

Newhill Primary School
November Covid 19 Update

Dear Parents/Carers

Scottish Government Guidance

Some of you will be aware of the updated guidance from the Scottish Government which was released at the weekend. This guidance now advises that school staff should wear face coverings when in communal areas and when moving around the school. School staff are also advised to wear face coverings in class when they cannot maintain a two metre distance from pupils. Staff across the campus will be following these guidelines as from Monday 2nd November.

The Scottish Government also advises that parents/carers should wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up children from school/nursery. This applies both within the school grounds and at the school gates. The Scottish Government also advises that face coverings should be worn when interacting with school staff.

With this advice in mind I would ask that all parents/carers wear face coverings when entering the school gates, including the main gate, and when within the playground environment. This requirement is effective from Monday 2nd November.

Curricular Updates

The Scottish Government guidance also states that children aged 11 and under can play organised contact sports both indoors and outdoors. Perth and Kinross Council continue to work with individual school settings to ensure safety and wellbeing measures are followed and we will continue to work with our colleagues from property services to ensure our procedures and protocols are updated. For the moment, all P.E. lessons will continue to take place outdoors. Please ensure your child comes to school suitably dressed for the weather. Children will be outdoors even when it is raining.

Guidance on music and drama has not altered, at this point in time, this continues to be shared in other ways. All advice is kept under review and will be updated as and when appropriate.

Update on handling Jotters and other equipment

The Scottish Government have also reviewed their guidance on jotters and reading materials moving between home and school. The updated guidance is that:

“careful handwashing with soap and warm water/use of alcohol based hand sanitiser before and after handling jotters mitigates the need for quarantine for 72 hours before and 72 hours after.”

This updated guidance has reduced the need for schools to keep reading books in quarantine for the identified 72 hours. Newhill PS will be working with staff to identify suitable approaches to ensuring we can share reading materials with families whilst ensuring materials are able to be sanitised. We will communicate with families after the upcoming In-service Days how we will organise our reading materials for distribution.

We will continue to keep parents and carers updated on advice from both Perth and Kinross Council and the Scottish Government. Please check both the Scottish Government and Perth and Kinross Council’s website for more detailed guidance.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Douglas

Head Teacher