

Robert Owen Memorial Primary School



Return to School

August 2021

Robert Owen Memorial Primary School

Following the First Minister's announcement on Tuesday 3rd August, please find below the health and safety arrangements for your child's return to school on Monday 16th August 2021. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back all of our pupils as well as our new P1 pupils and new pupils who are joining us at various stages across the school.

We would really appreciate it if you could familiarise yourself with this document and discuss it with your child so that all children are fully aware of what is expected of them when they return to school.

Social Distancing

Children do not need to adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rule with other children but guidance discourages large groups of pupils gathering in one place. Due to this, normal whole school assemblies will not take place.

Class bubbles are no longer required, however, as the adults in the school have still to adhere to the 2 metre distancing rule, our playtimes and lunchtimes will still be staggered. This in effect will mean that during playtimes and lunchtimes, children will be able to mix with other children from classes in their zone.

- Children in Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 4a will be able to play together
- Children in Rooms 7, 8 and 9a will be able to play together
- Children in Rooms 9b, 12, 13 will be able to play together
- Children in Rooms 5, 6, 10 and 11 will be able to play together

From the outset, we would ask that you as adults take your social responsibility seriously and adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rule by staying away from anyone who is not in your own household while in the vicinity of the school. We would appreciate it if you did not wait at the gates/playground once you have dropped/collected your child to avoid congestion.

Face Coverings

Face coverings will continue to be worn by adults in communal areas within the school and ELC wherever they cannot keep a 2m distance from other adults and/or children and young people

Parents and other visitors including parents at drop-off and pick-up must continue to wear a face covering within the school grounds.

In line with the current arrangements for public transport, our children are not required to wear a face covering on school transport.

Hygiene

We will ensure that COVID-19-secure personal hygiene measures are in place for children and staff.

There will be frequency of hand washing/sanitising of hands for 20 seconds and drying thoroughly, and always when entering/leaving the building, before and after eating and after using the toilet.

Use of transport

Dedicated school transport is regarded as an extension of the school estate.

Children will be asked to sanitise their hands before boarding the bus and will wash their hands when they arrive at school. At home time the children will be asked to sanitise their hands before entering the bus. On arrival at home, please ensure your child washes their hands thoroughly.

Please encourage your child to behave responsibly while using school transport.

Accessing the Building

To minimise any cross contamination or spread of COVID-19, parents and carers will only be able to access the school with prior permission given by the Head Teacher. You are welcome to call or email the office.

Breakfast club will be available to all pupils. You do not need to register your child for this. Please bring your child to the main entrance at 8.15am. Please note that children will not be supervised in the playground prior to this time.

Introduction of Parent Vehicle Exclusion Zones

On our return to school next week, no parents/carers vehicles will be permitted to enter the school car park. The gates will either be manned or closed during the school day. Only South Lanarkshire Council contracted transport or vehicles displaying a Blue Badge will be allowed to enter.

In order to avoid congestion on Smyllum Road and to ensure our children who walk to school are kept safe, we would encourage you to park further away from the school and walk, wheel or cycle.

Pedestrian Entry and Exit

The school gates will be closed until 8.45am for all children. You should bring your child to school between 8.45am and 9.00am. On arrival, all children should enter the school playground through the pedestrian gate next to the exit of the car park. Children should then walk through the playground and line up in their class line.

Children in Rooms 5,6,10 and 11 should line up at the main entrance with their parent or taxi escort. Teachers will meet children there and escort them to their classroom.

Children will not have the opportunity to play before 9am. They are required to come into the playground and go straight to their line.

If it is wet weather, children should follow the procedures above and members of the Senior Leadership Team will get the children into school as quickly as possible.

At the end of the school day, the pedestrian gate at the exit of the car park will be opened at 2.45pm. Please follow the one-way system into the playground and wait for your child to exit the school building while adhering to the 2m social distancing rule.

Children in Rooms 5,6,10 and 11 will exit through the front doors. Parents should wait there for their child while adhering to the 2m social distancing rule.

Classroom System

Children will be escorted to their class and will be asked to wash their hands before they sit down at their allocated seat.

Children are now permitted to bring their own stationery from home.

Children should bring a school bag, as we may need to send learning materials home.

We encourage children to bring their own water bottle to school. An extra water bottle may be something to think about if your child is likely to finish their water before the end of the day.

Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school.

Children should not share their personal belongings.

Playtime System

There will be a rota for breaks. Children will wash their hands and have their snack in class, before taking their break.

The children have been divided into three groups and each group will be allocated an area of the playground to play in.

Movement within the School

The one-way system will continue to be used, which all children and staff will need to adhere to. The one-way system will go clockwise from the office, through the cafeteria, Zone 2, Zone 3, Zone 1 and back to the foyer.

Pupil movement within the school will be limited as much as possible, with appropriate adult supervision when required.

Lunches

There will be a rota for lunches. Children have been divided into three groups and each child will have an outside play, inside play and time to eat their lunch. Before and after each activity, children will wash their hands.

P1-P4 children will continue to receive Free School Meals.

Children are free to bring in a packed lunch to eat if they prefer.

We would encourage all children to stay at school for lunch to minimise outside contact during the school day.

Uniform

We ask that children wear school uniform as normal and wash it regularly.

Please feel free to allow your child to wear PE kit to school on PE days as this will limit the need for changing. PE days will be communicated shortly.

Until further notice, children will not be required to change into indoor shoes on entering the classrooms.

All windows must be open in the building for ventilation so please ensure your child has a sweatshirt or cardigan with them every day.

Following advice from NHS Scotland, we will endeavour to have children outside as much as possible. Please ensure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the weather that day.

Isolation Area

If a child develops symptoms related to COVID-19, he/she will be isolated in the Mill Suite until the parent/carer is able to come and collect the child.

If a member of staff develops symptoms related to COVID-19, he/she will immediately leave the building.

Pupils or staff who display COVID-19 symptoms

We have clear guidelines on how to manage anyone in the school who displays COVID-19 symptoms and all staff will be trained in this protocol to ensure everyone's safety. All schools will follow the Scottish Government's Test and Protect procedures for all suspected COVID-19 related illness.

We welcome the changes to the self-isolation rules. The approach of requiring whole classes or groupings of pupils to self-isolate is no longer necessary in normal circumstances.

If a child is identified by Test and Protect as being a close contact the following new rules apply:

- Children aged 5 to 18 years will not have to isolate for 10 days, so long as they remain asymptomatic and have a negative PCR test.
- Under 5's will not have to isolate so long as they remain asymptomatic but there is no mandatory requirement for them to have a negative PCR test.
- Adults who are double vaccinated and have a negative PCR test will no longer have to isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.

NHS Scotland advises that:

"If you've developed symptoms (however mild), stay at home for 10 days from the start of your symptoms and arrange to be tested. Do not go to your GP, pharmacy or hospital."*

"You should remain at home until you get the result of the test, and then follow the advice you will be given based on the result."

*[*https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-testing](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-testing)*

Illness notification

It is extremely important that parents inform the office staff of their child's absence by 9.30am at the latest. The reason for the absence will be recorded on our system.

Please give as much detail as possible as to why your child is unwell and can't attend school.

Please ensure all phone numbers and emergency contacts are up to date and notify the office if anything changes.

Communication

Communication between school and home is a high priority and email will be the main form of communication. This ensures that we are adhering to Scottish Government guidance regarding cross contamination. Please ensure that we have your most up to date email address.

Links to all correspondence will also go out on Twitter (@ROMPSTWEET), the school app and our website.

Our New P1 Pupils

On Monday 16th August, our new P1 pupils will start at 9.30am. Parents/carers are asked to bring their children through the one-way system to the main playground, where they will be able to get a photograph with their child. Miss Prentice and Miss Crookes will be there to welcome the children.

From Tuesday 17th August, our new P1 pupils will start at 9am as normal.

We appreciate your continued support and patience.