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Headteacher Miss Lynn Black



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Dear Parent/Carer

Summer Term Plans

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I am sure you are aware that the First Minister confirmed in her announcement last week that schools will re-open for all pupils full time after the Easter break. For pupils in Midlothian this means Beeslack will re-open on Tuesday 20th April. The only exceptions to this will be for any pupils who are currently shielding; they will return from Monday 26th April.

We are delighted to be re-opening in full and we are all looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils back.

As expected, there is no requirement for 2m social distancing between pupils, however, this does remain in place for pupils and staff and between staff. As in all previous occasions we have a range of mitigations in place to ensure the school remains as safe as possible for all pupils and staff.

The range of mitigations in place are as follows;

- **Lateral Flow Device Covid-19 Asymptomatic Twice-weekly Testing Programme** strongly recommended for all staff and students. We recommend a pattern of testing on a Sunday and Wednesday.
- Expectation that **all** students and staff wear face coverings at all times during the school day (exemptions accepted)
- **Sanitising stations** at school entrances and exits and throughout the school.
- Floor markings and a **one way system** to support safe movement of students and staff
- **Hygiene kits** in every teaching space; with an expectation that students and staff 'wipe down' their area at the beginning and end of each lesson
- **Risk assessments** updated and available on the school website
- **Clear staff/student 2m** distancing expectations
- Classrooms organised in exam style to ensure pupils are facing forwards at all times
- Seating plans in place for all classes

- **Open door policy** in classrooms to reduce door handle use and improve ventilation
- Where practicable, an open window policy to improve ventilation
- **No use of PE Changing Rooms;** students are permitted to come to school dressed for PE on timetabled days
- **Test & Protect compliance;** our attendance recording will be crucial to ensure we know where staff and students have been and who they've been with
- **PPE for staff,** compliant with public health advice, as appropriate, e.g., in personal care or first aid situations
- **No in school catering;** pupils should bring a packed lunch and snacks, BACS payments will continue for students entitled to a free school meal
- **Clear signage to support good health and hygiene habits,** visible throughout the school campus and referred to regularly by staff to support student compliance
- **Enhanced and visible cleaning/hygiene routines,** applying to all staff and students, this will be agreed at school level with transparency around routines
- **2m distancing markings in corridors and social spaces** to encourage awareness
- **No non-essential visitors/meetings,** e.g., most parent/carer meetings will be by telephone or via zoom/Microsoft teams

School Uniform

Pupils will be expected to wear full school uniform on their return to school. We trust you will make appropriate choices when it comes to deciding on what to wear to school. If full school uniform is not achievable then please let your child's guidance teacher know.

PE

At present we are not able to use our school changing facilities. Pupils should wear clothing appropriate for PE on the days they have PE timetabled. To ensure pupils wear suitable clothing for PE the following advice applies:

- Week Commencing 19th April - All PE will be outdoors
- From Week commencing 26th April - PE can take place indoors for individual non-contact activities or outdoors for contact and non-contact activities
- From Week Commencing 17th May - Pupils can take part in group non-contact activities indoors and contact and non-contact activities outdoors

We will continually review these arrangements and they are dependent on the continual suppression of the virus. We will update you when this guidance changes and we are able to use our changing facilities again.

School Transport, Pick up and Drop off

School buses will operate as normal, with pick up first thing in the morning and drop off at the end of the school day.

Pupils arriving at school by car should be dropped off and collected at the bus turning circle adjacent to the 3G pitch. This remains unchanged from the arrangements in place from August to Christmas.

Pupils and parents/carers should not congregate or drop off in the school car park. If you are walking your child to school you must wear a mask when in the school grounds. As before car sharing with different households is discouraged.

Where possible, pupils should walk or cycle to school.

Pupils using public transport should adhere to the current public health guidance and wear a face covering.

Intervals and Lunchtime

Pupils are **encouraged to be outside at all times** when weather permits. We have purchased additional picnic benches for use in the summer term. Pupils will be encouraged to use these instead of being in the building.

Base classrooms for each form class will continue to be available at lunchtime for pupils to eat their packed lunches, when they have finished eating they will be asked to go outside for the remainder of the lunchtime (weather permitting).

With an increased expectation of good ventilation, base classrooms will only be available at interval in the event of **wet weather**; at all other times pupils should be outside for the 15 minute morning break.

Pupils should bring with them a snack and a packed lunch and water. The water fountain is open for refilling bottles, however, we suggest that pupils bring their own bottle of water with them. BACS transfer payments will remain in place for those entitled to free school meals.

Given the need to comply with public health and hygiene expectations, we will be working hard to ensure pupils get back into good routines and follow our health and safety procedures. We will go over the health and safety guidelines and hygiene routines with all pupils on the first day back. We hope that pupils will settle back into these routines and we can build on the success of term one where we only had one identified positive case. It requires all of us to work together to keep everyone safe.

I look forward to seeing all of our pupils again on the 20th. Please get in touch if you have any queries regarding our procedures and we will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes

L Black

Lynn Black
Headteacher