

7th August 2020

Parent Guide for Return to School

As always, the safety and wellbeing of our children, young people, their families, and our staff is our top priority. If you are feeling uneasy, we hope the measures we have put in place reassure you that your child will be safe upon returning to school. Please get in touch if you have any questions or require clarification. We don't know all the answers, but we will endeavour to find out!

An important message must be shared – school is not opening “as normal” and your children should be prepared for that scenario. It is also important to note that all of the advice below is subject to change at very short notice as the School receives further guidelines.

Preparing for School

- Children should only attend school if they are feeling well
- Personal belongings should be kept to a minimum but pupils should bring:
 - ✓ PE kit (suitable for PE outdoors – an idea to include layers, suitable shoes etc.)
 - ✓ School bag (if you feel it is necessary – if you don't feel it is needed, don't send it!)
 - ✓ Packed Lunch box/bag (if needed that day)
 - ✓ Charged Chromebook (if your child has one allocated)
 - ✓ School uniforms should be washed/cleaned as normal – there is no requirement for uniforms to be cleaned on a daily basis

Please do not allow children to bring toys etc.

- Discussions with pupils (at school and at home) should be held around good hygiene practices including:
 - Avoiding touching the eyes, nose and mouth areas
 - Sneezing or coughing into the crook of the elbow or a tissue (and disposing of the tissue straight into the bin)
- **Indoor shoes** – we are asking for indoor shoes NOT to be worn and for the children to keep on the shoes they arrive to school with. However suitable shoes will be needed for PE lessons which, for the first term, will be outside PE lessons. Children are not permitted to leave indoor shoes in school so they will need to come to school with indoor shoes in their school bag on the days they have PE. These days will be communicated to you by the teacher.
- Children will not need stationery as the school will issue this for each pupil – but they can take pencil case with pencils, colouring pencils or pens, rubber etc. which should be kept in school. (please remind your child not to share their belongings with others)

Arriving at School/Leaving School

- Please do not arrive at the playground before **8.45am**
- A member of staff will be on hand to issue hand sanitizer
- Pupils should be dropped off at the school gate – **please be vigilant about social distancing if other parents and children are around.**

PARENTS SHOULD NOT ENTER THE PLAYGROUND

- When the bell rings, the Class Teacher will welcome pupils at the door and escort them into the classroom where initial handwashing will take place
 - P1-3 Old P4/5 door
 - P3-5 Hall door
 - P5-7 Cloakroom door
- On leaving school at the end of the day, staff will escort pupils back out of the building and hand sanitizer will be issued. Parents will collect pupils from the gate. **Please be vigilant about social distancing.**
- At the end of the day separate gates should be used
 - P1-3 side gate facing the carpark/big field
 - P3-5 bottom gate facing the houses
 - P5-7 exit via the main entrance and make their way home

How the Classroom and Education Will Look

- Pupils are not expected to physically distance in school – this means that they will work at desks with other children etc. as has always been the case
- Children are not required to wear face coverings in the school environment. If you have any concerns, please speak to a member of staff
- Staff **may** be seen wearing a mask for a number of reasons e.g. if it is not possible for them to maintain 2m distance or if they are working closely with pupils for a period of more than 15 minutes
- Windows in classrooms will be open as much as possible to aide ventilation (layers of clothing might be a good idea!)
- There will be no Assemblies or whole school activities at present in order to minimise the gathering of larger groups indoors
- All PE will be outdoors (this could be in a variety of good old Scottish weather!)
- Class Teachers will be using the playground for Outdoor Learning as much as possible, so please ensure your child comes dressed appropriately each day
- The school will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day and also during the school day
- All staff have been asked to leave the school building by 3.30pm each day in order for the cleaning of rooms to take place – please bear this in mind if you are looking for us after school!
- There will be a very select number of adults entering the school to minimise risk – these include school staff, janitorial staff and cleaners. Parents wishing to speak with a member of staff should contact the school by phone or through email. If it is necessary for meetings to take place with parents, it is hoped that these can be done online. If a meeting in the school building is the only option, a Risk Assessment will be required and the meeting will therefore not take place immediately.
- Pupils will be given their own set of resources to use in the class. Sharing of resources will be kept to an absolute minimum and where it does happen resources will be wiped down and/or sprayed between use.

Movement Around the School

- All learning will take place in one room for the day or out in the playground
- Each class will be assigned their own toilets to use. Staff will ensure that hand washing has taken place on leaving the toilets.
- Internal doors within the school will be open as much as possible to minimize the need to touch door handles.

Eating at Break and Lunch

- Staff will monitor handwashing prior to anything being eaten.
- At break, pupils will eat in the playground (see below for further details on Playing outside at break and lunch)
- Snacks are permitted to be taken from home and Mairi's snack bar will not be open.
- Lunch – eaten in their classroom or out in the playground classroom.
- School dinners will be available – this will initially be a soup and sandwich lunch. A menu will be issued shortly.
- In order to minimise the risk surrounding the handling of cash for adults in school, it is necessary that pupils should pay for their lunches at the beginning of the week, bringing money/cheques to school in an envelope marked with their name. This is because we need to leave the envelopes 72 hours before handling. **P1-3 continue to be in receipt of free school meals ☺**

Outdoor Play at Break and Lunch

- Pupils will play outside at break and lunch
- Staff will be in the playground at all times
- Equipment will not be provided for pupils to play with
- Please discourage your child from bringing things from home to play with as these could easily be passed between children
- On their return to class, pupils will wash hands

Transport

- Guidance is still to be received but for those who get school transport. As the people carrier is a contracted school bus, this is seen as an extension of the school estate and, as such, pupils will not be required to wear face masks. If this changes I will let you know! Again good handwashing before and after being in the bus should be maintained.

Children Becoming Unwell

If a child becomes ill during their time in school, they will be isolated from their class until they can be collected. **Please ensure that you are contactable throughout the school day.**

A member of staff will be designated to stay with the child in the Medical Room.

If the child's sickness is symptomatic of Covid 19 then a test should be requested by parents. If the child tests positive, NHS Test and Protect will take over responsibility and contact all of those that need to self-isolate.

A reminder that if your child is unwell in the morning, please do not send them into school.