



Holmston Primary School February 2021 Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware of the First Minister's statement earlier this week where she identified that the plan is for **Primary 1, Primary 2** and **Primary 3** to return on Monday 22nd February. This is the Monday after the February holiday. This will be confirmed on February 16th, which is during the school holidays but if there are changes to this we will be in touch.

As it stands we are planning a return for these stages based on this information. In order to ensure some consistency for the pupils, we will return to our staggered entry and exit times to keep the classes apart. Parents should continue to wear a face mask when in the playground and where possible only one family member should drop their child off. If you need to come into the playground, ensure that you maintain a two metres distance from other adults including school staff. As previously, parents will not be allowed into the school building at this time.

We will continue to use the same playground doors as we did before this lockdown period:

Primary 1

9.00am – enter school through the Holmston Road P1 door

2.45pm – collect children from Holmston Road P1 door

Primary 2

9.15am – enter school through the Ashgrove Street playground door

3.00pm – collect children from Ashgrove Street playground door

Primary 3

9.00am – enter the school through the Ashgrove Street playground door

2.45pm - collect children from Holmston Road P1 door

Playground

We need to keep the bubbles separate at playtimes. Breaks and lunches will also be staggered to assist with the numbers of children moving around the school building at any one time. Each group will have an allocated area of the playground. The playgrounds used for breaks may vary.

Lunches

P1 – P3 are entitled to free school meals. Initially, this may be in the form of a pack-a-snack or snack box as our hall will be used as a key-worker hub. We are in discussions with the catering staff at the moment and will update you as soon as possible. Pupils can, of course, bring in their own packed lunch.

Key Worker Hub

We will continue to operate our keyworker child care hub for P4 – P7. This will be run by our pupil support assistants and all the pupils that attend the hub will form a bubble. This will be in the school hall. As pupils will be returning in P1 to P3 the number of staff available in the hub has been reduced. Whilst the support assistants provide the opportunity for pupils to access laptops they will not provide teaching or one-to-one

support. There are strict criteria for children who access the hub and places are strictly limited. Further details can be found on the council website. The hub hours are 9.00am to 3.00pm. However, this provision is made on the understanding that adults in the house are unable to work from home and there are no other childcare options. Childcare should not be used when parents are on leave or on days off. If shifts finish at 12.00pm then this is when the child should be collected. It should only be used when an adult is **NOT** at home. This service is not available where any member of the household is displaying symptoms.

Face to Face and Remote Teaching

With a return to school for the P1 – P3 teachers, the online provision will finish at this time. **Primary 1 and Primary 2** will continue to use *Evidence Me* to send out fortnightly newsletters and to collect evidence. This will begin after we have focused on settling the pupils back into school and routines. Teams will not be used in Primary 1 and Primary 2.

In **Primary 3**, the teacher will continue to set homework as previously and this may include some work on Teams.

In **Primary 4 – 7**, the remote learning will continue as it is at present. The class teachers will not be working in school. We would encourage you to ensure your child is engaging, although we appreciate you will do what you can and what works for your family.

In Primary 1-3, if a parent decides they are not going to send their child back due to covid-19, work can be found on the school website. You can also use the BBC materials, the online e-Sgoil materials or the West OS tile on GLOW. Class teachers will be unable to provide work in this situation as their time will be focused on providing classroom learning.

Health and Safety

We will continue to follow all the safety guidance whilst in school with regular hand washing, face masks for adults and two metre social distancing. We will provide all the equipment needed for your child. All your child will need to bring in is their packed lunch and water bottle. School uniform should be worn by pupils in P1 – P3 and please ensure your child has appropriate clothes for going outdoors such as appropriate footwear, waterproof jacket, hats and gloves as the classes may spend extended time learning outside.

All staff at the school will have the opportunity to self-test for Covid-19 twice a week. This is in the process of being rolled out across the country.

We will continue to review and adapt as we receive further guidance and if you have any questions please email into the school. You are doing an amazing job and hopefully as we will head in this new direction the days will become lighter.

We are really looking forward to seeing some of our pupils back.

Do what you can and stay safe!

Richard and the Holmston Team

