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BREDILAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/brediland>
Brediland's Twitter account: [@BredilandSchool](https://twitter.com/BredilandSchool)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we now know, schools in Scotland intend to re-open their doors to pupils in August 2020; but we also know this may change. As this is a very anxious time for everyone, I write to share with you what I can at this stage, while I still await further guidance on some unanswered questions.

The council shared information via the following link this morning:

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools>

I want to share some initial thoughts with you and ask for your comments. I also welcome suggestions, but stress at this stage that when planning, each school has to work within its capacity, in other words, every school team has to plan a model that will work best for them. A link to a new Head Teacher's Questionnaire will be sent to you soon.

SAFETY: please be re-assured that we are using advice, carrying out risk assessments and planning safety measures. We will do our utmost to ensure the safety and well-being of all our children, staff and parents. I will send details of specific safety measures in a separate letter in the coming weeks.

PLANNING IN BREDILAND IS UNDERWAY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

1. The number of children that can be in each class, with safe distancing of 2 metres.
2. The number of staff available to come into school to work.
3. The number of children it is safe to bring back into school together and how and where we will enter and leave the building.
4. Families coming in on the same day together.
5. The number of teaching spaces available.
6. Arrangements for breaks for children and staff.
7. Whether or not there should be different arrangements for the younger children.
8. What our blended model will look like.
9. What will happen if a child or adult begins to show symptoms of C19.

1. **SAFE DISTANCING:** we have measured our classrooms and have laid out furniture that would make sure there are 2 metres between the children and teacher. Our classrooms are quite small and the sink and interactive teaching board are at different positions in each class. Taking all of this into account, the classrooms can take 6, 7 or 8 children, depending on the layout of sinks etc.
2. **TEACHING STAFF:** I currently do not know how many teachers we will have, or which teachers will be able to come back to work – this is some of the information I am waiting for from head-quarters, their staff are working hard on this.
3. **COMING IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL:** we are making plans for children coming into school and leaving, to make sure we don't have too many children arriving or leaving together, or standing in lines.
4. **CHILDREN IN SAME FAMILY:** planning is going on to make sure that siblings can come into school at the same time.
5. **TEACHING SPACES:** the gym hall and the ICT room will be used as teaching spaces, so that we can take in as many small groups of children as possible. As the gym hall is bigger, it can comfortably take bigger groups of children.
6. **BREAKTIMES:** children may be in school for whole days and/or half days – I am waiting for confirmation about this. Once I have this information, I can share more detail with you.
7. **YOUNGEST CHILDREN:** consideration is being given to their needs, there may be a slightly different plan for the youngest children. As most of their learning is based on play, not sitting at desks, it is much more difficult to keep them at a distance of 2 metres. I will be consulting the parents and carers about our youngest children in the coming days/weeks. More information to follow.
8. **BLENDED LEARNING:** means some learning in school and some learning at home.
 - Teachers will teach small groups of children in school – the amount of time will depend on how many children we can bring in safely, and how many teachers we have. This will be different in every school; we will do as much as we can.
 - We will give clear homework to follow on from lessons taught in school by the teacher. The teacher will teach the new learning in school and the children will practise what they have learned at home, using worksheets and in the virtual classrooms that are already running.
 - Your child will be given a clear timetable to follow, so that we will make the most of learning opportunities.
 - We will continue to support your child and you all the way!

Blended learning means that we will be running classrooms in school, and at the same time, we will keep the virtual classrooms running too – this is a huge change for us all, and an enormous task for teachers to undertake and to get right. I will say at this point, we will continue to work hard to get this blend right, but we will all need time to get used to the new normal – the children will need time, you will need time and the staff will need time, but if we all continue to work together, [Team Brediland](#) can make this an excellent experience for all.

Remember, the new normal will not be forever and we are still all in this together!

9. **CHILD OR ADULT SHOWING SYMPTOMS:** very specific instructions in line with government and NHS advice will be issued before the school opens.

WHAT ELSE ARE WE PLANNING IN BREDILAND?

- There will be a separate letter for children, parents and carers of Primary 7.
- There will be a separate letter for the children, parents and carers of children starting in Primary 1.

COMPUTERS: to make sure that every child has access to a laptop, we sent out a questionnaire some weeks ago – all of the families who needed a laptop or dongle now have one.

COMPUTER TRAINING: to make sure that all children and adults can use the laptops and work in the virtual classrooms, **we will run training for teachers, children and parents during the month of June.** Then, we will continue to offer training from August for parents, if required.

LEARNING PACKS: to date, we have organised and delivered over 200 learning packs to families – thank you to the whole staff team for working together on this – it has been lovely to see so many of our children when we are out delivering!

SCHOOL UNIFORM - I know you will be wondering about whether to buy a school uniform to return in August, and I want to stress that at this stage, **this is not a priority.** The reasons are as follows:

- Buying a brand new uniform is not a priority right now (apart from the new Primary 1 children), as the plans we make may have to change.
- The children did not get to wear their uniforms for the whole session, they are probably still in good condition.
- When the children come back, there will be much more washing of their uniform to stop the spread of the virus, so using an older uniform seems sensible.
- We are busy planning much more outdoor learning for August, so for comfort, the children could wear trainers instead of their normal smart black shoes.
- I would also like to ask that all the children come to school with a waterproof jacket and if possible bring a pair of welly boots.

SCHOOL BAGS – the children will not need to bring a school bag with them;

- This is to cut down on storage space, which will be very limited.
- Every child must bring with them a plastic bottle with water in it and their name on it.
- Each child will be given their own plastic tray, with their own pens/crayons/pencils, with rubber, ruler and writing pencil all provided for them. **THEY WILL NOT BE SHARING THESE!**
- Snacks must be sealed in plastic and kept in the child's own tray.
- We have ordered a plastic folder for every child to bring homework home with them. This can be wiped down at home.

Finally, thank you for bearing with us while we find our way, as we wait for more information. I know we can find the best way forward for our children if we work together. The priority is the safety and health and wellbeing of all.

I will send you more updates as we receive more answers and information. Meanwhile, please be assured that we continue to work hard in the background to get the school ready to open as soon and as safely as we can.

Please continue to stay safe and look after each other,



Mrs MC Temple

Head Teacher

OUR VALUES: HONESTY RESPECT DETERMINATION FREEDOM KINDNESS