Welcome Back- Useful Information for Parents

We are really looking forward to welcoming our children back to school. We have detailed below some information which may help you to prepare for your child’s return.

The first week back at school is a soft start week. This is to ensure children have the opportunity to experience any new routines and procedures and to settle in with their new teacher and classmates. We appreciate this may be a tough time for some children and parents as they have been away from school for such a long period of time but we would like to re-assure you that we will do everything we can to make the return a positive experience. There may also be other children and parents delighted by the return!

**Return Dates and Times**

**Tuesday 11th August**- Teachers’ Inservice Day

**Wednesday 12th August**- Pre-arranged visits for children

**Thursday 13th August** – P1/2 (Mrs Bell) / P2/3 (Mrs Cassells) /P3/4 (Mrs Stevenson)

**Friday 14th August**- P4/5 (Mr Fyfe)/ P5/6 (Miss Clive) /P6/7 (Mrs Forbes)

**Monday 17th August**- All children return fully

\*\*\* New P1 children may initially arrive slightly later at 9:15am to avoid the busiest time. They may be collected at 12:30pm for the first week. We will discuss this with you on the first visit.

Health and Safety/Risk Assessments

We have detailed risk assessments in place, along with strict health and safety measures. Many of these have been adapted in line with changes to government guidance. Please be assured that your child’s safety and well-being is of the upmost importance to us. We know some of the routines may be different to usual and we ask for you co-operation in all matters. It would be helpful if you can re-inforce the importance of regular handwashing with your child. They will be asked to wash or sanitise their hands on entry to the building and then at regular point throughout the day. We have strict cleaning procedures in place with regards to frequently touched surfaces and areas.

**School Uniform/Belongings**

* We encourage full school uniform but due to outdoor learning opportunities we will allow pupils to wear black leggings or jogging trousers if preferred
* We recommend a waterproof jacket or coat
* Pupils may bring a school bag with a water bottle, small snack for interval and a packed lunch box if they wish
* **No** pencil cases please (All children will be provided with a wipeable A3 zip wallet which has all the items they need for school eg. pencils, rubbers, rulers, coloured pens, glue, scissors etc) Every item has been individually labelled with their name. This is to avoid cross-contamination and children mistaking similar items as their own.
* **No** PE kit required initially
* Please **do not** bring personal items from home
* Jotters can travel between home and school and reading/library books can be sent home but are then put into a 72 hour quarantine before being given out again.

\*\*\* Please label all items clearly with your child’s name.

**Lunches**

* All Primary 1-4 pupils at Cairn Primary are entitled to a free school meal as are children in P5-7 whose parents have applied for the FSM and clothing grant. When we return this will be a pack a snack. No hot meals will be served at the start of term. This is the same across all South Ayrshire schools. Children will be able to select a sandwich, roll or wrap with choice of filling and will also receive fruit, a small snack and a choice of water or milk.
* If you prefer you can send your child to school with their own packed lunch.

**Entry and Exit Points**

* We ask that **P1/2, P2/3,** and **P3/4** enter through the front gate at the P1 square.
* **P4/5, P5/6 and P6/7** should enter through the side gate near the main entrance and walk round to the back of the school.

No adults other than education staff are currently permitted within the school building without a pre-arranged appointment. It is encouraged that parents quickly drop children at the gates to the playground where we will have members of staff there to receive your child. We are asking that children arrive no earlier than 8:55am and we will filter children straight into class to avoid any congregating in the playground. EYC parents and new Primary 1 parents may bring their children into the playground. At the end of the day, the front infant door will open from 2:50pm to avoid congestion and children will be released to their parent for collection. This will start with P1/2, followed by P2/3 and then P3/4. We will keep children here until their parent collects them. We ask that parents stay in the top part of the playground and observe the 2m distancing rule at all times. Primary 4-7 pupils do not need to have an individual handover. The upper school door will open at 3pm and pupils are allowed to leave out the back of the school and side gate. These are trial measures during the soft start week and we will inform you if there are any changes to be made.

Communication between home and school

Communication between staff and parents is vital for the smooth running of the school. Although children no longer have to social distance from each other, adults still need to strictly adhere to the 2m rule. This includes all staff and parents. We realise this makes our usual ways of communicating more difficult. We therefore ask if it’s a quick message please catch a member of staff in the playground, but if you need to speak to someone for any length or time please phone the school office and we will organise the best way to do this.

I appreciate it is a lot of information so if there is anything you are unsure of please do not hesitate to phone the school from Tuesday 11th August on 01655 885802 or please get in touch with the Parent Council who are also able to help.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Flint

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(Acting Head Teacher)