



**Shetland
Islands
Council**

Mrs J Wadley
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BELL'S BRAE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/bellsbraeprimary/>

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Dear Parents and Carers

On Friday 17 December the Scottish Government published updated Reducing Risks in Schools Guidance and Early Learning and Childcare COVID-19 Guidance.

Two of the key changes to the previous guidance that will be introduced are:

- A strengthened approach to minimising contacts, primarily through the reintroduction of groupings where practicable indoors
- Tightened restrictions on school visitors, including a return to parent councils and other activities being precluded from operating on the school estate

This letter contains important information regarding your child(ren) return to Bell's Brae School in January 2022.

Lunches	<p>We are keen for learners to continue to eat their lunch in the school canteen. In order to do this and reintroduce bubbles, the following plans are in place:</p> <p>1150 – P1 and P2 in opposite ends of the canteen 1200 – P3 and P4 – outside play 1210/1215 – P3 and P4 in opposite ends of the canteen 1240 – P5 in canteen 1255 – P6 and P7 in opposite ends of the canteen</p>
Breakfast Club/ After School Study Club	<p>These clubs will continue but all learners must sit in their year groups or in family groups. Tables will be set to allow adequate social distancing.</p> <p>Tables for each year group and for family groupings will be set up in the canteen with clear labels. Please ensure your child is aware of this important change.</p>
Non-essential visitors in school	<p>We are having to ask that visitors to school should only be for essential purposes. However, if you feel you need to visit, please contact the school in the first instance so that arrangements can be made. If you do have to come into school, please remember to wear a face covering and report directly to the main school office.</p>
Feeling unwell?	<p>Remember that the main symptoms of COVID-19 to look out for are a new, continuous cough fever/high temperature a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste.</p> <p>If you, or a member of your family, exhibit any of these, please stay at home and immediately refer to the Test and Protect programme at https://www.healthshetland.coc/health-topics/news/uk-government-testing-scheme-up-and-running-in-shetland</p> <p>If your child will not be in school due to illness, whether COVID-19 related or not, please contact the school office in line with our absence management procedures.</p>

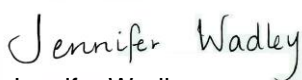
	<p>Should your child start to feel unwell in school, please be assured that we have systems in place to support them. I would remind you that it is essential that we have accurate and up to date contact details for you, including any emergency contact details. Please contact the school if these have changed.</p> <p>If your child tests positive for COVID-19 please inform the school.</p>
Face coverings	<p>All adults in the school must wear face coverings wherever they cannot keep 2m distance from other adults or children and when moving around the school in corridors and other communal areas. There are exemptions within the ELCC, P1, P2 and for staff who support some of our learners with additional support needs.</p> <p>Face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors to all school sites (whether entering the building or otherwise) including parents at drop-off and pick-up.</p>
Ventilation	<p>The latest scientific advice identifies that ventilation is an important factor in mitigating against the risk of far-field (>2m) aerosol transmission. To support this we will be partially opening doors and windows to provide ventilation while reducing draughts.</p> <p>We have CO2 monitors in most classrooms and monitor these on a regular basis.</p>
Personal Belongings	<p>The guidance states children and young people should wherever possible be encouraged not to bring toys from home to the setting or to share their personal belongings.</p>
Communication	<p>Please ensure that we have the most up to date contact details for you and your child's emergency contacts.</p> <p>Things change very quickly with this virus so we ask that parents/carers check their emails on a regular basis.</p>
Testing	<p>The revised NHS low risk letters state:</p> <p><i>"To help reduce the risk to your family and your school community, please also:</i></p> <p><i>Ensure your child takes a lateral flow test before returning to school. This can help reduce the likelihood of spread in schools, by catching infections early.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>If your child is in primary school, you can support them to take a test before returning if you and they are comfortable in doing so. There is no need for your child to continue to test regularly as part of attending primary school."</i> <p>A large number of pupils in the school have already been carrying out regular lateral flow testing. The above information is being shared with you so that you are prepared with a supply of lateral flow kits.</p>

The reintroduction of bubbles indoors is not ideal. The above measures may need to be tightened further, should cases within our community cause concern. However, we are confident that once again our learners will adapt quickly and follow all necessary procedures in school.

Our COVID risk assessment has been updated and can be found on the COVID page of the school website.

Thank you again for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Wadley
Head Teacher