

3rd August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Full- time return to School and Early learning and childcare settings

We are delighted to be able to welcome children and young people back into Highland schools from Wednesday 12th August, following the [guidance](#) received from the Scottish Government. Some of our schools will be bringing back pupils in a phased return by Tuesday 18th August, as agreed nationally. You will receive information from your Head Teacher informing you of your child's return date between the 12th and 18th of August. This is to ensure that all children and young people have the right support to ensure a safe return.

Throughout this pandemic to date it has been necessary to work in new and innovative ways to ensure learning has been able to continue. The resilience and commitment shown by school staff, learners and families is very much appreciated.

I know that some of you may be feeling anxious about schools reopening, but please feel reassured that this is very normal. Your child will be welcomed back to a warm, supportive and safe environment.

The return to full-time education was conditional on infection rates being sufficiently low to continue to control the virus, public health and testing systems being in place and protective measures and risk assessments being carried out in schools.

The Highland Council staff have put in place the necessary risk assessments and protective measures in each school to allow this to happen. We will be following the Education Recovery Guidance, which has been agreed by the Scottish Government based on the latest scientific advice.

A report on the full re-opening will be considered by the Education Committee on Thursday 6th August. This will be published online on Tuesday 4 August.

This letter probably does not answer every question that you have about your child returning to school. Your own school will be in touch with more information. Communications with our parents, carers, their families and our staff on their return to education and learning is of the highest importance. Therefore, the Highland Council has created a [back to school](#) webpage on our website to provide updated information and advice which is reviewed regularly. It is understandable that you will have questions and concerns about the return to school and/or

ELC settings in August. Attached to this letter are frequently asked questions (FAQs) which we hope will provide reassurance that we will be taking every precaution to ensure the environment is as safe as possible.

An update on school transport will be issued shortly.

Finally, I know that the last five months have been a challenge for us all and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and our children and young people for the commitment and resilience that you have shown. I am confident that our staff will provide a high quality and safe return to Education for all of our young people.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Grant' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicky Grant
Head of Education