

St James' Primary School
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Tel: 0300 300 0183

Head Teacher: Natalie Fitzsimmons

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Children's Services

NF/JG

11th 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 PE for pupils. Pupils will continue to wear joggers and a polo shirt to school as the changing rooms are still not operational. During the winter months, it is important that all pupils get out to play when possible and can participate in outdoor learning in all weathers. We would therefore ask that all children come to school during this time wearing appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear to allow them to be outside in all weathers.
- 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 and above. We are conscious of the impact of this on our pupils - where children require 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 will explain to our pupils why this is important.
- visitors, parents and carers should wear a face covering when entering the school or playground and at pick-up and drop-off. We also ask you wear a face covering at any busy pick-up or drop-off points outside school.
- the national advice is good airflow within schools is important to minimise spread of the virus. As we approach winter and colder weather, we will make sure classrooms are safe, warm and comfortable. However, we ask parents and carers 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.

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All of the above is 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.
- staggering breaks and lunchtimes, maintaining class groupings and good ventilation of buildings.

We would also like to remind parents and carers 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 pupils.

The response from our pupils has 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 with us, please contact the school directly.

Yours sincerely

Natalie Fitzsimmons
Head Teacher



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