



30th June 2020
(JD/KL)

John Devine M.A. (Hons); M.Ed; SQH
Headteacher

Breadalbane Academy
ABERFELDY PH15 2DU
Tel 01887 822300 • Fax 01887 820464
Email breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk
Website www.breadalbane.pkc.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Further Update on the Re-opening of Perth and Kinross Schools in August 2020

As you are aware, the Deputy First Minister announced on Tuesday 23rd June that local authorities should plan for the re-opening of schools for all pupils full-time from August, subject to further confirmation that it is safe to do so.

Colleagues across Education and Children's Services are working closely with our staff, trade unions and Parent Councils to prepare for the re-opening of all Perth and Kinross schools in August 2020, if it continues to be safe to do so.

Further to my recent letter to you, I can confirm some further details about the planned re-opening of all Perth and Kinross schools in August 2020.

'Plan A' – Full-time return for pupils

In-Service Days – 10th and 11th August 2020

The designated in-service days are confirmed as Monday 10 August and Tuesday 11 August 2020 as agreed with the Teaching Unions. This marks a change to the previously indicated arrangements.

Phased Return of Pupils – 12th-14th August 2020

The first week of the new term will have a phased return to school for all Perth and Kinross pupils. This will enable focused time for induction for new pupils and reorientation back into the school building for current pupils.



I can advise the following phased return arrangements will be in place for our school's pupils:

Nursery and Primary:

Wed 12th August: Group A *

Thurs 13th August: Group B*

Friday 14th August: All pupils

(* Details of your child's group are provided later in this letter.)

Secondary:

Wednesday 12th August: S1 and S6 prefects only (Transition and buddying support)

Thursday 13th August: S5 and S6 (Induction and reorientation)

Friday 14th August: S2, S3, and S4 only (Induction and reorientation)

Please note these arrangements for phased return and how they will affect your child/children's return during the week beginning 10th August.

All pupils (who are able) will then recommence full-time education from **Monday 17th August 2020**.

The school and local authority are still awaiting further guidance from the Scottish Government about public health precautions that schools will be required to put in place for this full-time attendance model. When we have guidance for physical distancing for both pupils and staff, and on expectations around enhanced arrangements for hygiene, we will be able to put necessary planning in place. Such arrangements could include staggered start and end time; should this be the case parents will be notified in advance.

These arrangements should only change if the Deputy First Minister's announcement scheduled for 30 July indicates that a full-time return to education is not possible.

Should this happen the school will revert to its original plan for Blended Learning.

'Plan B' – Blended Learning

Whilst we are now preparing for a full-time return in August, we are also working to ensure that our "Plan B" contingency is fully developed, should it be required. To that end, I am sharing the following information in order that you can make your own preparations.

Attendance Patterns

As previously intimated, our planning has been based on 50% of pupils attending at a time.

- In primary and secondary, pupils will be split into two roughly equal groups: Group A and Group B
- Group A will attend on Mondays and Tuesdays and Group B will attend on Thursdays and Fridays

Wednesdays will be given over to supporting remote learning and to providing additional support to children of key workers and others (including primary GME who learn through the medium of Gaelic immersion) who, by exception, will attend five days a week. Should we have to implement plan B, we will provide further information on timetables for pupils whose time allocation will extend beyond their core group allocation. Such arrangements may not commence immediately.

Your child is in Group B and will therefore attend on Thursdays and Fridays.

Nursery

Please note that whichever model is implemented it is currently planned that nursery pupils will attend a 9-3 pattern. Where changes are required to patterns, parents will be contacted. We also currently anticipate that the Gaelic Nursery will be up and running by Wednesday 12th August.

The School Day

Due to the physical distancing requirements and to accommodate potential issues with capacity on school transport, there may be a staggered start to the school day. This will also help us to manage infection control measures, with pupils required to sanitise their hands on arrival at school. We cannot yet confirm the details of this as we are awaiting information from the school transport team which will inform this arrangement.

Lunches may also be staggered to ensure that pupils' safety is managed within communal spaces. We are currently in discussions with Tayside Contracts regarding the provision of school lunches and will provide additional information once these details have been confirmed.

I appreciate that the uncertainty is challenging for everyone, but I hope that by sharing this information now, you will have time to consider your own plans should "Plan B" be required.

School Uniform

Can I take this opportunity to confirm that we will be relaxing rules on school uniform whichever model we put in place in August. This will be reviewed before the October holiday. Pupils may of course still wear uniform, but I would repeat our request that no ties should be worn at the moment. Please also remember that irrespective of what clothes pupils are wearing to school, secondary pupils should also bring PE kit, including a change of footwear, on the appropriate days.

We will of course keep you informed of any further changes or information as soon as possible.

Information about the return of schools will continue to be published on Perth and Kinross Council's website where an FAQ page has been developed:

<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/schools>

The Council will also continue to distribute the latest information through its Twitter and Facebook sites.

It has been a very different and challenging end to our school year and I fully appreciate the difficulties that you have all faced as families during this unprecedented crisis. I would like to thank you again for your ongoing support and patience as we prepare to re-open our school, and we look forward to welcoming our new and current pupils back in August.

Yours faithfully



John Devine
Headteacher

