

A letter to all Parents/Carers of children attending Victoria Park School

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the announcement made by FM Nicola Sturgeon on 30th July, most of you will now be aware of the plan to open our schools from the start of the new session.

All Local Authorities and schools have received comprehensive guidance from the Scottish Government to support this return. This guidance starts by saying:

"It is the Scottish Government's intention that all children and young people, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the autumn term in August so as to benefit once again from all that school brings to their lives.

The Scottish Government welcomes local authority decisions which enable children and young people to return to school full-time as quickly and safely as possible and expects all pupils to be in school full-time by 18 August at the very latest."

[\(Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance on preparing for the start of the new school term in August 2020, July 2020\)](#)

I attended a Head Teacher's Meeting on Friday 31st July where the plans proposed to enable this return were discussed. Discussions also took place about the need to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and parents.

It was agreed that a phased approach would provide a softer start to school return for our pupils. We believe that the plans for SLC schools returning will allow for all pupils to be welcomed back safely and to begin to adjust to the changes required to keep as safe as possible after a very long absence from school.

Today a letter from Executive Director, Tony McDaid, outlining the plans SLC have made for the opening of our schools, has been circulated online. I have posted this on our website.

South Lanarkshire Education Resources have proposed a model for this soft start, which schools have been able to adapt to suit their setting. The proposal for a phased return is as follows:

- **Wednesday 12th August P1 Pupils**
- **Thursday 13th August P1 - P3 only**
- **Friday 14th August P4 – P7 only**

As the Scottish Government guidance states composite classes should be brought in together, this means our model for return is slightly different to other schools in the area, as a few of our classes are composite and I feel children should come in to school with their class mates. Please see the table on the following page for details of the model for phased return at Victoria Park School.

Transport contractors will be in touch with families to advise and confirm days for next week and to introduce teams of drivers and escorts to parents/carers and children.

I have kept classes and rooms as close as possible to the groupings and staff teams from last session, acknowledging the very specific educational and health needs of our children and would want them to return, where ever possible to staff teams that know your child. With a very small number of pupils I have had to make changes to the class they are in, due to numbers within particular year groupings. This will have been discussed with most parents whose children are effected at the end of last term where we had up to date contact details. I still have to communicate with a small number

of parents whose child will be going into a new class where communication was not possible. For parents of children in Room 2 our Depute last session please note your child will be moving into Room 5 in August. You will have had notification of your child's class teacher when we sent details of the arrangements for the Blended Learning Model. There have been thankfully no changes to the teaching staff for classes since then. If you are in any doubt as to which day your child should be attending for the first week please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be working from school on Friday 7th August and will be able to make and take calls.

As parents you will possibly have many more questions about our return. I will be working with the Victoria Park staff and senior managers in the coming days to look carefully at the guidance sent to us by the Scottish Government and what this means for us as a school.

I hope you are able to enjoy the last week of the holiday

Yours sincerely

Liz Coomber Head Teacher

Phased Return Model for Victoria Park School			
Wednesday 12 th August	Room 2 Pupils only	Class Teacher	P1 + new start P2 Class
Thursday 13 th August	Room 1	Elspeth Blair/Alexandra Dickie	Straight P2 Class
	Room 2	Margaret Duffy	P1 + new start P2 Class
	Room 5	Leeanne Inglis	P3/P4 Composite Class
	Room 8	Aileen Murray	Multi Composite Class
Friday 14 th August	Room 3	Diane Rodman	Multi Composite Class
	Room 4	Alison Hawthorn	P6/P7 Class
	Room 6	Heather Gilchrist	Multi Composite Class
	Room 7	Jeanne – Marie Rohwer	P4/P5 Class