

Cochrane Castle Primary School
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Children's Services

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Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/cochranecastle>

11 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, the Scottish Government has now introduced a system of new protection levels to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and Renfrewshire has been placed at Level 3.

This means some extra guidance for schools to help keep everyone safe, and we've listed what that means for you below:

- We can now resume indoor P.E. – this will start on Monday 16th November 2020. Cochrane Castle's pupils will have P.E. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week – on these days, we ask that your child comes to school dressed to participate in P.E. with loose comfortable clothing and suitable footwear. Specific P.E. days will be issued in a separate letter. Our changing rooms will not be available, and we strongly encourage the children to follow our relaxed uniform this session which allows them to wear leggings/jogging bottoms with polo-shirts/sweatshirts. These should match the school colours where possible.
- Currently, school staff keep a two-metre distance from pupils as normal practice, but staff will now wear a face covering wherever this is not possible. This will apply from Primary 3 to Primary 7. We are conscious of the impact of this on the children, therefore where any child requires additional support, we will identify a different approach which balances safety and quality of communication.
- School staff will wear face coverings in all communal areas of the school, and we will explain to the children why this is important.
- All parents/carers should wear a face covering when entering the school or playground at pick-up and drop-off. We also ask that you please wear a face covering at any busy pick-up or drop-off points outside the playground.
- The national advice is good airflow within schools is important to minimise spread of the virus. As we approach the winter and colder weather, we will make sure classrooms are safe, warm and comfortable. However, we ask that you please provide warm clothing, such as a jumper or fleece, in colder weather. Please contact the school directly if we can be of assistance with this. We will continue to take lots of our learning outdoors – please continue to dress for the weather and contact us if your child requires waterproof clothing.

Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn
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All of the new supports are in addition to the existing safety measures in our school, which follow the national guidance and are already of a very high standard.

These include:

- Thorough cleaning within the school, very good handwashing regimes, physical distancing between staff and between staff and pupils wherever possible; and good hygiene when catching coughs and sneezes.
- Staggered school start/finish times, breaks and lunchtimes, maintaining class groupings and good ventilation of buildings

We would also like to remind you that all children should wear a face covering when travelling to and from school by school bus, unless they are exempt.

More information on [what we are doing to keep schools safe](#) is available on the council website, as is a [guide to what to do if you suspect or have coronavirus](#).

We know the ongoing situation is very challenging for everyone, but we are doing all we can to keep our school safe and maintain a welcoming and nurturing learning environment for our children.

I would like to thank you for the initial response to wearing face coverings in the playground. I have been delighted that so many of you understand the importance of doing this and have modelled it for the children. The response from the children has also been fantastic and we cannot thank you and them enough for your continued support.

Please stay safe at home and follow the latest public health advice. If there is anything else you wish to discuss, please contact me via the school office.

Yours sincerely



Mr G T Mothersole
Acting Head Teacher