School and Nursery uniform items are available at <https://scotcrestschools.co.uk/Find-Your-School/North-Lanarkshire/Shawhead>

**Please note that unbranded items with no school logos available from supermarkets and other high street stores are perfectly acceptable provided they are in the correct school colours.**

Children also require suitable indoor shoes such as plimsolls or plain black trainers.

**PE Kit:**

Black Shorts, white t-shirt/ white polo shirt and gym shoes. For outdoor PE days, children can come to school wearing outdoor PE kit- black leggings/ jogging bottoms, white polo shirt/ white t-shirt and school sweatshirt.

We will let you know as soon as possible the days that your child will be doing PE.

**Whilst we expect the changes of uniform to be in place for August 2021 we realise that for some parents they may already have uniform to use from August and we accept that there will be a period of changeover.  Please let us know if you need any help purchasing items of uniform.** **If you have ordered the iron on badges, we will contact you to collect these from the school office on Friday 13th August 2021.**

For our nursery children there is a uniform available to purchase from Scotcrest consisting of a purple sweatshirt and white polo shirt. Please note that it is not compulsory for our nursery children to wear uniform.

**Homework**

There will be no formal homework issued for the first two weeks of term. Our Guidance on Homework will be updated and reissued in time for homework to begin from Monday 30th August 2021. We anticipate that homework will be set weekly through the homework jotters. Children will be issued with a homework folder and homework diary during the first week of school.

Extensive risk assessments have been undertaken to ensure the safe return of staff and pupils to school. Safety of all is of paramount importance and ensuring that the children settle into school and are happy back in the school environment with their peers and staff.

I hope that this helps to ease any anxieties that you may have had about schools re-opening. If you have any questions or concerns in relation to our phased return in August, please do not hesitate to contact me by either phoning the school or by emailing me at gw09westellhelen@glow.sch.uk

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. I cannot wait to see the children back in school in August and our Shawhead family is back together. We will continue to post regular updates on Twitter. Please look out for these.

These guidelines for our recovery are ever changing and will be revised at regular intervals. We will endeavour to keep you updated as soon as possible.

With thanks

Helen Paterson

Head Teacher