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Dear Parent/Carer

Phased Return to Schools

As you will be aware, the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, announced on 16 February 2021 that some pupils could return to school from 22 February 2021. I appreciate this will generate some queries and questions from parents/carers, and I would wish to provide you with some clarification of what this means for your child/young person.

The Scottish Government's decision means that children in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and those in P1-P3 can return to classes full-time from 22 February 2021.

Some senior pupils can also return part-time to complete practical coursework, although no more than 8% of a secondary school roll is allowed to attend at any one time. This figure excludes those currently attending schools as vulnerable children or children of essential workers. Pupils who are currently attending their primary or secondary school as vulnerable children or children of essential workers will continue to do so and a separate communication will be issued to these parents/carers.

Following the Scottish Government's announcement, the arrangements for the return of your child/young person to school are as follows:

Timetable

A timetable for in-school learning has been created and is attached to this letter. The timetable details the subjects and class teachers in school. Pupils attending will be in school for the full day. Additional information will be posted in class teams. Pupils should check these to ensure that they know which days they are required to attend. Art and Drama classes on a Tuesday have been split into two groups. The names of pupils in each group will be posted in the appropriate class team.



Testing

Pupils who are due to attend can collect testing kits from school on Friday 19th or Monday 22nd February. For those for whom transport may be difficult on those days, kits can be collected on the first day in school.

Transport

Class lists have been shared with the Public Transport Unit. Pupils should travel to and from school using their normal mode of transport. There is a requirement for 2m physical distancing and the wearing of face coverings on school transport for senior pupils.

Arriving at school

When pupils arrive at school, they should enter through the front main entrance and go directly to the assembly hall (maintaining 2m physical distancing in the assembly hall). Pupils will be directed to the appropriate subject departments and must maintain 2m physical distancing and the wearing of face coverings when working within department areas.

As before, windows will be open to ensure ventilation and we would again request that clothing reflects that classroom temperatures may be cooler than normal.

Handwashing/Sanitisation

The usual hygiene protocols will be in place. Pupils will be required to sanitise hands on arrival in school and when moving from one area to another. This will include before and after break and lunchtimes.

Breaks and Lunch

Tayside contracts will be offering a morning break service and a hot snack menu at lunchtime. Lunches will need to be pre-ordered with orders handed in to the kitchen by the end of morning break. Forms will be available in the assembly hall each morning.

Due to the current restrictions, pupils will not be permitted to leave the campus grounds during break or lunchtime.

I would stress the importance of following all measures we have in place within the school to ensure the safety of pupils and school staff, and I would appreciate your assistance in re-enforcing the importance of this with your child/young person

I would wish to reassure you we will continue to support pupils who are not, as yet, required to return to school full-time through our remote learning programme. Our school staff remain committed to ensuring we provide the best possible education to all of our pupils.

The First Minister has advised there will be a further announcement on the phased return to schools on 2 March 2021 and I will update you again once the outcome of this is known.

Perth and Kinross Council updates information for parents/carers on its website www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/schools and also its Facebook and Twitter sites.

I understand this is a time of great uncertainty, and I would like to thank you for continuing to support the school and your child's education during these times. If you require any further information, please contact us by emailing breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

John Devine

Headteacher