

Antonine Primary School and ELCC

Returning to School Information

23.06.20

Dear Parents/Carers

I have put together this guide with questions and answers based on some queries that I received from families. There is a lot of important information in this update and I would ask that you spend time reading it carefully as I hope it will put your mind to ease and give you clear guidance about how pupils return in August 2020.

Information in this letter is subject to change on the advice of Scottish Government and Falkirk Council.

What are learning groups?

To allow for social distancing and to manage large groups of pupils in school and ELCC, small learning groups have been established. These vary in size depending on the layout of the classroom from 8 pupils to 13 pupils in each group. There are 19 different learning groups in Antonine PS for 2020-2021 and 6 learning groups in the ELCC. Due to the nature of having more groups than classes every available member of staff is being used to teach in school.

When will pupils return to school and ELCC?

All pupils will return to school the week beginning August 10th 2020.

Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th August 2020 will be in-service days for staff.

Wednesday 12th August will be for one group of pupils.

Friday 14th August will be for the other set of pupils.

For the first week back your child will be in school on Wednesday 12th August 2020 only.

What days will pupils be in school/ELCC?

All Primary and ELCC settings in Falkirk Council are using the same learning model. There will be groups of pupils in Monday/Tuesday and then different groups in on Thursday/Friday. This allows us to teach pupils in smaller groups, as per guidance from Scottish Government, but still allows 50% of pupils to attend each set of days. We have planned groups to allow for family members in school and ELCC to be in the building on the same days.

Your child will be in:-

Primary 1 Group A (Monday/Tuesday) and will be taught by Miss Marshall.

What is blended learning?

This is where pupils will attend school for two days during the week and be given homework for the remaining days. Teachers will spend their time teaching children and supporting them in class to enable them to work independently on tasks when at home. The expectation is that all pupils will complete work at home as it will link to and reinforce their learning days in school.

We will be using Microsoft Teams to share information which will contain tasks in addition to the photocopy worksheets that pupils will bring home. All pupils P2-6 currently know their GLOW username and passwords – we will share these again in August and set up new accounts for new pupils.

In ELCC pupils will be supported to be in ELCC two days per week and continue to have an allocated key worker to support them with their learning.

Where will pupils be lining up in the morning?

We will not be lining up in the playground to avoid large groups of children gathering in the same area. Pupils are asked to arrive just before their start time and head straight to their entrance area, there will be no bell.

Pupils will have staggered start and finish times. All entrance doors will be clearly labelled to allow you to see which door to enter through. Children should not be encouraged to line up at the doors. The doors will be open, staff will be there and we have a window of time where pupils in different groups can enter the building.

ELCC:

Red/Green group will enter at the main door of the ELCC.

Blue/Purple group will enter the exit gate at the nursery outdoor play area.

Yellow/Orange group will enter the white school door just beyond the school entrance gate.

- There will be a one way system for groups using the ELCC path. Enter from the car park onto the narrow pavement, exit through the small gate into the playground and out the double gates to the car park. Families are asked not to come into the double gates to the playground if they are using the ELCC garden entrance or the nursery main entrance.

Primary 1 (Groups A and B) has its own entrance door which will be labelled for you. It is a white door, up the ramp next to the pupil toilet doors.

Primary 2 (Groups A and B) will enter the classroom exit door to the playground near the play equipment. Group C will enter the main entrance.

Primary 3 (Groups A and B) will use the entrance double doors at the play equipment.

Primary 4 (Groups B and C) will enter their classroom directly from the playground. Group A will enter the main entrance.

Primary 5/4 (Groups A and B) will enter the classroom directly from the playground.

Primary 6/5 (Groups A and B) will enter the classroom directly from the playground.

Primary 7/6 (Groups A and B) will enter the building at the doors used for the upper school.

Primary 7 (Groups A and B) will enter the building at the doors used for the upper school. Group C are asked to line up at the cone at the bike shed to allow room for the other groups to be clear before you enter. Your teacher will be there for you.

What time will pupils come to school/ELCC?

Pupils who have no siblings in school or ELCC should come to school for 8.45am. The entrance time for this group of pupils will be 8.45 to 8.55am where there will be a member of staff at the door. This group of pupils will finish school and ELCC at 2.45pm.

Pupils with siblings should come to school and ELCC for 8.55am. All doors will be open from 8.55 to 9.10am to allow families to drop off at school and ELCC. This group of pupils will finish at 3.00pm and school staff will remain at their doors from 3.00 to 3.10pm to allow families to pick up their children from ELCC first.

ELCC families will not be allowed to enter the building, staff will be at the door to welcome children. Families are asked not to gather in groups in the playground and ensure social distancing at all times.

When will pupils get a break during the day?

The playground will be sectioned into areas. Learning groups can play together but pupils must stay in their own bubbles. This will be supervised by support staff and members of the Leadership Team.

Morning break will be staggered. 5 groups will have a break from 10.15am to 10.45am. The other groups will have break from 10.30am to 10.45am.

All pupils will have lunch from 12.00 to 12.30pm. Pupils will eat in their classrooms.

We have introduced an afternoon break which will be staggered. 5 groups will have a break from 1.15 to 1.30pm and the other groups will have their break from 1.30 to 1.45pm.

All learning groups from school and ELCC will have timetabled access to the playground and outdoor areas for outdoor learning everyday out-with their regular breaks. ELCC pupils will have snacks and lunch as normal within their learning groups.

What happens if a pupil is late for their time?

Pupils who are late for their group entry time should report to the main entrance.

The main entrance is being used as an entrance/exit for pupils in certain groups from 8.45 to 9.10am and 2.45 to 3.10pm and also for lunch pick up between 12.00 and 1.00pm. We would ask that families do not use this area at these times and access to the school office will be restricted. If you would like to speak to the office please come out-with these times or phone the school on 01324 503140.

Will there be a Breakfast Club for school pupils?

At the moment, the Antonine Breakfast Club will not be able to run when we come back in August 2020. I will keep you up to date on any developments with this. There will be a stock of breakfasts in school should any child who normally attends the breakfast club wants something to eat when they arrive in school.

What can pupils have for lunch?

Grab and go bags will be available for all pupils who have Free School Meal Entitlement, all P1-3 pupils and for any pupil who wants to purchase one. ELCC pupils will be provided with grab bags for their lunch.

We cannot accept any cash and will be using the Falkirk Council I-payment system exclusively for parents to purchase lunch for school pupils. Families should continue to order lunches from home using the online system, even if they are a packed lunch. Pupils are free to bring their own packed lunch from home should they wish.

Grab Bags are a cheese/tuna/ham roll or sandwich, a drink, a piece of fruit, a yoghurt and a cake/biscuit.

What will pupils wear to school/ELCC?

Pupils should wear school uniform. Gym clothes will not be needed for starting back. Children will be participating in outdoor learning and playing outside for physical exercise. Pupils do not need to bring a change of shoes for in the classroom.

Once school is back to normal we would expect all pupils to bring a gym kit containing shorts, t-shirt and gym shoes/trainers in a separate bag.

Our weather can be very changeable but pupils will be outside for as many breaks and learning as possible. Please ensure your child brings a jacket to school every day.

ELCC pupils can choose to wear an Antonine ELCC jumper and polo-shirt or wear your own clothes. Comfortable clothes are always good, a change of shoes for indoor play should be brought to ELCC and these can be kept in the ELCC. ELCC pupils will be outside every day so suitable footwear and jackets should be worn.

Please label all clothes for all pupils in ELCC and school.

What do pupils need to bring to school/ELCC?

Pupils will need a schoolbag, they will be issued with stationery learning packs for use in school and a separate stationary learning pack which can be kept at home. Pupils do not need to bring a pencil case or any other items from home. Pupils should not bring any toys to school. Pupils will not have access to the water fountain, staff will support pupils if they need more water but it would be very helpful if bottles are filled for coming to school – a water bottle is essential. Each day pupils are in school they should bring their home working pack which will be a zip wallet with jotters and worksheets from the teacher.

ELCC pupils only need to bring themselves, they should not bring any toys/items from home.

What will rooms look like?

Each school classroom has been arranged to allow for social distancing. All pupils have their own desk, chair, tray and peg. Classrooms will still be inviting and engaging. We will still be using smartboards, I pads and resources for learning. All of which will be wiped down after each pupil use.

In the ELCC, children will be in learning zones. These will be organised as exciting, nurturing play spaces with plenty of resources and activities for pupils to access. Children will have a cloakroom of their own in their learning zone for their jacket and shoes.

Will school transport still be running for school pupils?

Pupils who are eligible for bus/taxi transport will still be able to use this service. The transport team have been advised which days particular pupils are attending to help them with their planning.

What social distancing and hygiene plans are in place?

All pupils and staff will use hand sanitizer on entering the building. Everyone will be asked to wash hands before breaks and lunch with soap and water. All classrooms and ELCC learning zones have hand washing facilities as well as toilets. Classes/ELCC pupils will not be moving around the school and individual pupils going to the toilet will be managed by staff. Pupils can visit the toilets as and when needed throughout the day as usual. ELCC children will have access to their own groups designated toilet. Playground toilets will not be open for school pupils and children will be asked to use the toilet before and after break and lunch. Tables, surfaces and chairs will be wiped down by cleaning staff each night. Doors and handles will be wiped throughout the day.

Pupils in school will be asked as far as possible to maintain social distancing with each other and staff. ELCC staff and children will operate in “bubbles” and will not come in contact with anyone outside their “bubble”.

How can I communicate with the school?

Throughout lockdown I have shared my work email jacqueline.mclaughlin@falkirk.gov.uk to allow all families to communicate with me directly. This still stands until we are back in the school building so please do not hesitate to email any questions or concerns.

Once back to school I would ask that you phone the school office or email the school account antonineprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk to make contact. We are more than happy to speak to and meet with families but to allow us to plan for this we would ask that you call/email to arrange a suitable time. If you would like to speak to school staff please follow the same guidelines. Staff are more than happy to give you a call after the school day.

I understand this is a lot of information for families and pupils to take in, the same is true for our staff who have done an incredible job in ensuring that your children are safe and happy when they return to school.

We have been overwhelmed by the support of families and the Parent Council during this period of time and are so impressed with the commitment to learning families have demonstrated whilst also juggling work and other commitments.

Report cards are still available to be picked up from the main entrance Tuesday and Wednesday this week from 12.00-1.30pm. Any reports not picked up will be posted second class on Thursday.

We look forward to welcoming our families back to school in August and are excited to get back into a new school routine.

Kind Regards

Mrs McLaughlin

Headteacher