

23 March 2020



Dear Parent/Carer,

Although all schools officially closed on Friday afternoon at 3pm, we recognise our duty to support Key Workers in posts which ensure that essential services can be delivered and cover tasks within the local community which support the vulnerable and aid community resilience. Definitions of key workers and eligibility are outlined in Appendix A. This service is for families where both parents/carers are key workers or in the case of single parent families, where the main care giver is a key worker.

It is essential to stop the spread of COVID-19 that people who can work from home do work from home. The remaining education support service should only be accessed by those who absolutely require it to enable National Health Service and other critical services to continue and also for vulnerable young people. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

### **Arrangements for week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

If you are an eligible key worker, who has no other suitable childcare arrangements then your child can attend school as normal on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, school transport will run as normal. If you are able to go in person to school or establishment, staff will ask you to complete a proforma. If you are unable to do that then the school or establishment will contact you to gather information.

### **Children and Young People with Significant Additional Support Needs**

It is our intention to keep some ASN schools/LCSC units open during the emergency period where practically possible for children and young people with significant additional support needs. Over the coming days staff will discuss with you what this means and if your child or young person falls within this category and can continue to attend school.

Your child may receive support from other agencies such as NHS or Social Work. It is important to note that currently, NHS staff who normally come into school have been recalled to work in hospitals. Therefore such specialised support will not be available in school during this time and this may affect you decisions about sending your child to school.

I recognise that this is a particularly anxious time for families and in school, we aim to provide as much support as possible. However, should you require support from social services please contact your locality team:

Airdrie – 01236 757000

Bellshill – 01698 346666

Coatbridge – 01236 622100

Cumbernauld – 01236 638700

Motherwell and Wishaw– 01698 332100

### **Future Plans**

Over the course of this transition week, the council will collect data from across Schools and Centres and use this data to inform its planning.

### **Meeting your needs**

This week, you will be asked to complete a form to provide us with essential information about you and your child. This will include information about your employment, work patterns and emergency contact details. This information will be used by the council to build up a picture of the requirement for education services across each locality. The more information you provide the more prepared we can be. Further information will be provided about this later in the week.

### **School Meals**

All children who are entitled to free school meals will be able to access these meals in school. If you require this service, your child is not attending school and you live out of the locality, please contact me so that I can advise you about accessing this support from a school in your locality.

Breakfast clubs will be also be open in those schools that normally offer them and again I can advise you of this service should you require it.

### **SQA Course Work**

Scottish Government have clarified your child should not attend school to complete any SQA course work. The school may ask you to complete course work remotely.

Teachers know your children well and already have a wide range of evidence on which to base their professional judgement. Estimated grades will be based on predicted attainment, coursework and assessment. They will NOT only be based on prelim marks. Since all estimates and professional judgements have not yet been carried out, I would ask that you do not contact the school at this time for that information. Although there is no process for appealing professional judgement, the SQA have indicated that their post results service will be free of charge this year. Further information on this will be issued in due course.

Finally, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should any child who has symptoms of coronavirus, or who lives in a household where someone has symptoms, present at school. The whole family must follow the self-isolation advice.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher

**Appendix A: Identified Key Workers/Eligibility**

<u>Category 1</u>
Please note that the first presumption is that this service will only be accessed when no other suitable childcare arrangements can be identified.
Health and care workers directly supporting COVID-19 response and associated staff. Workers supporting life-threatening emergency work as well as critical primary and community care provision. Staff of energy suppliers. Staff, including teachers and early years workers, providing childcare and learning for other key workers and staff who support school buildings

<u>Category 2</u>	<u>Category 3</u>
Please note that the first presumption is that staff who can work from home will work from home and that this service will only be accessed when no other suitable childcare arrangements can be identified.	
<p>All other health and care workers including home support staff and care home staff. Emergency services staff, including police, fire and rescue, prison officers. Military personnel Social workers Those supporting critical national infrastructure including: Staff keeping air, water, road and rail passenger transport operating. Oil, gas, electricity and water and sewerage workers. Logistics staff including drivers and transport workers. Food and other necessary goods staff including food production, processing, distribution, sale, delivery as well as those essential to the provision of hygienic and veterinary medicines. Staff in essential financial service provision including: banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure; IT and data infrastructure; postal services; civil nuclear, chemicals and telecommunications; payment providers; waste disposal. Journalists and broadcasters. Homelessness staff.</p>	<p>Strategic-level management and support staff. Waste services staff. Fleet services staff. Cemeteries staff. Property repairs and maintenance staff including frontline workers of Mears and Saltire. Roads and lighting maintenance staff including staff of Amey. Facility support services including cleaning, catering, school crossing patrollers and janitorial staff. Human resources staff including payroll and employee service centre. IT staff. Communications staff. Finance staff including welfare, revenue and benefits staff and municipal bank staff. Registration staff. Essential legal services. Psychological services staff.</p>

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