

St Columba’s Primary school

Thursday 6th August 2020

Headteacher Miss F Smyth

You should have received a group call to inform you of the planned phased return to school, dates shown below.

PHASED RETURN DATES:

· **Wednesday 12th – Friday 14th** New Primary 1 pupils to attend in the morning only. P1 children will not be in school for lunch until the week beginning 17th August when all pupils will attend on a full time basis

· **Wednesday 12th August** Primary 2 – 4 pupils to attend

· **Thursday 13th August** Primary 5 – 7 pupils to attend

· **Friday 14th August**  All P1—7 pupils to attend for full morning

On Wednesday 12th August and Thursday 13th August, pupils who are not in attendance at school will be provided with home learning from their teacher.

We hope that you and your family have managed to have a good holiday and that your child is excited about coming back to school. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone soon.

Breakfast Club

* Breakfast club will start on Wednesday 12th August for children who are attending school that day. Breakfast club will run from 8.15am until 8.40am. Children will not be in the building until 8.15am. No parents should be waiting with their child at the front entrance for health and safety reasons. Children should enter via the school main entrance.

School Lunches

* Lunch service will resume from the school dining hall. Children will eat their lunch in the gym hall to allow adults to apply social distancing guidelines.
* Staggered break and lunch times will be in place to limit contact between groups of children

Entrance and exit points

This is one of the main changes we have made to the start and end of our school day. We will have a soft start system in place for children to make their way into the school building from 8.50am. School staff will be at various points within the school building and playground

* P1-P4 will enter through the one way system at the main gate. Parents will drop children at the gate where a member of our staff team will be there to greet your child.
* P5-7 children should enter the school via the gate on the lane, a member of the staff team will also be at this gate.

This is to limit traffic in the playground in the morning.

* At the end of the school day P2/3 children and P3/4 children can be collected from the main playground, from the designated area, ensuring social distancing is applied between adults. You will then leave the playground via the gate on the lane.
* Any P1/2 children will be collected from the main entrance gate.
* Teachers will wait with their children until they are collected.

If you have children in p2/3 or p3/4 you will be allowed to walk through the side gate in the playground to collect them.

P5-P7 will exit via the side gate in the lane.

As far as it is safe to do so, children and parents/carers are encouraged to travel to school on foot, bike, scooter or park and stride. Parking is available in the car park. Parents are not permitted to use the staff car park.

**Risk Assessment**

Please be assured that the safety, health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff is our key priority and we will adhere strictly to advice from the Scottish Government and WL Council to ensure that everyone is safe and well.

The new risk assessment will include essential public health measures such as:

· enhanced hygiene and environmental cleaning arrangements;

· minimising contact with others and physical distancing for adults;

· wearing appropriate personal protective equipment where necessary;

· a requirement that people who are ill stay at home; and

· active engagement with Test and Protect. **Please note that there is no requirement for children to wear a face covering or for physical distancing between children in a primary school.**

Anyone with a high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of (or change in) sense of smell or taste, or who has had contact with a family/community member with symptoms, should not attend school. If a child begins to display these symptoms when in school they will be isolated and will be asked to return home and be tested.

Renewal Planning

Our renewal plan reinforces the importance of literacy, numeracy and wellbeing as a critical focus in renewal. Balancing efforts to address learning with children and young people’s social and emotional needs will be a priority. We recognise that some children will need additional time and support to re-adjust to the school environment. We will release a short video in due course to keep you up to date with curriculum changes.



**Should my child wear school uniform?**

Yes, they should return wearing

* Grey/black skirt/trousers
* White shirt or blouse
* Green/grey jumper or cardigan- no need to have a logo jumper, many supermarkets sell what you will need.
* PE kit should consist of white t-shirt, black shorts/leggings
* We will be participating in outdoor PE from August, where possible, so please bear that in mind.
* Children should come to school wearing their PE kit so they do not need to change as an additional safety measure
* We will issue the new PE timetable when we return next week

**What should my child bring to school?**

· Your child should only bring essential items to school. Every child will be given their own pack of writing and coloured pencils from the school, along with other items of stationery, so there is no need to bring their own. Children will not be allowed to share items from home

· If your child prefers a packed lunch they are permitted to bring this to school

· Please do not allow your child to bring toys or other non-essential items to school

· Children can bring hand sanitiser if they wish

* There is no need for children in primary school to apply social distancing with each other or wear a face covering

Please continue to check the app for further updates over this last week of the holiday. I am sure you will understand that this is a developing situation and things can change at short notice according to national and local guidance. You can also see a ‘Back to School’ animation on the WL Council website

<https://westlothian.gov.uk/back-to-school>

We will also release a short video of the changes in our school so children know what to expect next week. This will be shared on Monday

We look forward to seeing all our children next week. Thank you for your continued support. Please take care and stay safe!

Miss Smyth

If you require any support with uniform items, please contact the school office where it will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. The school office will open again on Tuesday.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff, please call the school to book an appointment. Parents should not enter the school building unless they have an appointment.