

17/06/2021

Dear Parent/Carer,



We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the COVID guidance for the rest of this term and the arrangement for return to school on the 16th August 2021.

Guidance received on the 15th June 2021 stated that the current mitigations must remain in place until the end of session due to the current rise in infections. These mitigations will also remain in place at the start of term due to the uncertainty of the progression of the virus over the summer.

Should things have significantly improved by August, mitigations will be lifted gradually over the first few weeks. We will keep you updated on this.

Below is a reminder of the current arrangements for schools.

Dates for Return to School

Staff return Thursday 12th August

Pupils return Monday 16th August

The Length of the School Day

The school day will run from 9.00a.m. - 3.15p.m. with no change to start and finish times. However, breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered to avoid large groups of pupils gathering in any one space. Pupils are encouraged to stay in school for lunch however if a pupil wishes to go home for lunch, we would ask that the parent/carer contacts the relevant school office so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Start of Day Procedure

Pupils will begin their learning time at 9.00a.m. A bell will not currently ring at this time. We will operate the same 'soft start' system that we used this session. Pupils will not line up. Doors will be open from 8.45a.m. and pupils can enter from this time and begin the start of the day hygiene routine. We would ask that pupils do not arrive before this time. On the first day(s) staff will be on hand in the playground to direct pupils to the correct entrance. Therefore, we would ask that in order to avoid congestion and maintain the current physical distancing protocols **adults do not enter the playground but leave pupils at the relevant gate**. Doors will be closed at 9.00a.m. to ensure the security of the building. If a pupil arrives later than 9.00a.m. they should enter through the main doors. Adults should not enter the school foyer but leave the pupils at the main doors. **Information for P1 first day follows later in this letter.**

End of Day Procedures

The pupil day will end at 3.15p.m. As the current guidelines on Adult Social distancing remain in force we would strongly request that **adults do not enter the school playground**. We would suggest that you make arrangement to meet your child at an agreed location outwith the school playground. Older pupils (P4-7) may be able to make their own way home or meet their parent/carer slightly further away from the school. Older pupils may also be able to collect their younger siblings and escort them to meet their parent/carer. If there are extenuating circumstances and/or specific needs where adults need to collect from the playground we ask that you adhere to the social distancing guidelines and only 1 adult per family collects. Adults are reminded to remain 2m apart and to wear a face covering when on the school premises including the playground. Parents whose child's surname starts with A-L should wait in the middle playground as far away from the building as

possible. Pupils with surnames M-Z should wait in the upper playground (nearest Old Greenock Road). This will ensure that siblings are all heading in the same direction. We respectfully request that you consider this as a last resort and **do not enter the playground unless necessary**. As always parents should remind pupils that if for any reason, they are unable to locate the adult who is collecting them or if they forget the arrangements, they should return to the school office and a phone call will be made. **Specific information for P1 parents is in a later section of this letter.**

Uniform

Please see the relevant school websites for up to date uniform information. There will be no requirement for pupils to change shoes. This may be reviewed as the weather deteriorates and wellies are required. Links to school uniform suppliers can be found on the school websites. As all P.E will initially be outdoors, and pupils will be participating in increased outdoor learning, they should come dressed appropriate to the weather forecast. Scotland's weather can be very unpredictable, so layers are advisable. Please label all items with your child's name and class. We will not be able to store any lost property so any unnamed items that cannot be identified may need to be disposed of. If pupils wish to wear formal uniform they can do so but there will not be any opportunity to change in school until the current guidance changes.

What to Bring to School

Pupils should still bring a school bag and/or book bag to school. As they will not be changing for P.E they do not need any additional kit. The use of water coolers is now permissible so pupils should bring a refillable water bottle with them. Water bottles should be labelled with the pupil name. Any unlabelled water bottles left in school will be disposed of for hygiene reasons.

Pupil can bring a packed lunch box and snack to school. **Please note there will be no morning snack bar provided by the catering team.**

There is no requirement for pupils to bring stationery to school. Pupils will be provided with all resources that are required. If a pupil requires specialist equipment, please call the school to ensure that this is provided for your child.

Pupils should not bring any toys or other personal belongings to school.

As per the current guidance from Renfrewshire Council mobile phones must remain switched off and in pupil bags for the duration of the school day including breaks and lunchtimes. Any pupil breaking these rules will have their phone confiscated and securely stored until the end of the school day. The school is not responsible for the loss or damage of personal belongings brought into school.

Reading Books

Any pupil who still has a reading book at home is asked to return it on their first day back. Any reading books returned to school need to be quarantined for 72hrs. This may mean that pupils will not return and be issued with a new book on the same day.

Lunches

A new lunch menu will begin in August 2021. Free school meals will be provided to all P1-4 pupils from this time. P5-7 pupils who don't receive a free school meal can purchase a hot meal if they wish to. Pupils can also bring their own packed lunch to school.

Pre and post lunch hand washing will be maintained however pupils will return to eating in the dinner hall.

If pupils intend to go home for lunch we would ask that the parent/carer calls the school to arrange as lunch breaks will be staggered to ensure adult social distancing for staff lunches.

School Transport

For those who travel on the school bus, this is classed as an extension of the school building. Therefore pupil-pupil social distancing is not required but pupils do need to wear a face covering. It is recommended that where possible pupils sit with any siblings when travelling and sit in the same seat for each journey. Pupils must not consume food or drink on the bus. Only pupils who are registered are insured to travel by school transport. Pupil's behaviour on school transport remains the responsibility of the parent.

Active Travel

Where possible active travel- walking, cycling, scooting, is the preferred method of travel to school. To help facilitate this additional bike storage and scooter racks will be installed. Parents who need to bring their child by car could consider parking slightly further away and allowing their child to walk the final leg of their route to school. This will help with congestion around the school and allow adults to maintain social distancing protocols in the vicinity of the building.

Hygiene

Hygiene protocols will be maintained at all time. Handwashing facilities and hand sanitisers are available around the school and pupils will wash their hand throughout the day. They will also be encouraged to continue to follow the good practice around Catch It, Bin It, Kill It. A day cleaner will be available to clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day. Pupils will be encouraged to keep their own space clean and tidy. Bags will remain on the floor at all times.

Face Coverings and PPE

Face covering may be worn in school by anyone, pupils and adults. Adults will wear a face covering if working in close proximity (less than 2m) with pupils for a period of time. Adults delivering first aid and medical or intimate care will wear the appropriate PPE as stated in current guidelines.

First Aid/Illness

First aid will be provided as before, however the adult will wear appropriate PPE. If a child feels unwell and presents with non COVID symptoms normal procedures will apply. If a child presents with COVID symptoms they will be isolated in the medical room (supervised by an adult) until collected. Upon collection the parent should follow the [Test and Protect](#) procedures.

P1 Parents

For many parents this will be the first time sending your child to school and we appreciate that you will be very anxious given the circumstances. In P1 we will be following the guidance for both schools and ELCC facilities and hope to provide as many opportunities for our pupils to participate in as normal a routine as possible and as much play-based learning as it practicable. Your child will be well looked after, kept safe, have fun and enjoy their learning.

On the first day we would ask that if your surname begins with A-L you arrive at 9.00 a.m. in the middle playground, surnames M-Z should arrive at 9.15a.m. **On this day only** you may bring two

adults but we ask that you stay in family groups and maintain social distancing from others. This will give you the opportunity to take family photos etc. Staff will be on hand to escort the pupils into the school building. We endeavour to have all P1 pupils in the building by 9.30.a.m. We will have a contingency plan if the weather is very bad but at this time we are unable to have adults in the school building.

On subsequent days that week the classroom doors will be open from 8.45a.m. Please **only one adult** from day 2 and leave your child at the classroom door. Adults will be on hand to support. If there is a queue please remember your social distancing.

At the end of the school day teachers will bring the pupils out into the playground between 3.00p.m. and 3.15p.m. Please only one adult per child and please stand back from the doors and maintain social distancing. Teachers will only let the pupils go when the appropriate adult has arrived. Older siblings will be dismissed at the same time to allow families to vacate the playground.

Finally

I appreciate that this is a tremendous amount of information and it is correct at the time of writing. The guidelines however may change and it may be that some of the procedures here are in place for a very short time, some may be longer term and some new ones may need to be introduced at a later date. Although some things may cause inconvenience, the underlying intention is for the safety of all within our school communities and indeed for the wider Bishopton Community.

if you have any concerns please contact the relevant school office Bishopton- 0300 300 0147
Dargavel – 0300 300 1481.

Yours faithfully

Mrs McNaught

Head Teacher

Bishopton Primary School

Mr Carlton

Interim Head Teacher

Dargavel Primary School