

Information for Parents – Returning to school in August.

Dear Parent/Carer,

I have been issued with South Ayrshire Council's generic risk assessment for returning to school in August. You will find a copy of this on the school blog for your information. Below is a summary of what our return to school in August will look like. If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your child's wellbeing and health is our priority on returning to school, followed closely by their learning.

What will returning to Primary or Early Years look like?

Currently, our plans for returning in August will involve our children returning in two rotations:

Group A: Mondays and Tuesdays

Group B: Thursdays and Fridays

Attendance time on a Monday and a Thursday will be from 8.45 am – 4pm (where appropriate due to taxi times). The additional time on a Monday and Thursday will be offered to children, who want, or need, additional support.

Attendance time on a Tuesday and a Friday will be from 8.45 am until 3.15 pm.

Entering school or Early Years will be staggered at parents' discretion, between 8.45 and 9am. Can I advise parents dropping children off by car, to park in the Hyslop Crescent and to walk children to school. All children including Early Years, but with the exception of P1 children, will enter via main gate and access their classrooms via the fire doors. Primary 1 children will enter via the main door and be met by a familiar member of staff.

With the exception of Early Years and Primary 1 parents/carers, parents should not enter the school playground/building without a prior appointment.

Only one parent should accompany children to school. Parents should maintain 2m distance from other parents. Children should be discouraged from hugging each other.

When will my child return to school or Early Years?

At this moment in time, your child will return to school on either **11th August if they are in group A, or the 13th August if they are in group B.** Staff will prepare for your child returning to school on 10th August – Inservice Day. *This may be subject to change.*

Attendance?

Children and staff will only attend school if they are well and do not display symptoms of Covid 19. Please contact the school as normal if your child is unwell and cannot attend.

How can I contact the Primary School or Early Years?

All physical contact between parents and school will be kept to a minimum. If you need to contact the school or your child's teacher/EYP, this can be done via telephone or email. If you require to speak to someone, please make an appointment.

How will groups of children be identified?

You were recently asked to identify your preference for returning to school. This was to enable us to plan accordingly, meeting the individual needs of parents, especially working parents and those with other commitments. Groups have now been identified to enable classes the space to allow for social distancing. Your child's/children's attendance pattern has been sent to you via Groupcall Expressions, text or email.

Groups are organised according to initial preference, families and transport needs.

We are unable to rearrange groups unless there are exceptional, mitigating circumstances.

What will learning look like in school?

School/Early Years will start at 8.45 am and finish at 3.15/4pm. Those previously paying for additional childcare in Early Years, will be accommodated. There will be a staggered start and end to the school day. This is at parents' discretion as outlined before. On arrival, children will go straight to their classroom. Primary 1 will enter school via main entrance, other primary children will enter via their children's entrance. Your child will be met by an adult they know. There will be a soft start to the school day, with a wellbeing check in for those attending. Morning work will focus on Literacy and Numeracy tasks and afternoons will be put aside for practical activities such as Art, PE and Science. Learning will be a blended approach, using IT from home, and teaching in school. If you have any difficulty accessing digital technology, please let me know.

How will my child be kept safe and socially distance?

Older children will have their own workspace, and younger children will be monitored closely to minimise close contact with each other. The maximum group size identified is 8 children in any one class. Other class groups range from 3-8 children per group. The use of all school space will be encouraged and we are fortunate enough to have a level of staffing to cover this. Class groups will not mix. This includes playtime and lunchtime, which will be staggered, too. Routine cleaning will take place throughout the day. Doors will be left open to minimise the touching of door handles. Children will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly. Older children will be given their own work pack of resources. Resources used by younger children will be cleaned regularly. Children and staff with longer hair should tie this up and jewellery should not be worn, unless in exceptional circumstances. Movement around the school will be kept to a minimum. Janitors will regularly clean toilets throughout the day, along with touch points such as door handles, surfaces etc. Janitors will deep clean the building on a Wednesday. Staff will routinely clean school resources and toys/play equipment.

What will my child do at playtime and lunchtime?

These routines will change throughout the day. Instead of playtimes, children will have free-time at times appropriate to their needs. Lunches, will either be provided as a packed lunch from school or home for both Early Years and Primary children. Children will eat their lunch in their own classroom or playroom. School lunches will be delivered to classrooms by catering staff. Home packed lunches will be kept with children. Early Years will continue to provide a healthy snack and this will be introduced in the Primary School from August. Your child is **not required** to bring their own snack to school.

What should my child wear and bring to school?

Your child should wear comfortable clothes and shoes appropriate for outdoor learning and PE purposes i.e. joggers and trainers. This allows the need for changing clothes within school to be kept at a minimum. School jumpers should be worn. Please ensure that all school jackets and jumpers are named. Your child does not require to bring a school bag to school. There will be no transferring of school resources to and from home. All information will be given to parents digitally, via email, text, Groupcall Expressions or the School Blog. Younger children should wear clothes that are easy for staff to change if required.

How will my child get to and from school?

Rural children in Primary are entitled to school transport. We are currently working with the school transport providers to ensure that social distancing guidelines are kept as you child travels to and from school. Parents may also chose to bring their children to school and collect them at the end of the day. We would encourage children to walk to school, wherever possible. Cars will be encouraged to park away from the school to prevent congestion at the school gates and will walk from here.

What if my child needs changed, has an accident or becomes ill in school?

All first aid/changing procedures will be followed as per guidance from NHS Inform or Care Inspectorate. Staff will wear single use PPE (aprons/gloves) to deal with cut knees, changing etc. If your child becomes ill, they will be removed from the class and brought to the main entrance by a member of staff wearing PPE, including a face mask. Your child will be reassured and kept comfortable. You will be contacted immediately and should make arrangements to collect your child from school as soon as possible. If your child or a member of staff becomes ill with symptoms of COVID-19 they will be required to be tested (if over 5yrs old). Children and staff will only be allowed back to school after a negative test result or appropriate isolation has finished.

**** IMPORTANT - Please keep us informed of any changes to your contact details. ****