

Newmains Primary School
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Head Teacher: Miss Carol Cooke



Children's Services
Director: Steven Quinn

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Dear Parent/Carer,

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 Newmains Primary School 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.

In all Renfrewshire Primary Schools, half of children (**Group A**) will attend school 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.

School days will run from approximately 9.00 am to 3.00 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 times for your child as soon as possible.

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.

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. Information will be sent in a separate email.

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>

We also know many parents have questions over uniform. As children will be spending more time out-doors we are adapting the uniform to suit this. We recommend that children wear grey or navy joggers, leggings or shorts on the bottom, with a polo shirt and the school sweatshirt or grey jumper on the top. Children should not wear football colours. If children cannot tie their laces, they should wear Velcro fastenings on their footwear. Children should wear appropriate clothing for the weather such as a waterproof jacket and boots on rainy days.

Children will not be required to bring a pencil case as we will provide pencils, etc. They can bring a small school bag and a packed lunch box, if needed, as well as a bottle of water.

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

The following information will be sent separately by email:

- **child's class**
- **child's teacher**
- **whether child is in Group A (Monday/Tuesday) or Group B (Thursday/Friday)**
- **Day your child will attend school on first week back**
- **Google Classroom codes for next session**

Please check your emails for the information. Please wait till the end of the day and then contact the school if you did not receive your email.

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.

Take Care

Carol Cooke

Carol Cooke
Head Teacher