

People & Partnerships

Midlothian Council
Fairfield House
8 Lothian Road
Dalkeith
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Executive Director
Ms Fiona Robertson

Midlothian



01 April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity, just prior to the Easter school holiday break, to extend on behalf of the Education service, our sincere gratitude for all of your support during the last year while your children have been remote learning.

We do not underestimate how these unprecedented challenges have affected us all, both personally and professionally however it is without doubt, that due to your positive engagement and continued support, we can look forward to welcoming all learners back to full time learning, and can be confident in the term ahead.

As you are aware, all of our ELC and Primary children have been back in full time education for a number of weeks now, settled, happy and enjoying learning in school.

In addition to the phased return of our senior phase pupils, all S1-S3 pupils will also return to full time education from 20 April 2021. Following Scottish Government advice and guidance there will be no 2m social distancing in place, however all pupils must wear a face mask and practice good respiratory and hand hygiene procedures. We would encourage all staff, pupils, parents and carers to continue to follow F.A.C.T.S advice.

After the Easter break, school lunches will be available to all P1-P3 children receiving the universal entitlement to a free school meal. P4-P7 entitled pupils will continue to receive BACS payments and all other pupils should bring their own packed lunch. There will be a small number of lunches available for pupils that may forget.

Within our secondary schools, due to the need to minimise large gatherings, we will continue to provide BACS payments to those entitled to free school meals and ask that your child brings a packed lunch to school. Lunches will not be served in secondary schools on the return of all pupils after the Easter break. This will be reviewed during the summer time dependent on updated national guidance. Packed lunches will be available for any child who forgets to bring their lunch.

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

All teachers are delighted to be reconnecting with the children in their classes and there will be a strong focus on health and wellbeing and relationship building initially. Teachers will then spend time capturing progress from the lockdown period in order to support them to work with learners to plan their next steps.

Secondary schools are well under way in supporting those pupils submitting work for qualifications. Robust quality assurance procedures have been developed across Midlothian to ensure all learners have the best opportunities to succeed. There are two additional days for secondary schools for assessment and moderation work on Tuesday 25 May and Monday 7 June.

Your Ref:
Our Ref: FR/cl

www.midlothian.gov.uk

All schools will have an in-service day on Monday 24 May at which teachers will be evaluating progress with this session's improvement priorities and setting priorities for the year ahead.

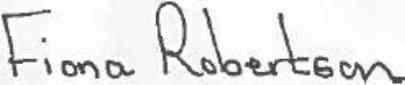
Transition activities for our new P1 and new S1 have been carefully planned and will commence early in the summer term. Individual schools will communicate the details to parents and carers. Enhanced transition activities for our most vulnerable have already started and will continue throughout the summer term.

As part of our directorate vision and planning we would encourage you to complete a short survey at the following link – <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/rl-feedback/> This will help inform our service priorities and ensure that our parent voice is represented.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and we will keep you updated with any further information via our usual channels of communication.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break, and look forward to welcoming all our pupils back in the new term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light grey rectangular box.

Fiona Robertson
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