

People Directorate

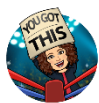
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Our Ref: Your Ref:
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Dear Parents and Carers



Good morning to all our families. Apologies for contacting you during a holiday week, but I felt it would be beneficial just to respond to the First Minister's announcement this week. Confirmation came that from Monday 22nd February, children in EYC and primaries 1, 2 and 3 classes will return to school full time. As mentioned last week, staff have worked hard to plan for this return and so we are ready and delighted to see those pupils back on Monday! Let me outline some points for parents to consider for Monday.



Childcare Hub for children of Key Workers and vulnerable learners from P4-7 will continue as usual from Monday 22nd February. Parents should continue to communicate with school staff regarding attendance pattern, and only use the Hub if all adults within the household cannot work from home and an application has been processed. Pupils attending the Hub should still enter through the main doors, and should not come before 9am. Please consider that parents of children in EYC will also be in the playground and so social distancing is essential.



Bringing our EYC and P1-3 pupils back means additional mitigations will be put in place. Before the holidays, some staff chose to wear a mask when working directly with children. Coming back, the children will see staff wearing masks much more often. They are used to seeing adults wearing masks now, and so I don't think it will impact their time at school. Staff will make judgment calls on this. There is no need for children to wear masks unless they wanted to. They are of course, welcome to do so.



In order to ensure social distancing in the playground, we are going to make a small change to timings for the school day. There will be a soft start from 8:50am as usual for all children in P1-3, where doors will be open and children know to go straight into school without lining up. Where possible, we ask that parents who are dropping off allow the children to do this without being in the playground for too long. Please do not bring children to school before 8:50am. Only one parent should drop off and pick up.

At 2:50pm, we ask that all children in both P1 classes are collected. Parents should come into the playground and social distance using the marked areas to do so. Staff will bring

children out to match up with parents. Parents should leave the playground as quickly as possible to make way for parents of p2 and 3 children.

Parents for children in P2 and 3 classes should pick them up from the playground at 3pm, social distancing, using the marked areas. Staff will bring children out to match up with parents. Parents should leave the playground as quickly as possible.

In order to increase safety within the open area of school, pupils in Miss Marr's P2 class will temporarily move round to the GP room. This will mean only 4 classes will be in the open area at one time, one in each corner. Miss Marr's class will still come into school via the back doors, but will come out of school via the gated area in the back playground.

P1 pupils will have a different break and lunch time from pupils in p2 and P3.

We thank you for your support in trying to ensure that there are not large numbers of parents in the playground at any one time. It is also worth reminding parents that masks **SHOULD** be worn within all areas of the school grounds, and that the school car park **SHOULD NOT** be used for drop off or pick up.



Adults in school will always maintain at least 2m social distance between themselves and their colleagues. We will be working with the children to try to ensure there is more distance than we had before between adults and children during work tasks. Children do not need to social distance from other children, but we will be talking to them on their return about the distance between them and the adults they work with at times throughout the school day.



When we do come back together next week, we will focus on reconnecting as I appreciate that it has been some time since our children have been together. We won't be asking children to complete homework tasks to begin with. Staff will take time with children individually as we would never assume that every child has had the same experience of remote learning. However, knowing our children, they will bounce back quickly and they will get back on track before too long.



Lunches for EYC, P1-3 children, as well as those attending the Hub will be as follows:

Week 2	Sandwich	Soup	Main	Dessert
Monday	Chicken Sandwich		Roast Turkey with Baby Potatoes and Vegetables	Iced Gingerbread with or without Custard
Tuesday	Cheese Sandwich	Lentil Soup	Salmon Fish Fingers with Mash and Peas	
Wednesday	Turkey Sandwich		Chicken Curry with Rice and Naan	Fruit Salad
Thursday	Tuna Sandwich		Pasta Bolognese with Carrots	Ice Sponge with or without custard.

Friday	Cheese Sandwich		Sausages, Mash and Beans	Ice Cream
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EYC children will continue to eat lunch in the playrooms, and P1-3 children will have lunch delivered to their classrooms.



EYC

All the EYC team are really excited to welcome back our parents/ carers and children on Monday 22nd February. We have missed you all so much and can't wait to have busy, noisy and happy playrooms full of children again! We would also like to extend our warmest wishes to our new children and families starting on Monday.

"Transition stories" were emailed out to all our families last week for you to talk through with your child to allay any worries about returning after lockdown. If you did not receive this email please contact us and we will resend it before Monday.

"Welcome stories" were also emailed out to all our new families and children starting on Monday, again if you have not received that email please let us know.

Let's work together:

As our EYC re-opens it remains very important that we minimise the number of contacts, the transmission risk and maintain the progress we have made in suppressing the virus.

This is even more important in the context of the new variants.

One way we can do this is by improving the social distancing at pick up and drop of for the EYC. Please use the marked areas in the playground to ensure social distancing and please leave the playground quickly once you have dropped off and picked up your child.

Timings for pick up and drop for 4-3 Term Time children have changed slightly to dovetail with the new P1-3 timings and to reduce the risk of transmission:

	EYC ROOM A "SUNSHINE"	EYC ROOM B "RAINBOW"	P1-3 CHILDREN
DROP OFF	8.55am	9.05am	ALL: Soft start from 8.50am
PICK UP	2.55pm	3.05pm	P1: 2.50pm P2&3: 3pm

****To further reduce transmission risk, we will no longer bring Room B children into the EYC earlier than the time shown. If you are early please wait out with the EYC playground area until it is your time to drop off rather than join the Room A queue. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. ****

Please contact us directly if these times do not suit your circumstances and we can try and find a solution.

First Week Focus: Love and Connection

The focus for the first week back for the children will be about recovering from lockdown, re-connecting with friends and rediscovering the joy of play. The focus will very much be on their social and emotional well-being. If you have any concerns about your child's return to the EYC please get in touch.



The Scottish Government have yet to set out plans for the physical return to school for pupils in P4, 5, 6 and 7 classes, although they did state that it would not be before March 15th. From Monday 22nd February, the expectation will be that pupils in those classes will continue to engage in remote learning. Staff will continue with videos outlining learning, as well as having at least one live check in meeting every day. There may be a change to these live meeting times, but staff will let children know through Teams of any changes. Please continue to communicate with staff through email or Teams, or of course, call the school office on 01292 612491.



I know that if we all work together, we can ensure the safe return to school for our EYC and P1-3 pupils. As outlined by the First Minister, this return does not mean that children can return to normal out with school. We are encouraging all families to play their part by not having other families round to play, or allowing children to meet up with a larger group of children outside. We have everything crossed that by adhering to the guidance for a bit longer, some sort of normality could resume and the older pupils could return to school safely too.

We are very much looking forward to seeing some of you on Monday, but until then, enjoy the rest of your holiday and stay safe.

Mrs Donnelly x