



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are continuing to keep safe and well as we take small steps to move out of lockdown in Scotland. I know this has been a difficult few months for everyone. I am aware that as things start to ease, you will be anxious to know what plans are in place for children and young people for returning to school in August. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the steps we are taking in preparation for the re-opening of schools and Early Learning facilities in Clackmannanshire.

We are following all Scottish Government Guidance in planning a safe opening of schools on 11 August. We will be using 10th and 11th August for staff in-service days to make sure that all staff are fully informed and ready to welcome our children and young people back to school. The earliest your child/ren will return is 12th August but not all children will start on that date. We will be sharing more school level specific plans with you, including the timetable for individual children and families, before the end of the summer term. We are well advanced in this planning and have started to carry out the extensive range of tasks to ensure the health and safety of children, staff and families.

Our Health and Safety team are currently carrying out risk assessments on all our education and Early Years establishments in Clackmannanshire. They are looking at the new social distancing guidelines and considering how the classroom and learning spaces in every establishment can be adapted to safely accommodate learners and staff. This will mean that the numbers of pupils in each classroom will be considerably less than before. Each school is working on its own Recovery Plan in line with the Guidance.

As part of this planning work we are looking at:

- Staffing
- Transport arrangements
- How to provide school meals
- Social distancing requirements within classrooms, playgrounds and social spaces/areas
- Home learning provision and digital learning
- Supporting young people with additional support needs
- Increased cleaning provision of schools and early years establishments
- Hand washing and hand sanitising facilities for staff and pupils
- Provision of PPE
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment

On return to school in August, in line with Scottish Government Guidance, the approach to learning will be a “blended” one. Pupils will spend some time in school, some time learning at home and some time learning digitally. Outdoor learning will be used as much as possible. It is likely that this situation of blended learning will continue for some time. We will make sure that plans for children with Additional Support Needs take account of their support requirements. More specific details of what this means regarding the time that your

child will attend school will follow once we have a clearer picture of staffing and available learning space in each establishment. We would hope to increase the amount of time that any child can attend school as soon as it is safe to do so and taking account of what Scottish Government guidance allows.

I understand that this next phase of returning to school and early learning will be a challenge. We have never experienced such disruption to education and our staff and head teachers are working extremely hard to address the many new situations we currently face.

I would like to thank you for everything you are continuing to do to support your school and your own child at this challenging time. I know these are very difficult at times for everyone and I am proud of the way that the entire education community, and especially parents and carers in Clackmannanshire, have risen to the challenge

I will continue to keep you updated and informed as further guidance from Scottish Government emerges and the situation continues to evolve. .

Lorraine Sanda

Chief Education Officer

Clackmannanshire Council