Johnshaven Primary School

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Wednesday, 01 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to inform you of the current arrangements for schools returning in August.

**Contingency Plan**

First of all, you will remember I wrote to you with links to all of the current guidance around the opening of schools, issued by Education Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council, prior to the Depute First Minister’s announcement that all schools will open 100% in August. I have also issued a contingency plan should there be a resurgence of the Covid-19 virus during the summer period. Further to that, over the holidays should parents have any further concerns or queries there is a FAQ page on the Aberdeenshire Council website, within the Schools and Childcare, Coronavirus section, which parents can refer to [here](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/schools-covid-19/). This page will continue to be updated with the latest guidance throughout the summer period.

To date, there has been no further update, either locally or nationally, around the guidance for returning at 100% capacity regarding safety and risk assessment. As soon as this becomes available, I will write to parents with updates. All I can say, at this time, is that there will be routines in place to ensure pupils are safe as we will be living with the virus for some time to come. PPE kits are being issued to schools over the summer months and we do anticipate increased approaches to respiratory and hand hygiene when we reopen.

**Reopening in August**

Many thanks to the families who responded to the proposal regarding the transition into P1 for the reopening of school in August (see diagram 1) and the overwhelmingly positive comments (see diagram 2), sharing the concerns with not just our own staff, but of parents and staff nationally. I can now confirm that Aberdeenshire Council has approved the phased entry back to school and so we will open as follows:

**Week 1**

**Wednesday 12th August – Friday 14th August (inclusive)** - school will be open from 9am – 10.30am to primary one pupils only. Pupils in P2-7 will attend from 11am until 3.15pm.

**Week 2**

**Monday 17th August – Friday 21st August** – school will be open to all pupils from P1 – P7 from 9am. Pupils in P1 will be collected at 12pm. Pupils in P2-7 will attend until 3.15pm.

**Week 3 onwards –** school will be open to all pupils from P1 – P7 from 9am until 3.15pm, as normal.

Diagram 1



Diagram 2



**Catering**

There are some changes to catering in school next term. These changes appear to remain in place currently.

* Reduced menu – one hot and one cold option per day
* No tuck shop
* Meals will be presented, plated, to children at their desk.

I fully anticipate that we will return to a full and normal service but advise parents do check the link below, prior to starting school, for the most up to date guidance.

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/meals/primary-school-meals/>

**Uniforms**

We fully anticipate our timetable will be heavily weighted toward learning outdoors next term. We are also aware that there may be parents who have been in furlough or indeed have experienced more serious consequences towards employment as a result of the pandemic. It is important to ensure that the cost of the school day is therefore considered. Our expectations for uniform and equipment is as follows:

* Red Johnshaven School sweatshirt which can be purchased [here](https://www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com/badged-school-uniform/i-l/j/johnshaven-primary-school/?fbclid=IwAR2wiIHxf9Ty03ya5Yg2mKgu0zcYMXFE70babE-gUkWebarSqcQu5t_Yt9s)
* Weather appropriate clothing that is comfortable for outdoor play
* A pair of shoes for indoor use only
* PE kit – shoes that can easily be washed if they get muddy, a warm alternative to shorts and t-shirt (i.e. joggers and a hoodie) in a PE bag.

We do have a bank of water-proof clothing and wellies but would ask if parents can provide these for their children, that they do so.

**\*\*\*\*\* Please ensure all equipment and clothing is named.**

The final date for knowing what the return to school will look like is **July 30th 2020.** Following this date, we will reissue all guidance, including health and safety measures. It will be important to ensure the children know what to expect when they come back and so we will ensure a child friendly version is included at that point in time.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer break. Mr Ness, Mrs Kydd and I sincerely look forward to August 12th when we will see the children again, in whatever form that may be.

Kindest Regards

Karen Johnstone

Karen Johnstone

Head Teacher