



## **Newington Primary School**

### **Return to School Information (COVID-19) – August 2020**

Dear Parents / Carers,

Your letter from Director Skills, Education and Learning on 4<sup>th</sup> August indicated that children will return to school on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August. The staff team will be using the inset days to get ready for this and we look forward to having everyone back safely in school.

#### **Class Changes**

As HT I have made the decision to direct finance and resources to return to fourteen classes for next session and pupils in P3 to P5 will get details about their new classes and teachers before we return on Wednesday. In most cases this will simply see pupils move forward with their class last session. This will allow staff the chance to work together at stages, reduce class sizes and have pupils return to a more familiar set up. I am confident this will support the return to school for all our pupils and allow us to make greater progress following the challenges of school closure.

#### **Bubbles**

The blended learning model is not going ahead but we are still looking to have our Bubble in place for the start of term - P6 and P7 pupils in Bubble A, P4 and P5 in Bubbles B, P3s and LZ in Bubble C and P1 and P2 in Bubble D. This information went out before the holidays.

The Bubbles will support hygiene and manage movement around the school.

Children will spend the majority of their day within their Bubble and their classrooms and breaks and lunches will be spent in these groups.

#### **School Day**

We will encourage all pupils to walk, cycle to school as appropriate and parents will not have access to the school grounds until further guidance is provided.

#### **Times of the Day**

Start time for Bubbles A and C will be 8.45am, Break from 10.15am-10.35am, Lunch from 12.15pm-12.45pm, End time will be 2.30pm. (Children should arrive in time for entering the school at that time).

Start time for Bubbles B and D will be 9.00am, Break from 10.35am-10.55, Lunch 12.45pm-1.15pm, End time will be 2.45pm.

This will avoid congestion in the morning; end of school day and during break/lunch.

Staff will oversee the pupils leaving at the end of the day and we would ask all parents to socially distance whilst waiting.

For those children who are being collected by a Child Minder, could parents please make the Child Minder aware that children must be collected and the specified times as stated above.

## **Uniform/Equipment**

As detailed before the holidays please support us with the following:

Pupils should wear –

- School Sweatshirt/Polo Shirt
- Joggers/Leggings/Shorts
- Outdoor shoes (no changing)
- A jacket appropriate for the weather
  
- **NO** school bags
- Water bottle – filled/taken home each day
- We will provide the children with all the school equipment they will require
- We ask that children do not bring personal items at this time (eg toys)
- Class text books etc will not be shared

## **Outdoor Activity**

We hope to support PE/Movement sessions outdoors and involve pupils in the Daily Mile etc so please ensure pupils have appropriate clothing for the weather.

## **Lunch**

The kitchen will only provide “Take 4” options for lunches initially and pupils can bring packed lunches from home. (The Council are looking at a “cashless” scheme similar to secondary schools and details will be sent soon).

Payments now must be sent to school in a sealed envelope with the child name, class and days etc. These will go into containers and quarantined for 72 hours.

## **Snack/Milk**

There will be no orders taken for milk initially and school tuck will not be available. Please put snack items into pockets.

## **School Activities**

Current guidance indicates that we can't have assembly events in school or hold after school clubs. This could also impact on activities planned for later in the year such as parents evening, concerts etc. We will keep everyone informed about this.

## **Home Learning**

Staff will build on the success of “Teams” used during lockdown to support and develop “home learning” activities. This will minimise the need for items transferring from home/school. Reading tasks may well be undertaken in class but reading material will be sent home and put into safe storage when returned.

## Hygiene Measures

### **Hand Washing**

All children and staff will experience the increased hygiene routines throughout the day. Every learning space will have increased supplies of hand sanitisers and the staff will be ensuring that all children will be washing their hands at key times of the day. There will also be hand sanitisers at key points in the school building which will be used as everyone enters / leaves each zone.

### **Face Coverings**

There is no requirement for children to wear face coverings in school as part of the Scottish Government guidance. However, if you or your child wishes them to wear one in school then we fully support this as they will experience this within the wider community (e.g. going shopping). The school has a supply of children's face coverings that we are able to provide to your child.

### **Cleaning**

The school will have an enhanced daily cleaning programme in place involving regular cleaning of high traffic touch points, cleaning between different groups etc and enhanced cleaning if there is a child / adult who shows symptoms.

### **Social Distancing**

Whilst there is no requirement for children to socially distance themselves from each other, the adults in the school will be maintaining the recommended 2m social distancing from each other and the children as much as practically possible. Where 2m social distancing is not possible, we will be wearing face coverings (and possibly other PPE if needed e.g. First Aid) to support the children's learning safely.

## Minimising the Risk of Infection / Spread of Covid

### **Access to the School**

To maintain the safety of everyone and minimise the risk of the infection coming into the school we have put in place a number of measures;

- **Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 should not come into school and book a test immediately through the Test and Protect scheme.** Any child who begins to show symptoms during the school day will be supported and taken to our isolation room. Parents will be contacted to come and collect them (and any siblings) immediately. Test and Protect procedures will then be implemented (details can be found [here](#)).
- **Strict access to the building:** At this time we have to minimise the number of visitors into the school which means that, as it was prior to lockdown, parents and visitors will not be permitted access to the school grounds. Whilst this is not what we would want to do, it is an important aspect of controlling the risks of a potential outbreak and maintaining everyone's safety. **We ask that any parent who needs to contact the school does so through the school office phone number to arrange a time to come to the front door.**