

Return to School – August 2020

Information for Parents/Carers



We are looking forward to being able to welcome all of our pupils back to school in August.

Keeping everyone safe is our top priority and we have been planning very carefully to ensure that everyone can return to school safely.

We are aware that pupils and parents/carers may be anxious or worried about the return to school, whilst others may have experienced a difficult time over the last few months in lockdown. Everyone will have their own thoughts and questions and it is important that everyone feels supported to return to school and to learning.

This guide aims to provide you with the key information that you need, however you may still have a number of questions relating to your own circumstances.

Please email Breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk if this is the case.

Infection Control

We will be focussing on minimising any risks of transmission through a range of infection control measures.

- Pupils will be asked to wash/sanitise their hands on arrival at school. Sanitising stations will be sited at each entrance to the building. We will be monitoring this over the first few days and may introduce a more formal staggered start if required.
- Each classroom will also have a sanitisation station with alcohol-based hand rub, surface wipes, disinfectant spray and tissues. Pupils will be encouraged to practice good hand and respiratory hygiene.
- We are fortunate to have wide corridors and stairwells within the Campus and therefore consider that a one-way system is not required, however pupils will be encouraged to observe a keep left and single file protocol when moving around the building.
- Use of shared resources will be avoided as far as possible, however in cases where there is no alternative, pupils will be encouraged to wipe down equipment with antibacterial surface wipes before and after use.
- Pupils will be asked to wipe down laptops and computer keyboards before and after use.
- Where pupils move rooms, pupils will be asked to wipe down desks and chairs before and after use.
- Doors will be left open (where possible and subject to compliance with fire regulations) to minimise the number of surfaces that are being touched.
- Additional cleaning will be undertaken throughout the day focussing on high volume areas and frequently touched areas.
- Classroom windows will be open to ensure that there is good natural ventilation throughout the school.
- You may wish to provide your child with their own hand sanitiser.

Physical Distancing

Although physical distancing is not required between pupils, staff have to stay 2m away from pupils and from each other.

Classrooms have been arranged to ensure that this happens and pupils must follow their teachers' advice in relation to maintaining this.

Despite there being no formal requirement to enforce physical distancing between pupils, we will be discouraging pupils, particularly those in secondary, from social physical contact such as hand to hand greetings/hugs with their peers.

We would encourage parents and carers to discuss with pupils (particularly those in secondary) their responsibilities in observing appropriate physical distancing wherever possible.

Face Coverings

At the moment, the use of face coverings is not recommended within schools. There are, however, some specific exceptions to this which are detailed below:

- Staff delivering first aid will be required to wear appropriate PPE including a face mask.
- Staff involved in the delivery of personal care will wear appropriate PPE, including gloves, aprons and masks.
- If a member of staff is likely to be in close proximity (less than 2m) with a pupil for more than 15 minutes, a face covering is recommended.
- For a variety of reasons, some staff may choose to wear a face covering and the school will support them in this.
- Some pupils may have individual circumstances where a face covering has been advised or recommended and this will also be supported.
- Additionally, pupils, in discussion with their parents/carers, may choose to wear a face covering and this will be supported.

Symptoms

If a pupil displays any of the symptoms of coronavirus whilst in school, they will be isolated in their classroom and supported by a first aider until they can be collected.

The parent/carer will be advised to arrange a test and to follow all Test and Protect guidance. This can be found on the NHS Inform website.

The room will then be out of bounds until a full clean has been undertaken.

If your child is unable to attend school, you should contact the school in the usual way.

If the absence is due to Covid-19 symptoms, self-isolation or a positive test for Covid-19, you must let us know as soon as possible and follow all Test and Protect guidance.

We would specifically request that you do not send your child to school if they are unwell and follow national guidance if they are displaying Covid-19 symptoms.

Uniform

The rules on school uniform have been relaxed. We would encourage that, where possible, the clothes your child wears to school are freshly laundered each day. Pupils may of course still wear uniform, but no ties should be worn at the moment. The decision on uniform rules will be reviewed before the October holiday.

We are awaiting guidance in relation to the use of changing rooms which do not have natural ventilation and will advise on the requirements for PE kit as soon as possible.

Catering

School meals will be available, although initially this will be a restricted menu of bagged meals. These will be pre-ordered each morning and prepared in advance in order to minimise queuing within the dining areas.

Further information in relation to school meals will be provided in due course.

There will be no vending facilities available.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club will re-open on 12 August.

Transport

Information on school transport is expected to be sent to parents/carers by the end of next week (w/c 3 August) by the Public Transport Unit. This will include a Covid-related transport information sheet.

Access to the Campus

In line with government advice, access to the campus is being restricted to pupils, staff and essential personnel only.

We would encourage you to continue to use email (breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk) to contact the school.

Parental access to the school will be strictly by appointment only and physical distancing protocols will be observed.

Safety

The safety of everyone is our highest priority.

During this recovery period, we will not be in a position to accommodate anyone who threatens the safety of others by not following our instructions.

Should a pupil breach our safety rules, including not following instructions, we will contact parents/carers to collect them immediately and they will be asked to continue their learning at home that day.

There will be no exceptions to this as we need to ensure that the school is a safe environment for everyone.