

Mauricewood News

August 20

Welcome Back

It has been a pleasure to have all our children back in school and we are pleased to report that they have been very settled in their new classes. They have understood that the changes in routines we have put in place are to keep everyone safe and tried hard to follow them. There has been lots of fun and laughter and children who are ready to learn after their long break from normal classroom learning.

Our P1 children deserve a special mention as they have coped so well with what is a big change in their lives. They too are very settled in class and are getting to know each other and the staff. Yesterday they had lunch in school for the first time and took it in their stride.

Our P7 classes look fantastic in their red sweatshirts and are setting a good example to others. We are working on developing some new leadership roles for them this year such as leading virtual assemblies, gathering and sharing news and developing citizenship. We are excited about seeing them grow and develop in their last year in Mauricewood.

We would like to thank parents and carers for supporting our new soft start to the morning. We know it is not always convenient for children not to be in school before our 8.55 to 9.10 window but it is an important part of government safety advice to schools to stop gatherings of children beyond their year own year groups. Similarly please remember social distancing if you have to come into the playground as we do not want to compromise our return to school for the children.



Specialist Teachers in School

Children will have PE and Music on a rota across the year. Sessions are currently limited by government guidance to 2 a day.

Class Teachers will deliver their own music and PE when their class does not have specialist time.

PE must be outdoors which will bring its own challenges with our Scottish weather. On PE days please send your child to school in joggers and trainers and provide change of clothes in case of wet grass or weather.

Classes who have Specialist PE now will have been given times but class teachers will let you know when they have their PE in place. Children in the meantime are being given plenty of activity



Breaks

Our children are playing outside in their own area of the playground with their own year group. They are having a class picnic lunch together with an adult when the weather is fine. Each year group has a member of staff with them.

When it is raining children are eating in classes except for the youngest children who are in the Dining Hall. They will still have fresh air and play outside on rainy days so please send them with coats and appropriate footwear.

As equipment cannot be shared across the school classes have been offered 'Play in a Bag'. They are sending us ideas for their own class bag which they can take out with them.

Please note the infant and upper playground gates are locked at 9.15 and not opened until 3pm.

Covid Guidance

It is very important that we adhere to NHS guidance on what to do if a child or staff member or somebody in their households have Corona virus symptoms. I have attached the flow chart we use in school if a child becomes unwell with the symptoms at school.

Please remember the whole household stays at home until a test result is received. Please pass on the test result by email to the school before your child returns. We really appreciate the extra care families are taking at the moment to keep their children and others safe.

Risk Assessments

We completed a robust risk assessment for children and staff to return to school and are constantly reviewing it to make I sure it is reducing risks for pupils and staff. The main control measures put in place are listed below

- Social distancing between all adults
- Social Distancing between pupils and adults whenever possible and always from P4 to P7
- User of face masks / PPE if essential activity that cannot be done at 2m distance
- Strict adherence to hand washing and sanitising routines for adults and pupils
- No visitors in school
- Virtual Meetings for children
- Children not mixing beyond Year Groups in playground and classes in school
- Children do not play in playground before school.
- Extra cleaning hours in place across the day for all contact points
- Extra Janitorial Support
- Rearranged classrooms to be easily cleaned and to make distancing easier
- Cleaning in place for resources
- Quarantine resources for 72 hours between different user groups beyond 1 class.

Younger children are not required to socially distance from adults.