

People Directorate

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Our Ref: Your Ref:

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Dear Parents and Carers



Hello to all our families. It has been a delight to have children from our EYC and P1,2 and 3 back with us in school this week. Staff worked so hard to ensure that they returned to a familiar, safe and comfortable learning environment and the children seem genuinely happy and settled after a long period of absence from face to face learning. As I mentioned before, this week has been focusing on children reconnecting with their peers and with staff. Teachers have been spending time with children individually, giving them the chance to talk through their remote learning experience and gauging next steps in learning for all.



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.



The soft start at 8:50am seems to be working well for P1-3, and the staggered finish times of 2:50pm for P1 and 3pm for P2 and 3 is also helping, but we must ask that parents do not come into the playground ahead of these times as we know that the playground has seemed very busy at points during this week. We very much appreciate your support in keeping our whole school community safe. We know of families in our community still being affected by COVID and so we all have a part to play to continue to stop the transmission.

P1 pupils will have a different break and lunch time from pupils in P2 and P3. This also seems to be working well.

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.



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

Week 3	Sandwich	Soup	Main	Dessert
Monday	Turkey Sandwich		Mince Pie with Roast Potatoes and Vegetables	Apple Crumble with or without Custard
Tuesday	Cheese Sandwich		Salmon Fish Fingers with Mash and Peas	Rice Pudding and Mandarin Oranges
Wednesday	Chicken Sandwich	Chicken and Rice Soup	Sausage Casserole with Mash and Mixed Veg	
Thursday	Egg Mayo Sandwich		Pizza with Roast Potatoes	Chocolate Sponge with or without custard.
Friday	Tuna Sandwich		Chicken Burger with Potatoes and Beans	Raspberry Ice Smoothie

EYC children will continue to eat lunch in the playrooms, and P1-3 children will have lunch delivered to their classrooms.



This year we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 4th March 2021. We are planning to celebrate this in school with Literacy time, using online books, author activities and reading sessions throughout the school to help nurture a love for reading. Pupils should attend school in school uniform as normal – there is no character dress up day or non -uniform day this year.

World Book Day tokens will be given to all school pupils in Primary 1- 3 today. Pupils in Primary 4 – 7 may come to school to collect their token if they wish. These tokens will be available from the school office from Monday 1st March and are valid until 28th March 2021. Asda and Sainsbury's will not accept digital book tokens on phone or tablet.



Parent Council met on Wednesday evening this week via Zoom. Thanks to all who attended. Please see below a link to the recording of the National Parent Forum of Scotland and Public Health Scotland Webinar on Returning to schools - Early Learning and Childcare to Primary 3, which may be helpful for parents and carers who were unable to attend on the night. A P4-7 one will follow in due course.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iz4PEOXBLs>

The latest Parent Council newsletter is also coming out to you today via Groupcall.



It has been lovely having all our children back playing in the EYC this week. We have been amazed how well they have settled back in and we have really enjoyed seeing them reconnect with their friends and Key Workers.

Thank you all for your patience this week with the revised drop off and pick up procedures. We will continue to evaluate what we do and look for improvements. If it does not suit individual circumstances please drop us an email and we can find a solution. Like you, our main priority is the safety of our children and families during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Some of you have been asking about registration for next year. Registration for early learning and childcare in South Ayrshire will take place ONLINE the week of the 8th March. We are awaiting further information on how you apply online and will forward this to you as soon as we get it. If you have a current ante-pre school child and wish them to remain with us for their pre-school year you must register online during that week.



The Scottish Government have yet to set out plans for the physical return to school for pupils in P4, 5, 6 and 7 classes. The First Minister did make comment about the hope that they will return on March 15th, however we are hoping for confirmation of this on Tuesday next week. For the moment, those pupils will continue to work with their class teachers remotely.



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 don't have very much to update you on this week, and hopefully next week, we will be in a better place to advise about P4-7 returning. Wishing everyone a good weekend – stay safe!

Mrs Donnelly

