



Balhouses Primary School

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30 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Further Update on the Re-opening of Perth and Kinross Schools in August 2020

As you are aware, the Deputy First Minister for Scotland announced on Tuesday 23 June that local authorities should plan for the re-opening of schools for all pupils full-time from August, subject to further confirmation that it is safe to do so.

Colleagues across the Council are working closely with our staff, Trade Unions and Parent Councils to prepare for the re-opening of all Perth and Kinross schools in August 2020, if it continues to be safe to do so.

Further to my recent letter on the School App of 25th June, I can now confirm some further details about the planned re-opening of all Perth and Kinross schools in August 2020. This will include changes, so please take note.

In-Service Days – 10 and 11 August 2020

The designated in-service days are now confirmed as Monday 10 August and Tuesday 11 August 2020 as agreed with the Teaching Unions. This marks a change to previous arrangements. This decision has been taken by Perth and Kinross Council.

Phased Return of Pupils – 12-14 August 2020

The first week of the new term will have a phased return to school for all Perth and Kinross pupils. A phased return means that not all children will return on the same day.

Fewer children in the classroom will mean focused time and quality interaction between children and their teacher on their first day back. I can advise the following phased return arrangements will be in place for Balhouses pupils:

Using our previous family group arrangements, half the class will attend school on Wednesday 12th. The other half of the class will attend on Thursday 13th. ALL children will attend school on Friday 14th August and every day after that, with our normal hours of 9am – 3pm. THE PHASED RETURN IS ONLY FOR 2 DAYS.

We will send a TEXT today to the main contact for each family, telling you WHICH DAYS your child will attend (either Wednesday OR Thursday.....and remember, everyone on Friday).

Primary 1 children will start their day (either Wednesday or Thursday) at 9.30am and finish at 2.30pm. On Friday, their start/finish times will be the same as the rest of the school (9.00am – 3.00pm). The later/earlier time for P1 pupils will hopefully help them settle in gently to lines and give you time to see them into school calmly. Parents will not come into the school building, in line with national and local health and safety guidance.

Only P1 parents will be invited into the playground on our return in August. Even then, we ask that you do not line up with your child, but stand a little away from the line so your child becomes independent and we all adhere to the advised social distancing guidance. We plan for markers to be in the playground to help know where to stand.

We ask that all P2-P7 parents do not enter the playground. There will be a member of staff present in the playground for the first week to ensure everyone is ok. We would remind you NOT to arrive too early for school (only 5 minutes before the bell please). Please do not crowd around the gate either. Keep that area clear for children.

P2-7 children will start their day at the usual time of 9.00am and finish at 3.00pm.

We will continue to have staggered breaks and lunchtimes, for some time.

I have also emailed to every parent a list of Frequently Asked Questions....to help you with the key things you need to know.

These arrangements should only change if the Deputy First Minister's announcement on 30 July indicates that a full-time return to education is not possible. If this is the case, we will be in touch with you.

We will of course keep you informed of any further changes or information as soon as possible. If your mobile number changes over the summer, please remember to email me on Balhousie@pkc.gov.uk to give me your new number. Please also keep an eye on the School App for updates as and when I get them.

Information about the return of schools will continue to be published on Perth and Kinross Council's website where an FAQ page has been developed:

<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/schools>

The Council will also continue to distribute the latest information through its Twitter and Facebook sites.

It has been a very different and challenging end to our school year and I fully appreciate the difficulties that we have all faced with our families during this unprecedented crisis. I would like to thank you again for your ongoing support and patience as we prepare to re-open our school, and we look forward to welcoming our new and current pupils back in August.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Whittet,
Head Teacher

Executive Director – Sheena Devlin