

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 Senior Phase

Detailed information regarding arrangements for the limited return of selected Senior Phase pupils for particular subjects will follow by email this afternoon.

LFD Testing

All staff who are returning to classrooms to teach P1-3 and Senior Phase will be issued with LFD testing kits. The expectation is that staff will at home test twice a week and record results online. All senior phase pupils will also be issued with at home tests. Schools will be recording the distribution of these kits following government guidance. More details regarding this process will follow by email this afternoon.

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.

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.

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



Lynn Black

Head Teacher