



Breadalbane Academy Newsletter

February 2021

The Long March to Normality Begins

Headteacher's Column

You will by now be aware that the First Minister yesterday confirmed plans for the phased return of pupils to school beginning this Monday, 22nd February. On this day we will welcome back all nursery and P1 to P3 pupils, as well as small numbers of S4-6 pupils on a rota.

Mrs Marshall will be writing to Nursery and P1-3 parents later in the week with details of arrangements for their children's return, and Mrs Libreri will also notify parents of those S4-6 pupils who we will be asking to come in over the coming weeks.

The First Minister also stated that the government hoped for wider reopening of schools over March, though she said it was unlikely there would be any further returns before 15th March.

It remains clear therefore that we will be continuing to offer remote learning to significant numbers of pupils for many more weeks and it is our intention to continue to refine and improve our offer. Over the last few weeks we have conducted a number of activities across the school aimed at evaluating and improving upon our performance in this area. We have asked staff in both primary and secondary to consider national guidance on remote learning along with collated feedback from pupil surveys that we have conducted in both primary and secondary. We have also surveyed all parents and carers as well as conducting focus group discussions with pupils as a follow up to the surveys.

This information gathering has provided us with rich feedback which is invaluable. Both pupil and parents have generally been very positive indeed about the learning provision and we will provide a detailed analysis of survey results to parents in the coming weeks. However, both surveys did flag up areas that we need to look at and this newsletter provides some information on steps we are taking right away as a result.

This is a difficult time for us all and again I would commend parents, pupils and staff for their fortitude under such challenging circumstances. I accept, though, that no matter how hard they try, pupils and parents can sometimes feel like they are coming up against a brick wall. I would like therefore to finish by reminding both parents and pupils that we are here to help. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the class teacher in primary, or guidance teachers in the secondary - Mr Harry Davidson (HLDavidson@pkc.gov.uk) or Mrs Anna Glover (AGlover@pkc.gov.uk) - if you feel that you or your child is in need of further support. You can also contact Mrs Marshall, head of primary, or me directly through the school's email address: breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk. The school is also staffed during the day and office staff will pass on your message if you prefer to contact us by phone: 01887 822300.

SECONDARY HUB NEWS

Breadalbane Academy Pupil Hub has been open since the beginning of term and is accessible to all children of key workers and those who meet the vulnerable criteria. Our Intensive Provision (previously Enhanced Provision) is also open.

Pupils attending have been actively engaged in their on line learning supported by a range of teaching staff and PSAs and have also enjoyed some outdoor activities, the daily mile, improved their juggling skills, and played online games in their social time. Many have made new friendships and have worked with new staff.

Our pupils have commented:

I'm managing to get more work done here than I would at home.

It's easier. I can't focus at home and I get lots of help.

It's good because it's better for me to come in. It's nice and quiet. I like the help I'm getting.



Any questions about our Intensive Provision and differentiated online learning should be addressed to Mrs Philip (PT Support for Learning) and anyone wishing to discuss access to the hub should contact Mrs Gatehouse (DHT Pupil and Staff Support).

NURSERY & PRIMARY HUB NEWS

Since the start of term there have been a number of nursery and primary pupils accessing their remote learning from school, either because their parent/carer is a key worker or they meet certain other criteria. The pupils in school have been supported by nursery staff, primary support staff and some teachers to complete the work set by their class teacher.

Like the pupils working at home, there have been a variety of learning experiences, from story writing and maths challenges to Kahoot quizzes and outdoor learning. Nursery has grown to have three bubbles and within the primary there are also three bubbles (P1-2, P3-5 and P6-7). If you have any queries about the in-school provision please contact Mrs Marshall (Primary DHT).

DYSELXIA SUPPORT

Breadalbane Support department has offered access to all pupils in S1 to S3 who are identified as having dyslexia for Dyslexia Gold which supports with spelling, reading and times tables. Young people will have received an email to their GLOW account and parents should have also received an email to say that their young person has a email. If anyone else would like to be signed up then they can visit the website or contact is to be included. Parents may also want to access NESSY which offering a free to parents.

[Dyslexia Gold - Reading Unlocked](#)

SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE STUDYING & LEARNING

The PKC Educational Psychology team have provided some useful information for young people and parents on how to feel more confident in preparing and studying for assessments; effective learning strategies; and how to recall information and topics taken at school.

Visit [Optimising Student Success \(office.com\)](#) to find out more.

YOU SAID, WE DID!

We have recently surveyed pupils and parents to gather views on their experience of remote learning. You can find out more by following the link below:

[Remote Learning Feedback](#)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURN OF NURSERY PUPILS

We will welcome all of our nursery children back on Monday 22nd February. Arrangements in nursery will be similar to those between August – December. The nursery day and staffing will be arranged to reduce contacts and we will not operate as a full class, but in smaller groups termed as 'bubbles'. Bubbles will not share indoor play areas, resources or staff. During lunches, bubbles will be kept distanced and we may use additional dining space as required. Children should continue to enter via the nursery playground gate, with all adults maintaining 2m distancing. We will keep you informed of any necessary changes to arrangements that may evolve as we recommence in-nursery learning for all.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURN OF P1-3 PUPILS

From Monday 22nd February the primary will be open for all P1-3 pupils as well as continuing to have P4-7 pupils who meet certain criteria in school. The P1-3 classes and Sky Room will be in class bubbles and the P4-7 pupils who are attending school will continue to work in different bubbles. To mitigate risks there will be no mixing of bubbles during breaks or lunchtimes. Further details of arrangements will be sent out prior to next week.

SENIOR PHASE UPDATE/ARRANGEMENTS FOR TARGETED RETURN

The lessons being delivered to senior phase pupils during this current period of remote learning are focusing on course content and preparing for assessments that will take place when we return to face to face learning and teaching. Assessment of evidence cannot be undertaken unless pupils have been taught the foundations of their courses. Therefore, consolidation of learning followed by assessment of learning will be a priority when we return to school to allow teachers to create provisional results to submit to the SQA in June 2021.

A very limited number of S4-6 pupils will begin to return to school on a rota from Monday 22nd February. The purpose of this return is to prioritise subjects with practical work, allowing access to school accommodation, materials, equipment and learning opportunities for pupils to collect or complete coursework related to the practical aspects of their SQA qualifications. In terms of the subjects involved, the underlying assumption is that, if work can be undertaken remotely, it should be. Therefore, only subjects with a practical assessed element will have the opportunity for face to face learning during this phased return. The subjects that would be likely to require in-school provision for practical tasks are included in the list below. Not all subjects will require pupils in school if the work they are doing can be delivered remotely.

- Administration and IT
- Art and Design
- Craft, design, engineering and graphics subjects
- Computing - *support required for programming where students do not have the software or hardware at home*
- Drama
- HE – *Practical Cookery may need in-school access due to resources required*
- Modern Languages/ESOL – *speaking*
- Music – *in line with the Education Scotland guidelines for the teaching of music during Covid-19*
- Music Technology - *much of the course requires access to technical equipment.*
- PE - *practical elements of Physical Education can only take place outdoors and 2m physical distancing must also be maintained*

We are currently collating this information from departments to create a timetable identifying when pupils should be coming in to school and the nature of the work they will undertake. The number of learners in attendance each day will be low and remain within the 5-8% cap of the total secondary school roll. All S4-6 Pupils who are coming into school will be requested to take part in the COVID testing programme, about which parents should by now have received a letter.

We will notify pupils and their parents by the end of this week with details of arrangements if we are requesting that they attend school during next week.

Upon full return to school, senior phase pupils will be required to complete assessments in class time following a period of consolidation of learning. We aim to create one formal assessment window (2-3 weeks duration), for subjects requiring extended time allocations to administer key assessments, e.g. to gather full course evidence or complete portfolio work. This assessment window is likely to take place in May (stay up to date on [2021 National Qualifications](#)).