



Dear Parent/Carer,

We are absolutely delighted to be able to welcome our children back from Wednesday 12th August, as the Scottish Government has made the decision that it is now safe for us to do so. All children will be in school by Friday 14th August meaning there is no need for blended learning arrangements to be in place at this time. Please be assured that the safety, health & well-being of our children, families & staff will be our primary focus as we recognise the challenges faced by many during the period of school closure.

As communicated by Renfrewshire Council new arrangements are as follows: -

Monday 10th August- In-Service Day – Staff only
Tuesday 11th August - In-Service Day – Staff only
Wednesday 12th August – P1 and P7 children only
Thursday 13th August – P2, P3 & P4 return to school (in addition to P1 & P7)
Friday 14th August – P5 & P6 return to school (all children now in attendance)

Until further notice, the times of the start and end of the day for children are:

All children in P1 should attend from 8:55am until 2:55pm (Week 1 is 930am-230pm)
All children in P2 should attend from 8:50am until 2:50pm
All children in P3 should attend from 8:45am until 2:45pm
All children in P4 should attend from 9:00am until 3:00pm
All children in P5 should attend from 8:55am until 2:55pm
All children in P6 should attend from 8.50am until 2:50pm
All children in P7 should attend from 8:45am until 2:45pm

These staggered start & dismissal times are necessary to minimise congestion & maximise pupil safety. We will revert to core operational hours of 9am – 3pm when we are safely able to do so.

As outlined in June, we will have 8 classes this session A reminder of our classes and staff is below:

Primary 1	Mrs Emma McLauchlan
Primary 2	Miss Emma Goldie
Primary 3	Miss Clare Keegan
Primary 4	Miss Elaine Cunningham and Mrs Leonora Campbell
Primary 5	Miss Innes Monaghan
Primary 6	Miss Louise Hamilton
Primary 7	Miss Joanna Allan

Staffing Update:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Pauline Gordon who will be teaching in Cochrane Castle this year on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming Mrs Gordon to the school.

Are there any changes to the curriculum on offer in Cochrane Castle?

Children will continue to have in school learning experiences which are age & stage appropriate & meet their individual needs. We are however unable to organise excursions, host assemblies, host family learning or parent events until further notice. We will continue to offer a play based and active learning approach throughout our school with an increased focus on Outdoor Learning.

What will my child's learning environment look like?

Classrooms & other learning spaces might look a little different. They have been reorganised & unnecessary equipment and resources have been removed to allow effective cleaning. However, staff have worked hard to ensure that the classrooms are still warm and welcoming.

A cleaning station is set up for each classroom and children will be encouraged to keep their own workspace clean and tidy.

Staff will encourage children to wash their hands regularly throughout the day using hot water and soap.

There will be signage displayed at strategic points inside the building to reinforce key safety messages for children & staff.

What should my child wear to school?

On a temporary basis, we have relaxed our school uniform. It is important that children can be warm and comfortable as they will be spending an increased amount of time outside.

- White polo shirt (with or without the school badge)
- Blue sweatshirt or jumper (with or without the school badge)
- Grey jogging bottoms/leggings (Suitable for outdoor activities including P.E)
- Sturdy footwear (suitable for outdoors)

We would respectfully ask that clothing emblazoned with other colours/sports logos etc. are not worn and school colours are retained as much as possible. **All indoor clothing should be washed at the end of each day.**

Pupils will also require a suitable outdoor jacket appropriate for seasonal weather (which may be of any colour)

No P.E. Kit is required as changing rooms will not be in use and all P.E. lessons will take place outdoors. **No indoor shoes will be required at this time.** Pupils will not be changing shoes and, as above, we ask that children wear suitable shoes for outdoor use which are weatherproof and comfortable, including for P.E.

What should my child bring to school?

Children may bring a school bag to school which will be kept beside them at their own workstation. We will provide pupils with all resources they require and as such there is no need to bring in pencil cases etc. Snacks should be kept in bags until break time.

If your child will be bringing a packed lunch from home each day, this may be brought to school in a lunch box. It is preferable if this can fit within the school bag. The lunchbox must be wipeable and must be taken home each day to be cleaned.

All children will be provided with a water bottle and they should then bring it to school pre-filled with water from home. Again, this must be taken home daily and cleaned each night. This will be kept at your child's own workstation. Water coolers are available to be used if required.

We respectfully remind you that we are a nut free school – please ensure that all snacks and lunches do not contain nuts. Also, only plain water is permitted to be consumed in class. Other drinks can be consumed at break times.

We ask that children do not bring any other unnecessary personal items to school. This includes items for use in the playground and toys/teddies etc. This will support our good hygiene and cleaning protocols.

What will the playtime and lunchtime arrangements be?

Playtime and lunch times will be staggered across the day. Our playground will operate in zones to maximise the safety of children and staff.

As it is not possible to gather in the dining hall, children will remain in their class to eat lunch each day. Lunches will be delivered to each classroom. No hot meals will be provided at this time: only packed lunches. We are hoping to be able to offer hot lunches by September but will keep you updated with regard to this.

We are also unable to provide toast and a drink from the dinner hall at playtime.

Children can of course continue to bring a packed lunch from home as above. As always, we would request that no items of food containing nuts are included.

Free School Meals will continue to be available to all pupils in P1-P3. Parents with children in P4-P7 are required to apply to the council in the usual way and this can be done via the Renfrewshire Council website.

Will there be a Breakfast Club and Active School clubs in session 2020/21?

Initially, there will be **no Breakfast Club** facility in operation.

This will be kept under review and will be reinstated as soon as it is safe to do so however we may have to adjust the service to provide the highest safety standards.

There will also be no Active School Clubs throughout the school day. We will keep you updated and inform you when it is safe to reinstate these.

What about children with Additional Support Needs?

Pupils with Additional Support Needs will continue to have their needs met as outlined in their individual support plans. If you have any concerns, please contact the school to arrange a telephone appointment in the first instance.

What about administration of medicine and first aid?

Only children who require medication for specific conditions, as detailed on their health care plan, will have this administered. Parents will be contacted directly to discuss this should this apply to their child. Children who require use of an EpiPen or an Inhaler should always keep this on their person. If you think your child should have a health care plan or there have been significant changes to your child's health, please contact the office in the first instance.

For minor scrapes and injuries, children will be supervised by an adult and encouraged to be self-sufficient in cleaning scratches and scrapes. For more serious injuries, healthcare will be sought and parents informed.

What happens if my child becomes unwell in school?

If your child becomes unwell in school, you will be contacted to collect them as soon as possible.

If your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, they will be required to remain in isolation in a specific room away from others, which has been identified for this purpose. Alternative toilet facilities will also be provided. Your child will be supervised by an adult during this time.

Please follow NHS Scotland advice with regard to symptoms of COVID-19 and inform the school of the outcome as soon as possible. It is essential that all health care advice is adhered to in terms of self-isolation.

If you, or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, it is essential that you do not come in to school and contact NHS 24 instead.

In terms of all other illness, we would also advise that NHS guidance is adhered to in terms of the time recommended to stay away from school.

What are the drop off & pick-up arrangements each day?

Staggered starting & finishing times mean that each day you will be asked to bring your child to school and collect at his/her allocated time. The same system will operate at the beginning & end of each day. Staff will collect your child from the playground at the allocated time.

To avoid congestion please arrive just a minute or two before your child's allocated dismissal time at the end of each day.

It is important to reduce the number of adults in the playground, so please ensure that only **one** adult attends at the beginning & end of each day. The only exception to this will be on Wednesday 12th August for Primary 1 on their first day at school.

There will be no parent access to the building at any time.

Children will be encouraged to wash their hands before leaving school and should also wash their hands on arriving home.

What happens if I am late to drop off / collect my child?

It is imperative that children arrive & depart each day at their allocated times. This avoids impacting on the timeslots of others & creating congestion. If you have missed your child's allocated timeslot, they should report to a member of school staff in the playground or report to the main office. The school gates will be closed at 9:15am & remain closed throughout the day until 2:40pm.

Can parents/family members still visit the building?

Unfortunately, there will be no Family Start or Finish at this time. No visitors can be received in to the school building at present.

Please follow the guidance above with regard to pick up and drop off times. We must ask that you minimise your time in the playground and always ensure that you maintain 2m social distance from other families and staff.

What if I need to speak to someone at the school?

Please contact the school office by telephone or email on: 0300 300 0198 or cochranecastleenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

A suitable time will then be arranged for contact via telephone.

How long will these changes remain in place?

These changes will remain in place for as long as required. Please be assured the changes will be kept under review and relaxed as soon as it is safe to do so in accordance with Scottish Government guidance and in partnership with Renfrewshire Council Children's Services.