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Dear Parent/Carer

Arrangements for Breadalbane Academy – January 2021

I am writing to provide you with an update on arrangements for next term in the light of the recent announcement by the First Minister. As a result of this announcement 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.

Further to the First Minister's statement, and further clarification from the Deputy First Minister, I can now confirm that the following arrangements for Breadalbane Academy:

- All staff will attend school on Thursday 7 January 2021
- Critical childcare will be provided in nursery, primary and secondary for children of **essential workers** and those identified as vulnerable on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th January. **Please complete the attached survey by lunchtime tomorrow if you believe that your child falls into one of these categories.** If so, you will receive a separate communication with information on relevant arrangements. Please note that both parents are required to be essential workers to be eligible for essential worker childcare provision. Learning will resume in school for these pupils from 11 January 2021.
- Please also note that the Breakfast Club and School transport will be available for the above pupils if required.
- **For all other pupils, Breadalbane Academy will re-open in a home learning format on Monday 11 January 2021.** You will receive a separate communication at the beginning of January with details of home learning arrangements.
- It is planned that the school 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 wear face coverings to help protect everyone in school.
- Physical education will once again only take place outdoors. We 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.
- Face coverings should be worn by all visitors to schools and also outside at pick-up and drop-off times whenever on school premises, even outside.
- Our staff will continue to wear face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, etc
- Our staff will also continue 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:

- 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

I appreciate the levels of concern and anxiety as COVID-19 continues to affect our school and community, 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.

I will continue to update you should there be further developments but please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries regarding the above arrangements.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas when it comes.

Yours faithfully



John Devine
Headteacher