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CochraneCastle PS

Dear Parent/Carer,

Group B

We appreciate you will be keen to know what your child's new timetable will look like when pupils start to return to school from Wednesday 12 August, and we can now share that.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming pupils back to **Cochrane Castle Primary** and seeing you all again. We understand the past few months hasn't been an easy time and our thanks go to you and your children for your patience and understanding.

This August will look different from any other year in that schools will return to a model of blended learning – with pupils learning in school on some days and from home on others.

We know this is not ideal but are sure you will appreciate the situation is unprecedented. We have worked hard to develop a model which delivers the best possible learning experience while taking every precaution to ensure the safety of pupils and staff, in line with government advice.

We will ensure physical distancing is maintained as much as possible and will do this through reduced class sizes and using all available space – however this obviously means not all pupils can be in school at the same time.

First week back

The first week back will look different because schools open to pupils on Wednesday 12 August so this is a shorter school week. We want to ensure everyone gets back to school at some point during that week so arrangements for those three days will be different. In that first week, your child will attend on **Friday, 14th August**.

Your child's days in school

In all Renfrewshire primary schools, half of children (Group A) will attend on a Monday and Tuesday, and the other half (Group B) on a Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will allow teachers to have their contractual non-class contact time and support blended learning.

Your child will be in **Group B** and will attend on **Thursday and Friday each week, from Thursday 20th August**.

School days will run from 8.45 am to 3 pm but to ensure we maintain physical distancing at the start and end of the day, we will stagger start and finish times for different groups. We will be in touch with details of these for your child nearer the time.

We have tried to ensure all siblings attend on the same day wherever we can, however this has not always been possible. We realise we may not have been able to satisfy every family's particular circumstances, and for this we both apologise and thank you for your understanding and support.

How long these arrangements continue depends entirely on advice and guidance from the Scottish Government. We will keep you updated on what that means for you and your family as and when that advice changes.

Other information

We appreciate the new model throws up a lot of questions. We will be putting in place a new a model of home learning, with teachers able to provide a level of support on the days your child is learning from home, and materials will be made available.

Childcare will be available for the children of key workers on the days they are not in school. You can find out more information on the council's website. We know the new model has implications for school transport and these are still being worked on.

The council's website has a detailed Q&A full of information for parents and carers – so please see <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools>

If you have any questions which aren't answered in the above Q&A please don't hesitate to contact us directly at cochranecastleenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

We also know many parents have questions over uniform. We would ask that children wear a **white school polo shirt and/or navy sweatshirt and wear black or grey jogging bottoms** or other comfortable clothing. Please also ensure that children are equipped with **an outdoor jacket and wellies or other appropriate footwear** as children will be encouraged to go outdoors in all weathers even for a short time each day.

For further info: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/cochrane/2020/06/09/school-uniform-letter/>

Once again, we thank you for your understanding at this difficult time. We look forward to seeing you all again in August and we will be doing everything we can to make your return to school as smooth as possible.

I hope you all have a great summer.



Pam McDowall
Headteacher