



1 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Easter Holiday and Return to School**

I am writing to provide some detail about the potential return to school for all pupils on a full-time basis from Tuesday 20 April 2021.

The Scottish Government have announced that pupils are expected to be back after the Easter holiday but this is subject to final confirmation on Tuesday 6 April. If this date is not confirmed, I will write to you during the holiday with alternative arrangements.

We are looking forward to having all our pupils back in school. However, this is not a return to normality and the following arrangements will be in place:

- There will continue to be a phased start to the school day as follows:
  - BGE (S1 – S3) pupils should arrive for the start of the school day at 8.30am.
  - Senior Phase (S4 – S6) pupils should arrive for the start of the school day at 8.40am.
- Pupils should enter the building using the doors which they were using prior to the Christmas holiday. This means that S1 should enter through the stairs leading to the concourse, S2, S5 and S6 should use the main school entrance and S3 and S4 should use the door at the back of the school.
- School uniform is expected and face coverings must continue to be worn at all times (in and out of classes and in the community). Pupils who have PE can attend in their PE kit all day.
- Pupils will follow a two-week timetable which means that pupils will attend four lessons per day from Monday to Thursday and two lessons on a Friday. In week A everyone should attend periods 1, 3, 5 and 6 and in week B everyone should attend periods 2, 4, 5 and 7. Please note that the first week back is week B.
- Staggered morning breaks and lunches will remain and pupils will be expected to be outside during these times (weather permitting). All pupils can either eat in school or leave school to purchase lunch. This is a change to the previous arrangements for pupils in S1 who previously had to stay in school at lunch.
- Our established protocols for hand sanitising, workspace cleaning and the one-way system will remain in place.
- The requirement for physical distancing between pupils is removed but remains in place between pupils and staff.

- All pupils have been offered COVID-19 lateral flow tests and we would encourage all pupils (and staff) to carry these out twice a week on a Sunday and Wednesday. These tests should be carried out in the week prior to the return to school.
- Pupils should not attend school if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if a positive result is obtained from the lateral flow test.

It has been a pleasure to see more pupils returning to school in the last three weeks. However, we must all be vigilant and play our part in suppressing the virus and breaking the transmission chain so that we can have as many pupils in school as possible.

Finally, school closes for the Easter holiday at 3.30pm today. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your family a well-deserved break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Meikle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Colin Meikle  
Headteacher