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Dear Parents and Carers

COVID Measures

On Friday 30 October the Scottish Government published Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance on reducing the risks from COVID-19 in schools - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools>

This revised guidance details important changes for schools to make and details of these are below:

- Face coverings

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. This therefore means that your child(ren) will see more use of face coverings in the school. There are exemptions within the ELCC, P1, P2 and for staff who support some of our learners with additional support needs.

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.

- Ventilation

The latest scientific advice identifies that ventilation is an important factor in mitigating against the risk of far-field (G2m) aerosol transmission. To support this we will be partially opening doors and windows to provide ventilation while reducing draughts. We have a duty to maintain internal temperatures but would recommend that your child(ren) comes to school with appropriate clothing to keep them warm in school during the winter months.

- Physical Education

We are delighted that primary school children will be able to undertake PE indoors. This will begin as soon as we have a completed risk assessment and have adequate safety measures in place.

- Reminders

- Visitors to school and school grounds are for **essential** purposes only.
- Parents/carers are asked to maintain social distancing with other adults and children during pick up and drop off.
- Children are encouraged not to bring toys from home into the setting.

- Website page

We have developed a page on our school website which includes all the COVID related school information in one place. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/ollaberryprimaryschool/>

It also has links to the Scottish Government guidance and other useful websites. Once we have updated our risk assessment to reflect the recent guidance it will be shared on this page.

We appreciate that this updated guidance brings more changes and thank you all for your support and adherence to help us keep Ollaberry Primary School community safe.

Illness

Please keep your child(ren) at home if anyone in the household is displaying COVID-19 symptoms. The main symptoms to look out for remain -

- a new, continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste.

Information on arranging corona virus testing can be found at - <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-testing>

We will continue to follow Children's Services guidance and send home any child who informs us they are feeling unwell. Those who present as having, or who tell us they have, COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated and supported in school while they wait to be collected. NHS Shetland have a lot of advice on norovirus (winter vomiting bug). The key message is to advise the public to stay at home for 48 hours after their norovirus symptoms have stopped to avoid spreading it further.

Staff are able to administer medicines to children only when a Care Plan has been drawn up – these are available at the school office.

Winter Weather

It's that time of year again when we must remind you about dealing with deteriorating weather conditions.

Whenever the weather is reasonable, we will continue to encourage children to get fresh air and exercise so please ensure that your child has a waterproof jacket with them every day and appropriate footwear. As always, try to ensure that all clothing/footwear has your child's name in it.

Information about school closures due to bad weather will be announced on local and national radio – Radio Shetland at 1730, Radio Orkney at 0730 and on SIBC. However parents/carers are responsible at all times for deciding whether to send their children to school. Parents can follow alerts on twitter. A direct link to this can be accessed through the Shetland Islands Council home page www.shetland.gov.uk click on twitter 'follow@shetlandsCll' button at the top right corner of the page. We will also add updates to our school website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/ollaberryprimaryschool/>

If we are ever in a position that the school has to close after the school day has begun, parents/carers will be notified via email and given specific information on where to collect their child(ren) from. Messages will also go out via the media. As parents/carers should not enter the school building and to ensure we do not have large gatherings, where social distancing is difficult, we will be asking parents/carers to go (wearing a face covering) to the school door that their child uses and speak to the designated member of staff. This member of staff will then ensure that your child(ren) is brought to you.

Yours sincerely

Julia McGinlay

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