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Date: Saturday, 20 February 2021



Education and Families

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Dear Parent/Carer,

FOR NURSERY, P1-3 AND KEYWORKER/VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN P4-7 ONLY ARRANGEMENTS FOR 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

Child's Name: XXXXX

Following on from the First Minister's announcement this week, I am writing to give you some further information which will help you with the return to school. All children in Nursery and P1-3 are expected to return to school on a full time basis from Monday 22nd February. The only exception is if your child is currently on the shielding list for Tier 4 Lockdown.

As the First Minister said quite clearly, the situation is still very complex and we all need to do certain things to ensure that the return to school is safe. By sticking to all of the rules and following school guidelines, we can then move successfully to a safe return for all of our other children whilst keeping ourselves safe and our school COVID free.

The information below gives specific details for your child and you should ensure that you follow this carefully:

STAGGERED ARRIVAL AND EXIT:			
Your child's House Group will determine their start and finish times. Your child is in XXXXX House .			
School Starts:		School finishes:	
Entry/Exit Gate (Zone):		PE Day:	

Please note the following information which is also important and should be followed explicitly:

- **EVERY SINGLE ADULT IS EXPECTED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING – YOU SHOULD WEAR THIS ON THE PAVEMENTS JUST OUTSIDE THE GROUNDS AS WELL AS WITHIN THE GROUNDS. THE PAVEMENTS AROUND THE SCHOOL ARE NARROW AND SO YOU SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.**
- **If you are exempt from wearing a mask** you should wear your exemption card. Alternatively, staff will offer you a mask.
- The one-way system will continue to operate for pedestrians entering and exiting the campus. Staff will be standing at these gates to guide you in the right direction. **Please stick to the one way system, even if it means a couple more minutes of walking!**



- The gates which various classes will enter and exit through to minimise congestion and to allow children safe passage to their own 'playground zone' will be reinstated.
- Nursery children will be dropped off and collected at the gated entrance to their outdoor play area.
- No parents/carers will be allowed into the school building or into the playgrounds, unless by appointment. If you wish to contact us, you should do this by phone or email. This will also avoid congestion at the school gate!
- Once you have dropped your child(ren) off, please exit the campus promptly to avoid congestion in and around the area.
- At the end of the day, do not enter the grounds until your specified time. If you arrive early, do not enter the grounds. If driving, stay in your car until it is time for your child to be dismissed.
- We ask that you follow social distancing measures when in and around the school campus. This means:
 - Keep 2m away from people from other households (even with a mask on).
 - Do not gather in groups to chat.
 - Do not block gates/access points.
 - Keep your distance on the pavements immediately outside the school perimeter fence.

SOME MORE PRACTICAL POINTS:

- Children should attend in Full School Uniform (Shirt and Tie) unless it is their PE Day.
- On PE Days (see above) children can come to school in their PE kit. Please remember that PE will be outdoors only and therefore children should dress appropriately. This may involve being outdoors in light rain.
- The Scottish Government has stated that Breakfast Club provision is currently only for children who are attending school under the **Keyworker/Vulnerable Category** for the time being. We have registers of children who are able to access this provision.
- P1-3 continue to be entitled to a Free School Meal and Breakfast as well as those in P4-7 whose parents have applied for them. ***Please remember the point above regarding who can access Breakfast Club.***
- No cash will be taken in school for Breakfast Club/Tuck Shop or Lunches.
- After School Care provision continues as before.

ACCESSING KEYWORKER PROVISION (P4-7):

- Those who have already applied for hours in school do not need to re-apply.
- We remind you that you should only access school **as a last resort and when there are no other childcare arrangements possible.**
- Children should only access school during your work pattern. If an adult is at home, the children should be at home.
- If you find that you now need Keyworker access to school, you should apply for this via the North Lanarkshire website. [Key worker guidance - January 2021 | North Lanarkshire Council](https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/Key%20worker%20guidance%20-%20January%202021%20%7C%20North%20Lanarkshire%20Council)

ACCESS TO SCHOOL FOR OLDER SIBLINGS:

We have had an increase in requests for older siblings to attend school when P1-3 return. Please understand that we would like nothing more than to welcome all children back to school. However, the message from the Government is clear and we should all be staying at home unless completely necessary for the time being. I understand that many of you will be finding this situation challenging to say the least and we will continue to do what we can to support you. However, the emphasis is currently on having the **least amount of children and adults in school as possible.**

Please do not disengage with digital learning! We have made such great progress and the provision is very good. I understand that there is the temptation to disengage. Even if your child joins in with certain aspects or if they need a break but are then guided back to their lessons, it is better for them to be involved.

WHAT IF YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE, OR IS IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT OF SOMEONE ELSE?

- If you/your child/someone else in your household test positive you should contact the school immediately (even during the weekend – inform us on the Monday).
- If you or your child are identified as a close contact, the guidelines have changed as of 17th February.
- You/they must isolate for 10 days and you/they must book a test, regardless of if you have any symptoms.
- More information about this will be circulated when we have it.

If you have specific worries or concerns, please do contact me and I will happily try to find a solution, but this will not automatically mean offering time in school.

There is a lot of information to take on board and I will continue to keep you updated throughout the coming weeks. I want to sincerely thank all you all for your continued support during what has been a very challenging time for everyone.

With renewed good wishes,

**Mr K. Thomas
Head Teacher**