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| **Director of Children’s Services: Helen Budge** | **Children’s Services** |
| Parents and Carers | Hayfield House  Hayfield Lane  Lerwick  Shetland  ZE1 0QD  Telephone: 01595 744000  If calling please ask for  Direct Dial: 01595 74 |
| Our Ref: | Date: This week |
| Your Ref: |  |

Dear Parents and Carers

**Arrangements for the return of children and young people during the first week of the new school term, Tuesday 11 August to Friday 14 August**

1. **Introduction**

On Friday 31 July, Mrs. Budge, the Director of Children’s Services, wrote to inform you that the Scottish Government confirmed on Thursday 30 July that all Scottish schools will reopen full-time in August.

Mrs Budge’s letter explained that a number of measures will be in place to reduce the risk of transmission and support the health and safety of all our children, young people and staff on their return to school.

1. **The ‘soft-start’ to the new term: the phased return to school of children and young people**

In Friday’s letter, there was also confirmation that, given the length of time children and young people have been away from school, the fact that many children will be starting out in a new school, and the need to go over important safety procedures and arrangements, the local authority are planning a ‘**soft-start’** to the first week of the new term.

This means a **gradual and phased return** of children and young people into schools from Tuesday 11 August to Friday 14 August, as opposed to all children returning on the one day.  This will support children reconnect with staff, their peers, and the school environment, as a whole, and enable staff to go over important safety procedures and arrangements.

As far as possible, all children and young people will be back in school full-time by Monday 17 August.

The purpose of this letter is to provide further clarification about arrangements for the first week of the new term in our school.

1. **Arrangements for our school**

Monday- In-service for staff

Tuesday- Visits for individual pupils

Wednesday – any pupils/parents wishing to meet new teachers are welcome for a socially distanced, informal chat in the playground from 1.30-3pm

Thursday- P2 and P5 will attend for a full day.

Friday- P3/4 and P6/7 will attend for a full day.

By Friday 14 August, we expect that:

* Learners will have had the opportunity to reconnect with staff and their peers.
* Learners will have experienced some form of transition to their new class/stage
* Learners will be aware of the fire evacuation procedures. All learners understand the health and safety measures that have been put in place and why and can cooperate to make them work.

1. **Other School News, Staffing Updates, etc.**

Mr Lindsay will be teacher of P5/6/7

Mrs Garrick will be Acting Head Teacher

1. **What happens next?**

We will write again to you at the start of next week with further information about health and safety procedures and arrangements and drop off and pick up arrangements.

*We are aware that some schools have already explained extensively information to parents, which is fine. The confirmed ‘Children’s Services’ Guidance on the Full-Time Return of Children and Young People and Staff to Schools’ will also make reference to visitors to schools, including parents, which will support further communication with parents and carers at the start of week commencing the 10 August.*

Further information will also follow this week on school transport and school dining arrangements.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our children and young people back into school.

Please contact your *child’s pupil support teacher / myself* (*include your school’s arrangements here*) the first instance if you have any concerns about your child’s resumption of full-time education in August.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Garrick

Acting Head Teacher