



Headteacher: Jonathan M Lothian

Perth Academy  
Murray Place  
Perth  
PH1 1NJ

Tel: 01738 458000

Fax: 01738 625275

e-mail: [perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk)

Contact:

Our ref: JL/MM

Your ref:

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Parent / Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the First Minister's update on Saturday 19 December 2020, Perth & Kinross Council will move into Level 4 restrictions as from Saturday 26 December 2020 (Boxing day) which means further measures are required in our school.

Following the First Minister's statement, and now with further clarification from the Deputy First Minister, the arrangements for Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and schools in Perth & Kinross will be:

- All staff will attend their ELC provision or school on 7 January 2021.
- Critical childcare will be provided in ELC and schools for children of **essential workers** and those identified as vulnerable. You will receive a separate communication with information on relevant arrangements if your child falls into either of these categories.
- Learning will resume in ELC and schools for these pupils from 11 January 2021.
- For all other pupils, learning will take place at home from 11 January 2021. If your child is to be learning at home, you will receive a separate communication at the beginning of January with relevant details.
- It is planned that schools will open as normal from Monday 18 January 2021.

We also continue to be guided by the most recent Scottish Government guidance as follows: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risksin-schools/>

The main changes that I would like to highlight to you as we move from Level 3 to Level 4 are as follows:

- The level 4 advice is that children on the shielding list should not attend in person. However, there will be further consideration of how individualised risk assessments can be used to maximise school attendance, and remove barriers to access to regulated childcare services, for children who continue to shield during Level 4 restrictions. It is expected that these should be informed by the secondary care (hospital) clinical team caring for the child or young person.
- Due to our being in level 4, face coverings should continue to be worn by pupils and staff in the senior phase (s4-6) in classrooms, subject to the existing exemptions. *Please remember that a face covering can be as simple as a scarf, snood or other piece of cloth to cover the nose and mouth.*

- We continue to ask that our S1-S3 pupils consider wearing face coverings to help protect everyone in school.
- Physical education within school settings should once more only take place outdoors. Schools will consider what types of activity and clothing may be most appropriate in view of weather conditions.
- The provision of non-essential activities or clubs outside the usual school timetable will cease immediately. This does not include regulated childcare operating from school premises.
- Face coverings should be worn by all visitors to schools/ELCs and also outside at pick-up and drop-off times whenever on school/ELC premises, even outside.
- Our staff continue have to wear face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, etc
- Our staff also have to wear face coverings in schools when in close contact with your children and other staff.

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with becoming ill with COVID-19.

Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Please visit the NHS Inform website for all the latest advice and updates about coronavirus in Scotland:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Further general information for parents/carers is also available on Perth & Kinross Council's website: [www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/schools](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/schools)

Please know that we appreciate the levels of concern and anxiety as COVID-19 continues to affect our schools and communities, and I would reassure you that we are doing all we can to support our young people and staff at this time.

I would ask for your support to promote these changes to your child(ren) and young people to comply with the new restrictions and follow all measures we have in place to keep our school safe and open.

Please note that we will send you further information pertaining to local arrangements at Perth Academy for the start of term 3 and the weeks that follow. This will include arrangements for online/remote learning for the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and an update on Senior Phase assessment scheduling.

Your faithfully



J Lothian  
Rector