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Date: 24 June 2020



Dear Parent / Carer

You will be aware of the statement made in parliament yesterday by the Deputy First Minister that the intention is for children to return to school in Scotland full time in August. This is due to the progress being made to suppress the virus and is dependent on this trend continuing. This will be welcome news for many and I want to once again thank you for your continued patience and support – it is greatly appreciated as we have tried to plan for our children and young people returning to school.

I wrote to you on the 12th June to give you information on the blended learning model that would support your child returning to school in August. Your child's school will have sent a further correspondence to you on Monday with details of the days they will be attending. This was in line with the government's guidance and advice at this time and will now become our contingency plan if the national guidance was to change.

I welcome and support the news from Scottish Government and look forward to our children returning in August if the scientific advice and guidance allows us to do so. A return to full time learning is what we have always been striving for as we do not want our children and young people to be away from their classrooms and nurseries for any longer than is necessary. I want to assure you that our priority will be to continue to ensure the return is safe and we will follow all advice and guidance. We will continue to put safety measures in place that help us to reduce the risk of the spread of the virus. This includes regular hand washing routines or using hand sanitiser, additional cleaning of the school building, and observing all current government guidance and advice for schools and early years centres.

I also want to reassure you that our blended learning model is ready and in place if the national advice required this. But for now, we turn our attention to a full and safe return.

I am aware we have shared a significant amount of information with you over recent weeks and I can only apologise if this has caused any confusion. My intention has been to keep parents and carers fully informed and updated as decisions are made at a national level.

I will remain in contact with you over summer with information you will need ahead of the new term in August. Please continue to check the Renfrewshire Council website where updates will also be available.

Your support in explaining to your child this recent development and change to planning for August would be appreciated. Our children and young people have shown incredible resilience and patience throughout the last three months and I want to do everything possible to reassure them that schools and early years centres are doing everything possible to welcome them back.

Finally, I would again take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for all you have done to support your child's learning during this crisis. I know how challenging it is to juggle home and working commitments. I am also very grateful to all our staff who have done an incredible job in extremely challenging circumstances.

We all look forward to welcoming your child back to school in August.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Quinn', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Quinn
Director of Children's Services