

12<sup>th</sup> August 2021



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Dear Parent/Carer

As we enter the last week of the holidays and following the First Minister's update on 3 August 2021, I thought it would be useful to provide an update on the arrangements for the return to school.

### **Covid-19 Mitigations**

As you may have heard, the mitigations which were in place before the summer break will remain for the first 6 weeks of term. We would hope that the government may be able to ease these restrictions after this initial period but in the meantime, we would request your support in reinforcing these messages with your child/young person. As always, our priority will be to do whatever is deemed necessary to ensure that the safety of our young people.

Pupils will be asked to:

- sanitise their hands on arrival at school and when moving between classrooms;
- practice good hand and respiratory hygiene;
- wipe down desks, chairs and resources before and after use;

Secondary pupils will also be asked to wear face coverings (unless exempt) at all times, other than when dining.

Additional cleaning will still be taking place and as ventilation remains a vital mitigation, windows will be open throughout the day. This may mean that classrooms are cooler than normal and pupils are advised to dress accordingly.

Although physical distancing is not required between pupils, staff have to remain at least 1m away from pupils and from each other. Staff working with infant pupils are able to work more closely with pupils. We will be discouraging pupils, particularly those in secondary, from social physical contact such as hand to hand greetings/hugs with their peers.

### **Asymptomatic Testing Programme**

All staff and secondary pupils are encouraged to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme. Early identification of positive cases, particularly where there are no symptoms, is vital to maintaining a safe environment for all. Consent for the testing programme can be given [here](#) and test kits can be collected from the school office. Staff and pupils should start/resume testing 2 days before their return to school and should then test twice weekly, uploading results to the government website. In the event of a positive result, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked, and the pupil should self-isolate in line with government guidance.



## **Access to the Campus**

Although restrictions on access have been slightly relaxed, parents/carers should only accompany children onto school premises where that has been agreed with the school and is strictly necessary to support the child/young person. We will continue to use virtual arrangements for parental engagement until further updated guidance is available to us.

As per arrangements last session, parents are not permitted in the primary playground. The only exception is for the first two mornings when parents of new primary one pupils can accompany their child into the playground.

## **Drama, Music, PE and Dance**

Children and young people can now engage in all drama, music, PE and dance activity in school, indoors and outdoors. Good ventilation and enhanced hygiene are essential to ensure that these can be undertaken safely.

## **Groupings**

As the approach to contact tracing has now been changed in line with the self-isolation policy which came into force on 9 August, groupings (sometimes referred to as “bubbles”) no longer need to be maintained within school. However, in line with government guidance, we will continue to avoid assemblies and other types of large group gatherings for the first 6 weeks of term.

## **School Uniform**

As advised last session, **we are re-introducing full uniform as of the start of the new term.** Details of uniform requirements are available on the school website - [School Uniform - Breadalbane Academy](#).

However, please note that as we are still unable to use changing rooms, on days when pupils are timetabled for PE, they should come dressed in appropriate clothing for outdoor sport with appropriate footwear. We very much hope that we will be allowed to access our changing rooms reasonably soon, but in the meantime, on these days it will be acceptable for pupils to be out of uniform.

## **Catering**

School meals will be available and should be pre-ordered each morning. Payment for school lunches should be made using ParentPay.

## **Entering and moving around the school**

There will be 2 entrances available for secondary pupils:

- S1-3 should use the doors into the assembly hall opposite the P4-7 playground and remain in the assembly hall until the first bell.
- S4-6 should use the Alma Avenue doors at the end of the Street and remain in the dining centre until the first bell.

There will be 3 entrances for nursery pupils.

- Most pupils should enter through the nursery outdoor area gate.
- Any pupil who is more anxious or needing more reassurance about coming into nursery should enter through the main nursery door.
- Pupils attending Gaelic nursery should use the door directly into Gaelic nursery.

There will be 3 entrances available for primary pupils:

- The P4-7 playground door that everyone used to get into school in the morning: this will be the entrance for Sky Room, P1, P2, P5 and P7.
- The door at the bottom of the P4-7 playground near the nursery: this will be the entrance for P3, P4, P6 and GME P4-7.
- The GME P1-3 classroom door which opens onto the P4-7 playground.

Pupils will leave from these exits at the end of the school day.

Primary pupils who are transported via school bus or taxi will continue to be met by staff as per normal arrangements.

Primary pupils who arrive after 9am will need to enter the building via reception. Last session we offered an early pick-up for pupils with nursery siblings, however, we are returning to all primary pupils finishing at 3.30pm.

Pupils are encouraged to keep to the left in corridors and stairwells and should not gather in corridors, stairwells or in the Street.

As before, it is essential that everyone works together to ensure that the return to school is a safe one for every member of our school community. It will only be successful if we all take on the responsibilities that are required of us and I would therefore ask that you discuss all of this information with your child/young person in advance of their return to school.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new and current pupils back to school. In the meantime, please do get in touch if there is anything that you would like to ask about.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JD', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**John Devine**  
**Headteacher**