



Education Resources
Executive Director Tony McDaid

5th August 2020

Dear Parent

Return to School August 2020

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all pupils and families, with a particularly warm welcome to all our new Primary 1 pupils. We are aware that school will look and feel different for us all, but as always, our priority will be to support the health and wellbeing of all pupils, parents/ carers and staff.

You will be aware that Scottish Government have now agreed on a full time return for all pupils by Tuesday 18th August. The full document can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020/>

In line with the advice above and letter of 3 August from Tony McDaid, Executive Director Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council, I write to advise you of our plans for a managed return as per below:

Date	Managed Return Arrangements
Tuesday 11 August	Inset Day, school closed to all pupils
Wednesday 12 August	Primary 1 children only
Thursday 13 August	P.2/1, P.3/2 and P.4/3
Friday 14 August	P.6/5 and P.7/6
Monday 17 August	All pupils from Primary 1-7

Unfortunately, due to distancing P.1 parents will be unable to accompany the children into the school building. We appreciate how disappointing this is however we have arrangements in place to take the 'traditional' photos in class e.g. child at his/her desk and email these out to parents.

A Parent Information Sheet from South Lanarkshire Council, which outlines some key information to support the safe return of all pupils will be on the Council web pages shortly, other information you may find helpful is also included below.

We are updating the parent frequently asked questions guidance previously issued to take account of new advice and will post this on the school app.

- We are continuing to use the main pupil gate.
- There will be no breakfast club operating, however until it begins again staff will be in the playground from 8.30am for any parent who needs to drop their child earlier. We hope this is a help for working families.
- Please ensure you follow the 2m social distance rule at all times when you drop/collect your child from school. We all have a responsibility to keep ourselves and others safe.
- School starts at the usual time of 8:55am
- Children will 'drift' directly into class when they arrive at school, for most children this will be from 8:45am onwards.
- Parents are asked to drop and go in the morning and collect and go at the end of the day.

Phone:

Email: @southlanarkshire.gov.uk



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



- The staggered finish/pick-up arrangements previously issued remain in place (a reminder of these will be included in our updated parental guidance).
- Distancing markings will be painted on the pavement outside the school gate, please adhere to these. There will also be a 'no waiting' area painted off close to the gate. This is especially important at the end of the day as this will give the member of staff supervising the gate clear sight of which parent have arrived to collect children.
- At present our lunches will be in the classroom, these will be staggered. Home lunches will be at the usual time of 12:15pm-1pm.

On the first day only, Primary 1 pupils should arrive between 8:45am and 9am and be collected between 2:45pm and 3pm. During these times parents are welcome to take photographs in the playground. Staff will direct you to physically distanced areas where these can be taken.

General advice

- ✓ All children will be required to wash or sanitise their hands on entry to the school building and to classes.
- ✓ There remains the need for 2m social distancing around the school perimeter at all times for parents/carers and any other visiting adults. Where this is difficult, our advice would be to wear a face covering where possible.
- ✓ We are required to keep the number of visitors to the school to a minimum, in accordance with national guidance. Any contact with the school should be made by telephone or email to the office in the first instance.
- ✓ Additional parent information is also available on the National Parent Forum:
<https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/07/23/back-to-school-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/>

Further advice, in line with national and South Lanarkshire Council guidelines, will be issued via our school app and Twitter as it becomes available.

If your child is feeling anxious about returning to school, please contact us and we can arrange a short transition visit before they return.

Should you have specific questions in relation to these arrangements which is not covered in the advice given, please contact the school office on telephone number 01555 772580 or email address office@highmill-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Enjoy the last few days of the summer holiday and stay safe!

Kind regards



Kirstine McDonald
(Head Teacher)