

education RESOURCES

Executive Director: Tony McDaid

Bankhead Primary School ~ Head Teacher: Mr. Gerry Hamill

Website: www.bankhead-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Our Ref: GH / BL2020

Date: 18/6/20

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will have seen from the letter sent out by the Executive Director (Education Resources), South Lanarkshire schools are following a model of the school working at 50% capacity to adhere to social distancing guidelines. This will take effect from the start of the new school session in August.

Children will either attend on **Mondays and Tuesdays** or on **Thursdays and Fridays**. When your children should attend, and what class and teacher they will have is included on a separate information sheet, which is being posted to all parents along with your child’s school report for session 2019/20. The only exception to this is on **Wednesday 12 August**. Children who will normally be in on Mondays and Tuesdays will attend on that Wednesday only.

Working out the groupings was quite a difficult task. We had to first of all ensure that siblings attended on the same days. We then had to look at the social mix and ability mix of the children to try and achieve an appropriate balance for all the classes. The continuity of your child’s learning and their educational attainment was – and always will be – at the forefront of our thinking around classification.

The school will be closed to children on Wednesdays as the building will be getting an intense clean on Wednesdays. It will also be cleaned on a daily basis.

Staff will be working on Wednesdays to plan not only for in-school learning, but for home learning activities which will revise and consolidate the class learning. This should be undertaken on the days when children are not in school.

The classrooms will look quite different from what the children are used to. There will be a maximum of 14 children in each class, all sitting at their own workspace, two metres apart. There will regular, compulsory handwashing for all children and a strict adherence to hygiene rules. Further information on the practicalities of this and class and school routines will be relayed to you.

To minimize congestion in the playground, there will be staggered starting and finishing times in operation. Some classes will start at 9.00 and finish at 3.00 as normal. Others will start at 9.10 and finish at 3.10. The information sheet about classes will indicate what time your child will start and finish.

By the time we start in August, there will be clear markings in place in the playground for where the children should line up. Staff will be there to direct the children. Apart from primary one parents / carers, adults will not be allowed into the playground. This is necessary for adherence to social distancing guidelines. More details about this will be issued prior to school resuming in August.

I would like to thank the children, parent / carers, staff and the whole Bankhead community for their patience and support during these difficult times. It has been heartening to see how the whole community has come together to support each other and try to make things as “normal” as possible for the children. All children have been engaging in home learning to some extent and I hope you haven’t found it too stressful trying to keep them on track!

I will keep you updated about any important information through the usual channels – School App, Twitter and School Website.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Hamill

Head Teacher