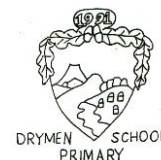


4<sup>th</sup> August 2020



**Drymen Primary School**  
Old Gartmore Road  
Drymen  
G63 0DY

Tel. 01360 660410  
Headteacher: Patrick Robertson  
Email: [drymenps@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:drymenps@stirling.gov.uk)

## **Return to School Information August 2020**

Dear Families,

Drymen Primary will reopen following the summer holiday on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August for all children**. This follows advice from our local authority and the Scottish Government. We are very excited to see the children back at school and look forward to them being in the building with their friends once again. I appreciate this is a long email, but I wanted to provide you with important information at this point.

Although all children will be coming back on Wednesday, I must reinforce that we will have a number of new routines in place and it will take a little time for us all to adjust. I appreciate everyone's understanding and patience at this time. Some changes may be short-term and we should be prepared to change routines at short notice if new guidance becomes available. The key changes to be aware of at this point are as follows:

- 2m physical distancing should be maintained between adults and adults, and adults and children/young people who are not from the same household, wherever possible. This includes physical distancing between parents and carers in the playground. Physical distancing between children in primary schools is not expected.
- Schools are encouraged to maintain children and young people in consistent groups throughout the school day, wherever possible.
- Children will wash their hands when they enter the school and at other times during the school day.
- We will encourage the children to wash their hands if they sneeze, cough or touch their face.
- Hand sanitizer units have been placed outside each classroom for the children to use when they enter their classroom.
- Children will eat their lunches in the classroom or outside if the weather is suitable. A menu for school lunches is attached within this email.
- We are encouraging, when possible, all children to remain in school for lunch. Please do contact the school if you need to discuss this arrangement for your child further.
- Our Breakfast Club provision will not be in place for the beginning of term. Should there be an update to this, I will let you know at the earliest opportunity.
- When possible, children in P4-7 could walk to and from school on their own. This reduces the number of adults in the school playground and at the entrance making physical distancing easier. If you do bring your child to school or if your child is in P1-P3, we would appreciate **if just one adult could accompany them**. A separate email will be sent to our new P1 families to discuss arrangements for P1 during the first week.

- Parents/Carers should leave promptly once your child is in the playground. We hope families understand that under normal circumstances, everyone is welcome in our playground. We believe that catching up with other families and staff at the beginning and end of the day is an important part of the school community. **However, at this point in time, we are encouraging parents and carers to exit the playground at the earliest chance and of course we will review this in time.**
- The children will line up as normal, however they will enter their classroom via the classroom door not the main entrances. Your child's teacher will explain this on the first day. **Please be aware of parents coming in and out of the gate to the playground, so you may need to wait to support physical distancing.** As outlined in my letter last week, the children can bring their own stationery to school but this should not be shared with other children.
- Staff will not generally be wearing PPE in school such as aprons, gloves or face coverings, but may under specific circumstances such as providing first aid. Staff may be required to wear a face covering if they cannot physically distance from another adult for a sustained period.
- Anyone wishing to wear a face covering in school should be allowed to do so.
- Our break and lunch timings remain the same. Children should not share their snacks with other children. P1 will play in the P1 playground as normal for the first part of the term.

### **Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms**

The whole school community should be vigilant for the symptoms of COVID-19.

- A high temperature
- A new, persistent cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If your child displays symptoms in school, we will phone their emergency contact to collect them from school. Any member of staff who displays symptoms will leave school until they have had a test. If your child or someone at home has tested positive for COVID-19 or is displaying symptoms, they should follow NHS advice on self-isolating and testing. Please see the link for NHS advice on staying at home and receiving treatment.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>

### **Communication with the school**

A member of the leadership team will be in the playground in the mornings and at the end of the school day, unless they are in a meeting. Please telephone the school in the morning if your child is going to be absent or is running late. **Please do not send an email to report absences.**

We shall continue to communicate news, updates and achievements via the following channels:

- Newsletter & Emails (let us know if your email has changed)
- The App (Please see our Twitter for details on how to download)
- Twitter
- Your child's school diary

If you have any questions or concerns and would like to talk with your child's teacher, please contact the school office and we will organise for someone to call you back. At the moment, parents and visitors coming into the school building should be minimised. Please telephone the school in the first instance. Mrs Strachan or I may come out to the front door of the school to talk if this is appropriate, rather than coming inside.

## Pick Up Times

To support physical distancing at the end of the school day, we will be asking for the first two weeks for children (according to the surname) to be collected at the following times. Children who get school transport will not be affected. P4-7 may walk home on their own and we would normally expect P1-3 to be collected by an adult.

Surname A-E depart at 3.15pm

Surname F-M depart at 3.25pm

Surname N-Z depart at 3.30pm

During the first couple of weeks, your child's teacher will focus activities in the classroom around getting to know them, their class charter which sets out what the children and teacher would like their classroom ethos to be like, our school values and establishing new routines. All classes will have opportunities for play with their friends. Following this settling in period, teachers will then begin to assess your child's literacy and numeracy to plan for the term ahead, taking into account discussions with your child's previous teacher from last session.

Staff will be organising classroom environments on our inservice days and completing mandatory training on COVID-19, child protection and fire safety. I hope you find this information helpful and I look forward to welcoming Drymen Primary's children back to school on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August.

With thanks,

Patrick Robertson *MSc, BEd (Hons)*

Head Teacher.