

If calling please ask for:
Mrs Teresa Little
(Head Teacher)
(01382) 307701

Date: 18 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family are well and looking forward to the holiday period, albeit very different this year!

My renewed thanks to you for all you are doing to support your child during this time with their learning at home, keeping in touch with the school and their teachers, and also for helping them manage the restrictions placed on them at this time.

I cannot emphasise enough that the most important thing just now for you and your child is good health and happiness. Progress in learning will come when they are ready, and that can be very different from one pupil to another. This is the same when pupils are in school too!

I would like to provide you with some important updates and information re returning to school in August. These plans have been shared, discussed, and approved by our **Parent Council** who have been very supportive and active on your behalf during this time. **My sincere thanks to them.**

Return to School

As you know, Nicola Sturgeon announced that all schools in Scotland will return on Tuesday 11th August. This is a week earlier than planned for our pupils as this was to be a seven week holiday period this year. This allows our pupils to have the same number of weeks in school before the SQA exam diet 2021 as schools in other local authorities. They had their seven week holidays last year and were due to return on 11th August.

We are planning a two-week **Transition and Induction period** as follows:

Week 1 - beginning Monday 10th August * (see note below for first day start times)

Monday 10th : Staff In Service

Tuesday 11th – Friday 14th : All S4, S5 and S6 pupils in school for the 4 days this week.

Week 2 - beginning Monday 17th August * (see note below for first day start times)

Monday 17th – Wednesday 19th : All S1 pupils in school for the three full days

Thursday 20th August : All S2 pupils

Friday 21st August : All S3 pupils

During these first two weeks pupils will be in small groups of ten, stay in their classrooms for break and lunch and can order packed lunches or bring their own. They will be taken for a

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Jesli masz problem ze zrozumieniem jezyka angielskiego, prosimy o kontakt na ponizszy adres.

Если Вам трудно понимать по-английски, пожалуйста обратитесь по адресу:

اگر آپ کو انگریزی سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آتی ہے تو براہ کرم نیچے دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں۔

walk during their break times. Lunch time is for approximately 30 minutes and morning break is 15 minutes.

During these first two weeks, we will operate staggered start and finish times as follows:

S1 will start at 9.15 am and finish at 3.30 pm.
S2 will start at 9.05 am and finish at 3.20 pm.
S3 will start at 8.55 am and finish at 3.10 pm.
S4, S5 & S6 will start at 8.45am and finish at 3pm.

***The exception to this is the first day for each year group as we need to issue timetables on arrival and you will receive a text the week before and a reminder the night before confirming the start time for your child. This will be between 8.45am and 9.30am.**

This will enable us to take all year groups through Health & Safety practices and procedures, explain new timetables, arrangements at lunchtime, staggered starts and finishes, staggered break times and lunchtimes, arrangements for school buses, and the use of welfare facilities, particularly toilets. We are introducing a one-way system to reduce the numbers of pupils in the corridors and to enable Social Distancing, and we have revised Emergency Evacuation plans and Assembly points.

Our priority is to support our pupils through the transition period back to school and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff.

You will see that some year groups have more time in school during the first two weeks than others. That is to ensure that all pupils in the Senior Phase have contact with all their teachers and to establish their online and home learning as they have qualifications to sit this year.

The new S1 pupils are in for three days as they need to get to know the school, their way around the building, meet their teachers and get set up for blended learning and timetables. S2 and S3 pupils are already set up for home learning and know the school and their teachers. Their move to blended learning will be more straightforward.

This 'blended learning' approach is necessary just now as all pupils will have some time in school with their teachers allowing in school learning and will have time at home for home learning. This combination is to help maximise the learning opportunities for every pupil.

Timetable from week 3 beginning 24th August

All pupils will be in school for 2½ days every week. This enables us to achieve the target of having 50% of our pupils in for 50% of the week. The pupils are split by surname as follows:

Surname beginning A – K : All day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning.(11.15 finish)
Surname beginning L – Z : Wednesday afternoon (1.30 start), All day Thursday and Friday.

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On these days the staggered starts and finishes are as follows:

- S1 will start at 9.15 am and finish at 3.30 pm.
- S2 will start at 9.05 am and finish at 3.20 pm.
- S3 will start at 8.55 am and finish at 3.10 pm.
- S4, S5 & S6 will start at 8.45am and finish at 3pm.

Lunchtime

From this time pupils will have 45 minutes for lunch and a 15 minute break in the morning and can use the Dining Room, Snack Bar and social areas during this time. This will be supervised by the Senior Leadership Team and Support Staff. Lunchtimes and breaks will also be staggered to reduce the numbers in the social areas at any one time.

Transport

I am in discussion with the bus companies just now and you will receive a survey soon asking you to indicate if your child will be travelling to school on the school bus, or service buses. The bus companies have agreed to provide buses as required to support social distancing and school start and finish times. However, sometimes it may be necessary for some pupils to wait for siblings at home time, or indeed, wait until their start time when travelling together to school in the mornings. We have allocated locations to accommodate this. The first one being the Dining Hall, which will again be supervised by staff.

School Uniform

We are asking that pupils return to school in August in their school uniforms. We have provided all new S1 pupils with a Junior Tie and Senior Ties are available to purchase from the school using Parent Pay or directly to the school until the end of this term. This will resume in August. For further information regarding Junior/Senior uniform please refer to the school website. If you require any support in obtaining your child's uniform please use the contact school button on the school App or email the school.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information in this letter and it is quite complex in places. Please do not hesitate in contacting us at the school by email or telephone if you require further details.

I will keep in touch if the situation changes and we will provide further details about bus times and school lunches when we have more information.

If there is anything at all we can do to help, please do not hesitate in getting in touch. Stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Teresa Little
Head Teacher

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