

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August the Scottish Government published the revised Education Continuity Direction which allows schools to reopen from next week. We very much look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> onwards, in particular all those in P1 and S1 who are new to the school.

Earlier this week we provided an [update](#) on our plans for reopening. A full risk assessment has been undertaken and we are confident that the school is compliant with all mandatory aspects of the Scottish Government guidance. We have consulted with our Board members and with our Heads of Department on timetabling arrangements which can deliver on some of the “where possible” features within the guidance. In particular, the fact that almost all secondary pupils walk to school allows us to structure the school day in ways which stagger the day and keep pupils (particularly senior pupils) apart.

The arrangements for next week and the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> August have been published on our web site [here](#). Please click on the relevant box for your child(ren).

Please note

- Each Primary year group has slightly different start and end times in order to minimise pressure at the school gates.  
As previously advised, parents are not permitted to enter the school buildings. Staff will be in the playground to escort younger pupils to class. Pupils from P5 up should go directly to their classroom.
- S1-S3 will come into school on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>, but not Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>.
- S4-S6 will come into school on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>, but not Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>.
- As always, all Secondary pupils go directly to their first class. At present there will not be Tutor time at 11.00am.
- All pupils (other than P1) will be in school as normal from Friday 14<sup>th</sup> but with different start and end times.

From Friday 14<sup>th</sup> half of secondary will commence each day at 09.00 while the others will commence at 09.55. Details [here](#). In addition, periods 3 and 4 each day will be double periods for all Secondary pupils. This will allow us to stagger intervals and lunchtimes while enhancing social distancing and reducing the number of change overs daily. We will talk pupils through the details on their first day in school.

We appreciate that these are significant changes from the norm, but we have a duty to try and enhance COVID security and to minimise the likelihood of infection and of more significant restrictions being placed on the school's operations as a result. These arrangements will be reviewed after the first couple of weeks.

In addition to the year specific information we would ask that you read the **Advice for Parent**, the **Key Messages for Pupils** and the **Food and Drink** sections on the same [page](#).

Pupils should wear normal school uniform. However, on the day they have PE pupils should come to school in their PE kit and wear that for the day.

At present the guidance is that all PE should take place outdoors. If the weather is inclement Primary PE will be cancelled and pupils will stay with their class teacher. With venues closed and other restrictions, we cannot as yet commence our normal Wednesday afternoon sports programmes for pupils in S4-S6. In the short term, pupils in S4-S6 will simply have to go home at lunchtime on Wednesdays. Hopefully, this will change quickly.

No doubt unanticipated issues will arise as we seek to embed the new arrangements. As stated above, we will be reviewing how things are working on an ongoing basis.

I trust everyone has an enjoyable weekend as we eagerly anticipate the start of the new session.

Kindest regards

Paul W. Thomson