

Date 5 August 2020

Your ref

Our ref AEG/RC

Dear Parent / Carer

Thank you once again for your patience and understanding throughout this difficult period.

Further to confirmation from the First Minister last week that schools can open to all pupils later this month, we're looking forward to welcoming your children back to school.

The Scottish Government has emphasised the need for full preparation so that pupils and staff return to the safest possible environment and I can assure you we have this as our highest priority.

To allow pupils to be familiar and comfortable with the new arrangements, the return to school will be phased over the three days from Wednesday 12 August.

We expect everyone to observe hygiene arrangements of regular handwashing and hand sanitisers will be widely available throughout our schools. We've put arrangements in place for regular cleaning to enhanced standards in accordance with Scottish Government advice and nationally agreed standards.

With the Scottish Government pausing the arrangements for shielding, any pupils who have been shielding will also be returning. Parents should contact their school to discuss any additional steps that may be required to ensure their child returns to school safely.

The arrangements for pupils returning will be as follows:

Primary schools

To allow families to plan around the start of the school session, children with surnames beginning with letters A-L should return to school on Wednesday 12 August for the whole day, then returning to school on Friday 14 August. Those children with surnames starting with M-Z will return on Thursday 13 August and attend on Friday 14 August.

From Friday 14 August, all primary pupils will attend full time. Details about lunch and PE arrangements and staggered start and finish times (where necessary) will be provided by each school.

Secondary schools

Students will return to classes from Wednesday 12 August, with individual arrangements to be announced by each school. All S1 pupils will attend school on Wednesday 12 August at every secondary school, except for Queensferry High School where parents/carers will receive communication directly from the Headteacher about arrangements.

Communities and Families Directorate

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Each secondary school will contact parents by Thursday 6 August with the precise details of which year groups will attend school on each day of the 12, 13 and 14 August.

All secondary pupils will attend from Monday 17 August at the latest. Schools will also provide information regarding lunch, PE and any staggered start and finish of the school day.

Special schools

Children and young people will return to classes from Wednesday 12 August. Each school will offer an individual model of phased return, enhancing the wellbeing of learners while taking account of the school context.

Every school will be in contact by Thursday 6 August with the specific arrangements for each child, advising of the precise details of which children will be attending on which days. Schools will also provide information about lunch arrangements, staggered start and finish times and any other reopening arrangements, which you need to be aware of for your school.

Parents/carers with children who receive home to school transport will be contacted with arrangements by Friday 7 August.

All children and young people attending special schools will be back in school from Monday 17 August at the latest.

Parents are asked to assist by not parking close to the school. Please drop off your children away from the immediate entrance to the school gates to avoid overcrowding. Physical distancing between adults and between adults and children from different families will be observed. You will appreciate that due to the current circumstances, visitors to schools will be by invitation and that normal access for parent and carers will be restricted to maintain the safety of everyone.

Out of School Care and Breakfast Club providers are liaising with schools to restore childcare facilities in schools. Providers and schools will communicate plans with parents individually.

You can download the Council's [updated delivery plan for schools reopening](#) (PDF). [Scottish Government guidance](#) on preparing for the start of the new school term is on their website.

Thanks again for your patience and support throughout this process. We look forward to your children returning and can assure you we will keep arrangements under constant review to ensure everyone is safe and pupils receive the best possible learning and teaching opportunities.

Yours faithfully



Alistair Gaw

Executive Director for Communities and Families