

*Our vision is to ensure all our pupils are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included, so that each individual can be fulfilled and reach their potential within a supportive and proactive community.*



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24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will have received information regarding your child's class today and the name of their teacher. We have been very frustrated that we could not give this to you sooner but the transport form data had to be used to plan the groupings.

Yesterday we learned that the virus is coming under control and there is a lot of hope that we will be able to open fully in August. For some of our older pupils, their class teacher will be different depending on whether we open in full or open under the current guidelines for two metre social distancing. You will have received the teacher name for both scenarios and it is now just a case of waiting to see what happens with the virus over the summer.

Our school will be required, as are all Scottish schools, to follow Government Guidance which means all plans are subject to change.

**Plan 1:**

We return to school full time with all pupils and maintain careful hygiene and infection control measures. Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August will be in-service days and pupils will return on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>. This may still be with slight adjustments to our normal routines, for example different entry doors, still avoiding cross contamination between bubbles.

**Plan 2:**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August will be in-service days and Group B pupils will return on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>. Group A pupils will return on Monday 18<sup>th</sup>.

Pupils will return for two days in school and will be supported to learn at home on the other days. This format is Group A Monday and Tuesday, Group B Thursday and Friday with teachers preparing and signposting online learning on the Wednesday while the school is being cleaned and resources changed over for the change of group.

In this scenario we will also be allocating doors and toilets to maintain three bubbles.

Bubble 1 – Nursery and P1 – Miss Stevenson

Bubble 2- Mrs I Watson, Mrs Davidson and Miss Cordiner

Bubble 3 – Mrs Elrick, Mrs Biffen and Mrs Watson.

The groupings have been planned to allow for school transport requirements and to keep families together. These cannot be changed.

PSA staff are allocated to particular bubbles and will not move between them. Areas of the playground will also be allocated for bubbles at break times. Lunches will be served in classrooms.

The staff will meet and greet pupils on their first day to show them where their entry door will be and support social distancing while changing shoes and hand washing.

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### **Hygiene:**

What ever happens we will still be wishing to be vary careful about infection control. Handwashing will be a significant aspect of this and I would recommend your child brings in their own wee tube of hand cream to keep on their desk if they have sensitive skin. The water fountain can only be used to fill water bottles, not drunk from directly.

Face masks for pupils are entirely welcome and also completely optional. Please bring as little to school as possible, All stationery will be provided by school for individual use only. All shared materials will be carefully cleaned and soft furnishings have been removed completely.

### **Learning:**

We are blown away by the incredible efforts of our parents and carers to maintain learning at home and we have no illusions about how difficult that has been. You really have been fantastic and not only have you been keeping your child learning you have also had the massive challenge of keeping them happy in a frustrating time. When the school returns we will be making sure we create a nurturing place of learning that is full of happiness and the usual buzz of busy children. We will take the learning on from where your child is on their return to school and if there is anything that needs a bit of extra input, we will be able to identify what needs to be done. Please do not worry about falling behind or the change of school year meaning a big leap in what is being taught, we are sensitive to the needs of the individuals returning.

### **Uniform:**

We are hoping that your chid will be comfortable and happy in school. If we come back part time you might not want to invest in uniform that is rarely worn. However some of our pupils far prefer uniform for school. For this reason we will leave it up to families to decide. Please, however, make sure everything is clearly labelled and clean on each day. Also be prepared for the usual mess of paints and glue that can ruin a good jumper! The play ground often has four seasons in one day so coats are always needed.

### **Devices:**

If you have borrowed a device from school please return it before the end of term or contact the school to arrange for it to be collected.

### **Thank you:**

On a personal note I would like to say thank you to everyone who has understood the complexities we have been working with and has supported us with encouraging words, patience and understanding. Thank you for the many wonderful photographs and videos, you have no idea how much joy they have brought the staff. The incredible support from our families and our wider community has really kept us motivated and upbeat.

Thank you to our pupils for joining in with the hard stuff and the silly stuff and just being really good sports all along. We know it hasn't always been easy but I think we can safely put a big tick next to resilience for our boys and girls.

Thank you to the staff for planning and preparing resources every single teaching day since lockdown began and going the extra mile to support pupils. Also for keeping in touch with our families, delivering resources and devices and opening up your homes in photos and videos. Nothing in our training prepared us for a pandemic!

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Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen James". The signature is written in a dark ink on a light-colored background.

**HELEN JAMES**  
Head Teacher