



22nd June 2020



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Dear Parent/Carer

Re-opening of Breadalbane Academy

We are looking forward to welcoming back our children and young people from the start of the new term on 11 August 2020.

We recognise the many challenges you have been facing as you juggle childcare, supporting home learning and working from home and would thank you for your support with online and at home learning since schools were closed in March.

Planning for the re-opening of schools has focused on maximising the amount of time children and young people will spend in school, as frequently as possible, as safely as possible. This has been guided by the key principles identified by the Scottish Government as well as consultation with professional associations, staff and feedback from parents and carers through the Council's informal poll on social media.

The Perth and Kinross [framework](#) for the re-opening of schools was outlined recently by Sheena Devlin, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services on the Council's website: www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/schools.

As we approach the end of term, we are now in a position to share further arrangements for our school and your child:



Attendance Patterns

Schools have drawn up revised timetables that will ensure almost all pupils spend a minimum of 40% of the school week in class. In Breadalbane Academy the arrangements will be as follows:

- **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 who, by exception, will attend five days a week.**
- Due to the immersion learning nature of Gaelic Medium Education and existing small class sizes, we are currently planning that if possible primary GME pupils will be able to attend five days a week.

We will inform you shortly whether your child/children will attend on Mon/Tues or Thurs/Fri, but **I can confirm now that our plan is that children from the same family will attend on the same day across nursery, primary and secondary.**

Transport

If your child currently receives free home to school transport, your transport arrangements for August cannot be confirmed at this time. The Public Transport Unit is looking at all transport options to support the attendance patterns of pupils who require free home to school transport.

This may include larger vehicles, additional vehicles, multiple journeys and alternative transport providers.

The Scottish Government's current guidance on physical distancing means that the number of seats available on both public transport and school transport vehicles will be greatly reduced. It will not be possible for pupils to travel on school transport services in the same numbers as pre COVID-19.

Education and Children's Services and the Public Transport Unit are currently working through the implications for free home to school transport requirements for entitled pupils in August. It is anticipated that some parents of pupils who normally would travel on school transport may wish to transport their own children to school, and we would actively encourage parents/carers more widely to consider this option, where possible.

We are working closely with the Public Transport Unit regarding home to school transport arrangements for our schools and the details of this will be notified directly to parents of children who use home to school transport by the Public Transport Unit in early August.

Health and Safety

Schools have been working hard on their health and safety assessments and staff, pupils and parents will see some changes when they come to school. On arrival and departure from school, there will be provision for sanitising hands. Everyone in school will wash their hands frequently throughout the day and pupils will be reminded of the importance of hand and respiratory hygiene.

Classrooms will be laid out in line with physical distancing guidelines, and resources for learning will be selected to ensure they can be easily cleaned. It is planned that we will limit the number of times equipment and resources are physically passed between home and school, however, where this is necessary, we will look at ways of limiting the number of people in contact with equipment or how we can maintain clean resources. Your child's class teacher will be able to provide more information on how this will be done.

The frequency of the formal cleaning in school will be increased, and in addition, staff will be carrying out spot cleaning throughout the day.

If staff have to administer personal care for a pupil, or if a pupil requires first aid, the appropriate PPE will be worn. However, the focus for everyone in school will be practicing good hand and respiratory hygiene, frequent cleaning and physical distancing.

Blended Learning

All pupils will receive high-quality teaching in school complemented by home learning which is not solely dependent on digital access. Teachers will have time available to support home learning remotely, and there will be a clear focus on well-being and literacy and numeracy while pupils are in school. The Council's [Remote Learning Hub](#) is also available for parents, pupils and staff to access key information and guidance whilst working and learning from home.

Uniform

As previously stated, school uniform will not be compulsory in Breadalbane Academy in August in either primary or secondary. This should support parents in following the advice that they ought to wash children's clothes very regularly. Parents are of course free to continue sending their children to school in uniform if this is the most convenient option for them, but we would request that children do not wear ties.

Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Provision

All children accessing local authority early learning and childcare can access 600 hours or more of ELC provision in most settings. In parallel with the central Early Years Team, we have created revised attendance patterns for ELC. **I am pleased to say that accommodation in the nursery is such it has the capacity for 100% pupil occupancy.** Further details in respect of exact patterns will be issued to nursery parents in due course.

The ELC Service are currently working with Partner Provider Nurseries to finalise plans for the reopening of early learning and childcare in August. Further information will be available during July.

As part of the Scottish Government Guidance released on 15 June, children are not able to attend more than one setting so if this had been your intention for childcare, this is no longer possible. It would be helpful to know if you still plan to take up the offer with us or go to the other provider where they may be able to offer a full-time placement.

Critical Childcare for Key Workers

The school will provide childcare from 11 August during school opening hours for those families who have been approved as having key worker status in PKC. We are also working with the ELC service to plan for the reopening of our Breakfast Club facility for primary aged children and further information will be provided as soon as possible.

Structure of the School Day

We are still working up plans for the structure of the school day in primary and secondary. In order to maintain compliance with physical distancing, these are likely to include staggered start and end times for the school day, along with a staggered lunch. We will provide details of these as soon as can.

Access to Breadalbane Community Campus

Please note that access to Breadalbane Community Campus in August will be restricted to pupils and staff involved directly in the work of the school. If as a parent you have an existing arrangement that requires you to access the campus during the school day, staff will be in touch to discuss an alternative arrangement.

We look forward to welcoming all children back into our school and would assure you we are taking every precaution to ensure they, and our staff, are as safe as can be when they return.

Yours faithfully



John Devine
Headteacher