

People & Partnerships

Midlothian Council
Fairfield House
8 Lothian Road
Dalkeith
EH22 3ZG

Executive Director
Ms Fiona Robertson



17 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to the First Minister's announcement yesterday, we are delighted that current scientific evidence now confirms we can move forward to allow the full time return to Early Learning and Childcare and P1-3 children to schools and ELC settings from 22 February.

Arrangements for ELC

The Nursery Team are looking forward to their children returning. Nursery children will continue in their Yellow and Blue groups and should continue with the drop off/ pick up arrangements through the nursery garden using the same gates as previously.

The Arrangements for P1-3

Children in P1 - P3 should continue to make use of the soft start times to the school day as was in place previously. This means that classrooms will be open from 8:55am until 9:10am, with children not arriving at the playground before this time. On arrival, they should enter through their block door where an adult will meet them and show them to their classroom.

Scottish Government guidelines for school still ask that all adults on school grounds wear face masks and maintain 2m social distancing from people out with their own households. **To ensure physical distancing for adults and pupils some classes will have staggered finishing times. P1W and P1B will finish at 3pm. P1/2M P2A P2/3 and P3L will finish at 3.15pm.**

School lunches are provided for children in P1 - P3 and order forms will be issued for the return to school, although you may provide a packed lunch if you wish.

It is advised as part of our risk assessment that children should wear fresh clothes each day and as such we will continue with our 'relaxed' school uniform policy. We feel that wearing a school uniform should be part of a return to school and will give children a sense of identity. Our school uniform is simple and easy to wash so we are suggesting that children wear school uniform, or school colours. The most important thing is that their clothes are newly washed each day. It will be extremely important that all school uniform worn is labelled with your child's

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name. Please do not be offended if we check when children remove jumpers and write names on labels as your child must only wear their own clothes.

Remote Learning

For those year groups who will still learn from home, teachers will continue to deliver remote learning experiences based on children's current learning targets. Google Meets will continue to run for these classes 3 times a week in order for them to connect with their classmates and work with their class teacher. Please remember to contact the school if you require any stationery supplies.

LFD Testing

All staff who are returning to classrooms to teach will be offered LFD testing kits. The expectation is that staff will at home test twice a week and record results online. Schools will be recording the distribution of these kits following government guidance.

Risk Assessment

As before, all schools and ELC settings have been risk assessed with colleagues from our Health and Safety service, with enhanced health and safety measures and protocols put in place that follow the current public health and government guidance.

These include observing the age-appropriate physical distancing measures outlined by current government guidance as well as public health advice to help reduce the spread of the virus, guidance on handwashing and hygiene, use of PPE, updated fire safety arrangements and use of transport.

Cleaning

Every school will continue to have an enhanced cleaning regime in place, with staff on duty throughout the school day. Toilets, door handles, bannisters and other surfaces in constant use will be cleaned on a rotational basis to ensure the highest possible levels of cleanliness.

Transport/Safe Routes to School

School transport will continue to run as normal and there will continue to be crossing patrols in place for those who have been asked to attend, or who have a critical childcare space.

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School Lunches

Key worker and vulnerable children who attend school and ELC will continue to be provided with a school lunch.

BACS will continue to be paid to those from P4 upwards who are entitled to Free School Meals for financial reasons. Further information about Free School Meals during this period can be found here:

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants/3

We would like to thank you for your continued support as we develop our plans following this very recent announcement. We will keep you updated with any further information via our usual channels of communication.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Mathers

Head Teacher